

**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 Allen Parish Courthouse

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 5th Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oberlin \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 7th — John Breaux

state Louisiana code 22 county Allen Parish code 003

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Allen Parish Police Jury

street & number P.O. Drawer G

city, town Oberlin \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Louisiana 70655

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen Parish Courthouse

street & number P.O. Drawer G

city, town Oberlin state LA 70655

**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 La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA.

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Allen Parish Courthouse is on axis at the head of Sixth Ave., which is Oberlin's main thoroughfare. The buff brick building consists of two stories set on an English basement. The first floor plan consists of a pair of wide axial corridors with an imperial marble and steel staircase set at each end of the building. The structure is designed as a main block with a pair of two story side wings. The courtroom occupies the main block on the second story. It is lit by three massive lunette windows front and rear. The building is articulated in a robust style which was inspired by the Classical Baroque. The first floor is a rusticated brick base with jack arches. The second story of the main block has four sets of double Ionic columns which set off the three arch windows which light the courtroom. The second story of the wings has round arch windows with brick pilasters between. The building is capped by a heavy entablature which has a central scroll cartouche. In the center of the facade is a balustraded balcony resting upon elaborate terra cotta consoles with bas relief.

The interior is relatively plain with simple pilasters articulating the corridors. The courtroom has a Doric entablature and pedimented oak doors.

To the rear of the building is a modern office wing and a jail appendage.

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

Specific dates 1914

Builder/Architect Favrot and Livaudais

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criteria C & A

The Allen Parish Courthouse is significant in the area of architecture as Oberlin's most pretentious structure for the following reasons:

- (1) It stands at the head of Oberlin's main thoroughfare and hence has a commanding presence.
- (2) Because of its English basement and extra high stories, the courthouse towers over the predominantly 1½ story town.
- (3) It is the most elaborate, "high style," monumental building in town.  
The only other large building in Oberlin is the high school, which is a symmetrical two story brick structure with a meager looking four column portico. Compared to this the courthouse is much more impressive with features such as a rusticated base, terra cotta bas relief, three frontal windows with double Ionic columns which have the monumental effect of a triumphal arch motif, and a main block set off by end wings.

The Allen Parish Courthouse is also significant in the area of politics/government because it has been the seat of parish government since its construction in 1912.

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

Brasseaux, Carl A., Conrad, Glenn R.; Robison, R. Warren. The Courthouses of Louisiana.  
USL Architecture Series No. 1, Center for Louisiana Studies, USL, Lafayette, 1977.

## **10. Geographical Data**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property approx. 1 acre  
Quadrangle name Oberlin, La.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

**UMT References**

A	1 5	5 2 2	2 5 0	3 3 8 7 3 5 0
Zone	Easting		Northing	
C				
E				
G				

B				
Zone	Easting		Northing	
D				
F				
H				

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See attached sketch map.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## **11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary T. Janowski, Librarian

organization Allen Parish Library date March 1981

street & number P.O. Box 400 telephone 318-639-4338

city or town Oberlin state Louisiana 70655

## **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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 16, 1981

**For HCPS use only**

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

# Allen Parish Courthouse

APR 3 4 1981  
JN - 3 1981

