

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Plaquemine High School  
other names/site number Plaquemine Elgментар School

### 2. Location

street & number 600 Plaquemine Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Plaquemine N/A  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Iberville code 047 zip code 70764

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie P. Tassin January 7, 1992  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Date  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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:)

Shelous Bryan 2/13/92  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

for  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the  
National Register

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

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Classical Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

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walls brick

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roof Other: tar and gravel

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other concrete

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Plaquemine High School building is a three story brick and concrete structure erected in 1911. It is centrally located within the community in a mixed residential and commercial area. Designed primarily in the Beaux Arts style, it also displays Neo-Classical decorative elements. The school has endured surprisingly few changes over the years, hence its National Register eligibility remains intact.

The three-story structure is composed of a concrete raised basement surmounted by two additional stories of brick. Elements which contribute to the Beaux Arts character of the building include:

- 1) a five part symmetrical plan with a central projecting pavilion, two projecting side pavilions, and two hyphen-like connectors.
- 2) overscaled architectural elements which combine to make the central pavilion the structure's climactic feature. These elements include four monumental Roman Ionic columns in antis, colossal corner piers, a monumental flight of stairs rising to the main entrance on the second floor, and a large cast concrete tablet which highlights the pavilion's crown.
- 3) side elevations divided into three bays by monumental piers identical to those on the central pavilion. Each side elevation contains its own slightly projecting central bay, reflecting the Beaux Arts tendency to emphasize advancing and receding planes within the same elevation.

Most of the school's decorative elements are executed in cast concrete. Neo-Classical elements include 1) molded pier capitals featuring roundels, 2) a molded entablature which extends around much of the structure, 3) a second tablet, this one located above the facade's second story door, 4) a dentil band located beneath the central pavilion's overhanging cornice, and 5) a tall brick parapet with coping. Other interesting features include bands of large sash windows with cast concrete sills, high ceilings, and large glass transoms above classroom doors. Classrooms, with accompanying cloakrooms and original slate blackboards, and an auditorium with a balcony occupy the ground (basement) and second floors. The third floor contains only classrooms and cloakrooms.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Plaquemine High School, Iberville Parish, LA

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The school has experienced relatively few changes since completion. These include the installation of a fire escape on the facade, the construction of rear one story wings on the ground floor to house additional restrooms, the removal of the words "High School" from the face of the central pavilion's large tablet, and the painting of the original beige brick in a shade of red. The restroom wings are not visible from the front and, thus, do not impact the facade. Because the tablet itself remains intact, the loss of its former wording is hardly noticeable. The presence of the fire escape is unfortunate but, because it is recessed between projecting pavilions and painted the same color as the surrounding brick, its visual impact is lessened. Finally, the painted brick does not detract from the building's appearance. Instead, the dark color provides a better contrast for the light colored cast concrete elements which decorate the building. As one of the City of Plaquemine's most important architectural landmarks, the Plaquemine High School building is a prime candidate for the National Register.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stevens and Nelson, Company, Architects  
Caldwell Brothers, Contractors

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Plaquemine High School building is locally significant in the area of architecture because of its status as a landmark among the city's late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings.

Located on the west bank of the Mississippi River at the mouth of Bayou Plaquemine, the City of Plaquemine was incorporated in 1838. However, most of its early buildings have been lost to "cave-ins" which repeatedly plunged local streets, businesses and residences into the eroding waters of the river. A major cave-in took place in 1888, but there were many others. The result is that much of the original town of Plaquemine is gone, and its surviving collection of historic buildings dates primarily to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This collection, as verified by the Iberville Parish Historic Structures Survey, consists of approximately 300 structures. With several notable exceptions, most of these are small, vernacular Creole, Italianate, and Queen Anne cottages, shotguns, bungalows, and two story commercial buildings. The High School is one of the exceptions. One of only a handful of Plaquemine structures to have been designed by an architect, it is quite large, impressive in scale, and makes its own high style design statement. Thus, it is a grand and monumental landmark when compared to the smaller, vernacular cottages and businesses which surround it.

Historical Note

The Plaquemine High School building was erected in 1911 at a cost of \$46,805. Although its role as a high school was reflected in its name, it actually served elementary as well as high school students. It served in this capacity until 1931, when a new high school building was completed. At that time, the older building was rechristened as the Plaquemine Elementary School. The building continued in use as an elementary school until the end of the 1986-87 school year.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Historic Structures Survey for Iberville Parish.

Grace, Albert L. The Heart of the Sugar Bowl: The Story of Iberville. Baton Rouge: Franklin Press, 1946.

