

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

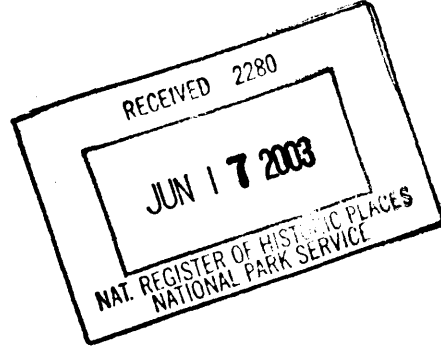
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Tangipahoa School

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number corner Jackson and Tarpley streets

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Tangipahoa

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Tangipahoa Code: 105

Zip Code: 70465

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

June 16, 2003 Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register

Other (explain):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

AUG 1 2003
Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

- Private:
Public-Local: X
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property

- Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

- 1

Non contributing

- buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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### 6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: education                      Sub: school  
Current: vacant                              Sub:

### 7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Bungalow  
Materials:

Foundation: brick  
Walls: weatherboard  
Roof: asphalt  
Other:

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Tangipahoa School (1922) is a one story wood frame building located in the village of the same name. It has modest Bungalow style details and is being classified accordingly for the purposes of this nomination. The school is set well back from Jackson Street with a recently built paved playground and recreation building in front. It has been abandoned for several years and has suffered from deterioration and vandalism. However, it still easily conveys enough of its original character to be recognizable to someone from the historic period.

The school, which housed elementary grades, consists of four classrooms and a large auditorium. It is sheathed in beveled wood siding. The auditorium is under a long pitched roof that parallels the street. At right angles to this roof are gabled classroom wings, one to each side, yielding an overall I footprint. At the front is a shed roofed porch spanning the distance from one classroom wing to the other. A centrally placed double door, with multi pane windows above, opens into the auditorium. The porch has simple squared-off posts. Two are missing, which has caused the porch to sag. Bungalow styling is confined to brackets on the classroom wing gables and exposed rafter ends. Bands of windows provide abundant light to the auditorium and classrooms. Almost all of the window panes (six over six) are missing due to vandalism. Access to the front two classrooms, one on each side, is via a door from the porch (as well as interior access).

The interiors retain their original appearance, with virtually no modernization, including the wooden floors. Walls and ceilings are sheathed in narrow gauge beaded boards. The auditorium's stage has a proscenium with a curved treatment in beaded boards at the sides and top. The classrooms have cloakrooms running along the front and back of the gabled wings. Oddly enough, the front cloakrooms are lit by a band of three windows – i.e., a cloakroom wall blocks the light to the classroom behind.

The Tangipahoa School remains under the ownership of the parish school board, but the Village of Tangipahoa has secured a long-term lease in the hopes of restoring the building as a much needed community center. A National Register nomination has been requested at this time in an effort to assist with fund-raising activities (a psychological boost ---credibility for the project--- and for any grant funds where National Register listing may help).

### Assessment of Integrity:

Although deteriorated and vandalized, the building still conveys its historic character as an early twentieth century frame school.

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

Page 5

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A\_X B\_ C\_ D\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A\_ B\_ C\_ D\_ E\_ F\_ G\_

Areas of Significance: education

Period(s) of Significance: 1922

Significant Dates: 1922

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Tangipahoa School is of local educational significance as a rare surviving archetype within Tangipahoa Parish: a wood frame country school. Also, all available evidence indicates that its construction filled a definite educational need for children in the village of Tangipahoa and immediately outlying areas.

Wood frame schools were the face of education in rural Louisiana in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, whether of the one room variety or larger 3-4 teacher schools such as Tangipahoa. At a time when rural roads were unpaved, an elementary school was located "in practically each and every community," to quote Tangipahoa Parish School Board minutes from 1922. With road improvement and consolidation of districts (generally in the 1920s and '30s), many schools like the candidate stood vacant or were converted to a new use. The larger and fewer schools that supplanted them were often "modern brick schools," as they were hailed at the time.

School board minutes reveal a total of forty-six schools for the white children of Tangipahoa Parish in 1922. (Statistics were not given for African-American schools.) Some of these were large schools located in good-sized towns such as Hammond and Ponchatoula. But two-thirds (29) were rural schools in the one to three teacher category. But today the Tangipahoa School is one of only two known survivors of the type (at least in the original location). It survives to show someone the look of a country school. (The other known survivor is a one room school relocated to downtown Ponchatoula.)

All available evidence indicates that the candidate was a much sought after improvement from its predecessor. The predecessor, believed to date from c.1890, was a two story wood frame multi-purpose building. School was taught on the lower floor, with the upstairs being used by fraternal organizations and for other meetings. In the first decade of the twentieth century a small music instruction annex was added. (The foregoing description is from an article written in 1976 by village historian Carolyn G. North, who at that time had access to people with first-hand knowledge of the predecessor.)

School board minutes for June 14, 1921 record various individuals appearing before the board on behalf of the Tangipahoa School. They were requesting assistance in the construction of a new building, because the present school "is not habitable and is hardly fit for use as a school building." Locals were interested enough in a new school to pledge \$600 cash in hand, if their "earnest request" for an \$1800 appropriation was approved. A discussion ensued about the merits of tearing the old building down and reusing some of the lumber or repairing it. It was estimated that repairs would cost between \$1200 and \$1500. The school board granted the \$1800 and gave a committee the authority to decide on repairs versus new construction. It is clear from subsequent school board minutes that the decision was made to erect a new building on a new piece of property (on a block adjacent to the old school).

It appears that school was disrupted by the transition from one building to another. According to the oral tradition (as recorded by Carolyn G. North—see above), some of the lumber from the old building was used in the new school. School board minutes showing teachers appointed for the 1921-22 year give no entry for Tangipahoa (District 9, Ward 1). But for the 1922-23 year (the candidate's first year), Tangipahoa is back on the list, with three teachers being appointed (Miss Gertrude Brown, Miss Alma Waller and Mrs. A. K. Frieler). One individual who went to school in the candidate was located as background research for this nomination. Born in 1922, George P. Pike shared his class photo of 1930, which shows 52 students.

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

## **Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA**

**Page 7**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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The candidate housed a public school through at least the 1930s. Later it became a private school called Valley Forge. It remained Valley Forge School until 1966 and subsequently was used for various programs, including Head Start. It has been vacant for many years.

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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tangipahoa Parish School Board Minutes, 1921-22.

North, Carolyn G., "History of Tangipahoa, Louisiana School," Village of Tangipahoa Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet, 1976.

1930 class photo, Tangipahoa School.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- \_\_\_ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
\_\_\_ Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
\_\_\_ 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 (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approx. 2 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
15 737760 3418420

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 83, 84, 85 and 96, 97, 98, Square 8, Village of Tangipahoa.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the portion of the original acreage that retains integrity. As noted in Part 7, a playground with a recreational building has been added to the front part of the property within the last few years; hence this portion is being excluded.



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NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**Tangipahoa School, Tangipahoa Parish, LA**

**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: April 2003

**PROPERTY OWNERS**

Tangipahoa Parish School Board  
P. O. Box 457  
Amite, LA 70422

Ninety-nine year lease held by Village of Tangipahoa.