

PH 608 7171

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
AUG 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old LSU Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Louisiana Seminary of Learning and Military Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2500 Shreveport Highway (Kisatchie National Forest)

CITY OR TOWN: Pineville, Louisiana 71360

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 08 *Gillis Long*

STATE: Louisiana

CODE: 22

COUNTY: Rapides

CODE: 079

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>In recreation site.</u>

4. AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
U. S. Forest Service

STREET AND NUMBER: 1720 Peachtree Rd., NW

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 30309

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kisatchie National Forest

STREET AND NUMBER: 2500 Shreveport Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Pineville

STATE: Louisiana

CODE: 71360

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Parcel No. 1 on plat of survey by Pan American Engineers

DATE OF SURVEY: October 20, 1961 Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kisatchie National Forest

STREET AND NUMBER: 2500 Shreveport Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Pineville

STATE: Louisiana

CODE: 71360

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: DATE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old LSU site is part of a tract owned by the U.S.A. and administered by the U. S. Forest Service as the Alexandria Forestry Center. The brick foundation of the original school building is surrounded by a 2-acre fenced park. The park contains the ruins of the original building, a historical marker, a fireplace, three picnic tables and a flush toilet.

Original site consisted of 518 acres. The main building was completed November 28, 1859. Building was three stories high with five 4-story towers, and it extended around three sides of a quadrangle that was 170 feet across the front by 117 feet deep. There were 72 large rooms, and on each floor was a wide gallery. The heavy walls were crenellated and the whole building finished white. On October 15, 1869, a fire of unknown origin burned the building to the ground.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"A century ago, on March 16, 1870, the legislature of Louisiana gave a new name to what was not much better than an orphan child of the State: Louisiana State University. The new university had begun ten years before as the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, which was to emerge eventually as a major national land-grant college. Four previous attempts to establish an institution of higher learning, available to all the people, had met with abysmal failure, and several subsidized private schools had been abandoned. This time, state leaders were determined to avoid that fate for the new school.

On January 2, 1860, the Seminary opened at Pineville under the superintendency of William Tecumseh Sherman. He had been chosen carefully from a list of candidates; the choice proved wise, for it was Sherman's force of character and intelligent administration that held the shaky little backwoods school together during its first crucial years.

The Seminary began with an enrollment of 70, and a faculty of five, including David French Boyd. The times were perilous, and the Civil War finally embroiled the school. Sherman resigned to take his historic role in the war, and the school itself was closed in 1863.

Sacked of all its furniture, instruments, and equipment during the Union invasion, the school did not reopen until 1865, when David Boyd returned from the war to accept the superintendency, and start again with what remained: doors and windows gone, roofs leaking, floors rotting, grounds overgrown with weeds and brush, facilities and library confiscated as booty of war...and only a broken and impoverished state to look to for help.

In spite of difficulties that would have stopped a lesser man, David Boyd was able to recruit a sound faculty and reorganize the Seminary. Then, in 1869, before the little school had had time to recover, a fire destroyed it and Boyd was forced to seek new quarters. He found them in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Baton Rouge, and it was here that the school was rechristened as Louisiana State University." 1/

The original site was chosen because of the central location in the State, accessibility by water travel, good climate, good spring water and abundant timber for firewood.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Firmin, Pic, "Mystery of St. James Stone", The Alexandria Daily Town Talk, June 2, 1965, pp. 8

Memoirs of Gen. W. T. Sherman, Vol. I, New York, Charles L. Webster & Co. 1891.

Flemming, Walter L., Louisiana State University, 1860-1896, Baton Rouge, 1935.

Redd, Wanda, "Park Planned to Mark Site of Original L.S.U. Campus", The Alexandria Daily Town Talk, May 22, 1965, pp. 2.

The LSU Outlook, January 1970, Number 1.

Webb, Allie B., "Historical Sketches of Louisiana State University and its

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont'd on attached sheet).

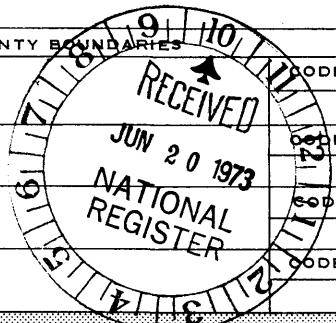
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			31	21	30
NE	0			0			92	26	14
SE	0			0					
SW	0			0					

UTM
15/553520
3467300

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
	2 acres		
Louisiana		Rapides	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Joel H. Nitz for J. Lamar Beasley, Forest Supervisor** DATE: **5/1/73**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **U. S. Forest Service**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2500 Shreveport Highway** PHONE: **445-6511, Ext. 301**

CITY OR TOWN: **Pineville** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

John Brand
 State Liaison Officer Signature

Director, Dept. of Art, Historical & Cult. Pres.
 In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

John Brand 6/18/73
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Title _____

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

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

Date: **6/14/73**

ATTEST:

Wm. Hauptz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **6 6 73**

John Brand

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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AUG 14 1978	

(Number all entries)

8. With the founding of the Louisiana Seminary of Learning, it laid the foundation of the great university system which exists today. True to the land grant idea, LSU has emerged as a people's university. It exists, in fact, to serve all Louisiana.

Law and tradition have assigned the University a three-fold purpose: developing to the highest level the intellectual and professional capacities of our citizens through resident instruction, enriching instruction and establishing new frontiers of knowledge through research and scholarship, and providing all Louisianians with information useful in advancing the State's economy and culture through extension services.

From the beginning, the University has opened its doors to all who aspire to higher education, and has sought, in the words of its charter, to be "an institution in the broadest and highest sense, where literature, science, and all the arts may be taught, where principles of truth and honor may be established, and a noble sense of personal and patriotic and religious duty inculcated; in fine, to fit the citizen to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war".

LSU's essential character obliges it to shoulder the most important educational burden in Louisiana, but its responsibilities do not end in Louisiana. The University's first allegiance is to the State, of course, but it also has obligations to the Region, the Nation, and the free world.

As such an institution, LSU has the intellectual and physical resources that enable it to offer a great number and variety of courses of study. The University in Baton Rouge offers curricula leading to bachelor's degrees in 125 major fields, master's degrees through 56 departments, doctoral degrees through 45 departments, and 22 professional degrees through the Graduate School and seven through the University's professional schools.

On May 21, 1965, a historical highway marker was erected honoring the descendants of the original Board of Supervisors of the state university system.

¹ The LSU Outlook, January 1970

9. Branches", North Louisiana Historical Association Newsletter, October, 1967, Vol. 8, Number 1, pp. 3-22.