Riffel, Judy, Ed. Iberville Parish History. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1985.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  
 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	6	9	4	6	0	3	3	5	1	9	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

  
C 

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B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

  
D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

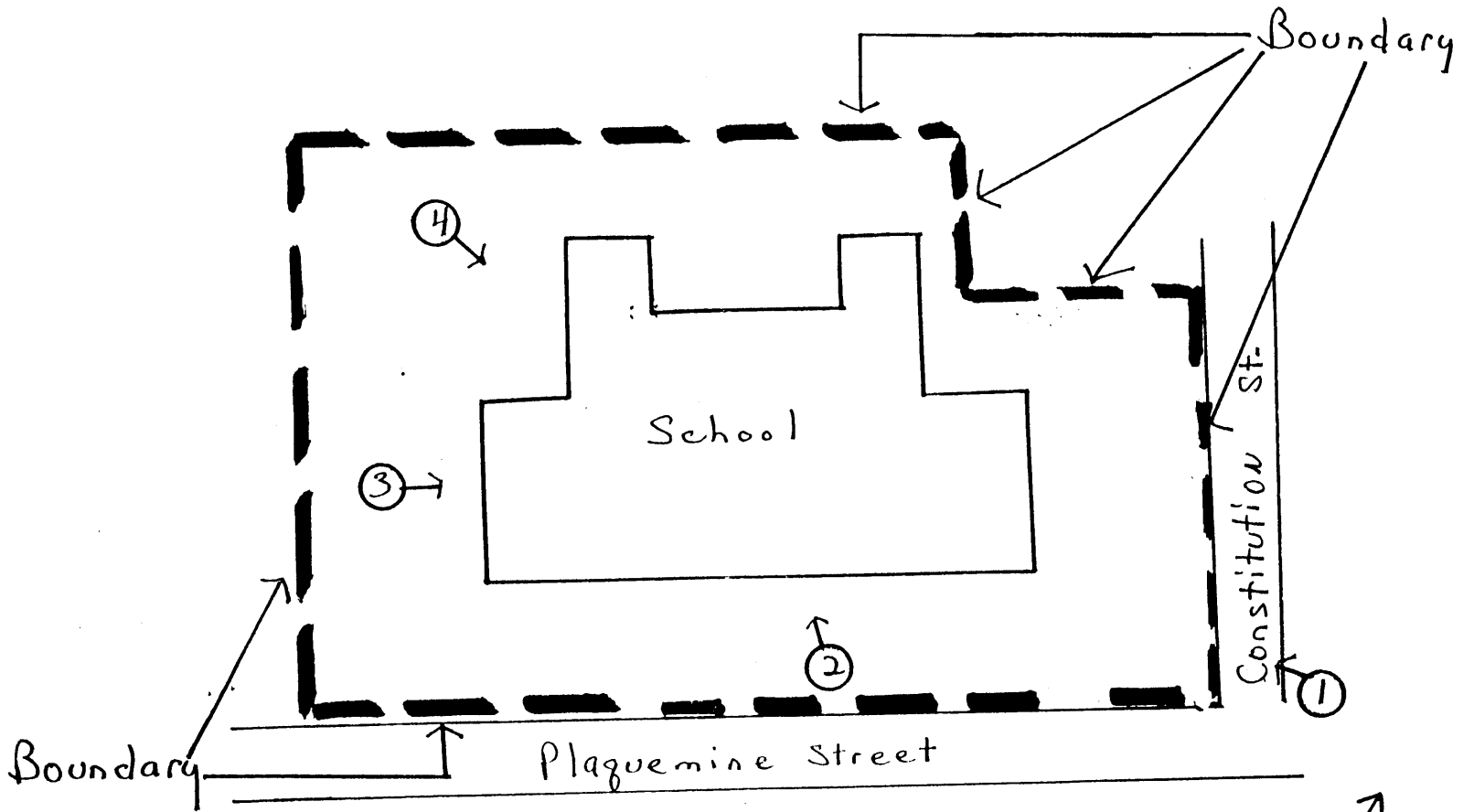
Boundary lines do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including non-contributing elements located elsewhere on the school board property. Excluding these non-contributing buildings is why the boundary line to the rear is irregular.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**


name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1991  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Iberville Parish School Board  
P. O. Box 151  
Plaquemine, LA 70765-0151



Plaquemine High School  
 Plaquemine, Iberville Parish, La.

North ↗

Boundary:   
 Scale: 1' = 50'