

2036

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 26 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See the *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 Catahoula Parish Courthouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy. 124 N/A not for publication
city, town Harrisonburg N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Catahoula code 025 zip code 71340

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>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<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 9/22/88
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism Date
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. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 10/27/88
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof tarother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built in 1930, the masonry neo-classical Catahoula Parish Courthouse is a landmark in the small town of Harrisonburg. Regardless of some unsympathetic modernization and a large addition, the structure retains its National Register eligibility.

Occupying an irregular shaped city block, the large rectangular courthouse is symmetrical, well-proportioned and sparsely ornamented, with the front and rear elevations identical. The whole mass rests upon a rusticated one story base, which gives the appearance of strength. On this ground story, a central grouping of three arches provides an axial entrance. A seven bay colossal piano nobile with engaged Ionic columns and coupled pilasters articulates the second and third stories. Both of the classical facades are set forward slightly, suggesting a central block with wings. A molded entablature with a denticular cornice encircles the entire building. Set back and practically hidden behind a balustrade and a brick parapet, a fourth and smaller attic story rests on a flat roof. This top space, which once served as the jail, is now utilized as a storage area.

The side elevations were identical before a recent addition covered the south entrance. The remaining secondary (north) entrance is an echo of the east and west facades. Here the arrangement consists of two colossal pilasters over a single arched entrance.

Alterations:

In 1974, the interior of the building was completely modernized by lowering ceilings, adding wallboard, and carpeting. The only original interior features remaining are a secondary staircase and the attic space.

Also, at this time all the original windows were replaced by modern metal ones with tinted glass.

As was mentioned previously, a modern large annex building was attached to the south elevation in 1974. Fortunately, the major portion of the annex does not rise above a single story.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these admittedly serious alterations, the mass, form, and essential neo-classical features of the courthouse remain. Moreover, alterations notwithstanding, it is still the architectural landmark of the parish.

See continuation sheet

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

1930

Significant Dates

1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: J. W. Smith & Associates

Contractor: Tudor & Ratcliff Construction Co.

Alexandria, LA

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

The Catahoula Parish Courthouse is architecturally significant on the local level as the grand landmark of the parish.

Catahoula Parish has had a rich and colorful history, with a once thriving antebellum plantation economy and later a significant lumber boom. But floods, fires, and a changing economy have taken their toll, with the result that today the parish does not have much in the way of an architectural patrimony. The recently completed comprehensive historic structures survey has identified 418 50+ year old buildings, almost all of which are plain cottages, bungalows, or nondescript commercial buildings. There are also a few antebellum plantation houses, all of which are modest galleried cottages. The survey revealed that there are no impressive churches and no pretentiously articulated residences of any period. The courthouse is the only building in Catahoula Parish which can legitimately be regarded as a grand architectural landmark. It is a four story neo-classical pile with a strong rusticated base and a colossal piano nobile composed of engaged Ionic columns. As such, it stands far above the parish's rather humble patrimony.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, Catahoula Parish, State Historic Preservation Office.

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

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 @ 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

6	1	1	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	1	5	5	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries follow property lines and are highlighted in yellow.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY OWNER

name/title National Register Staff

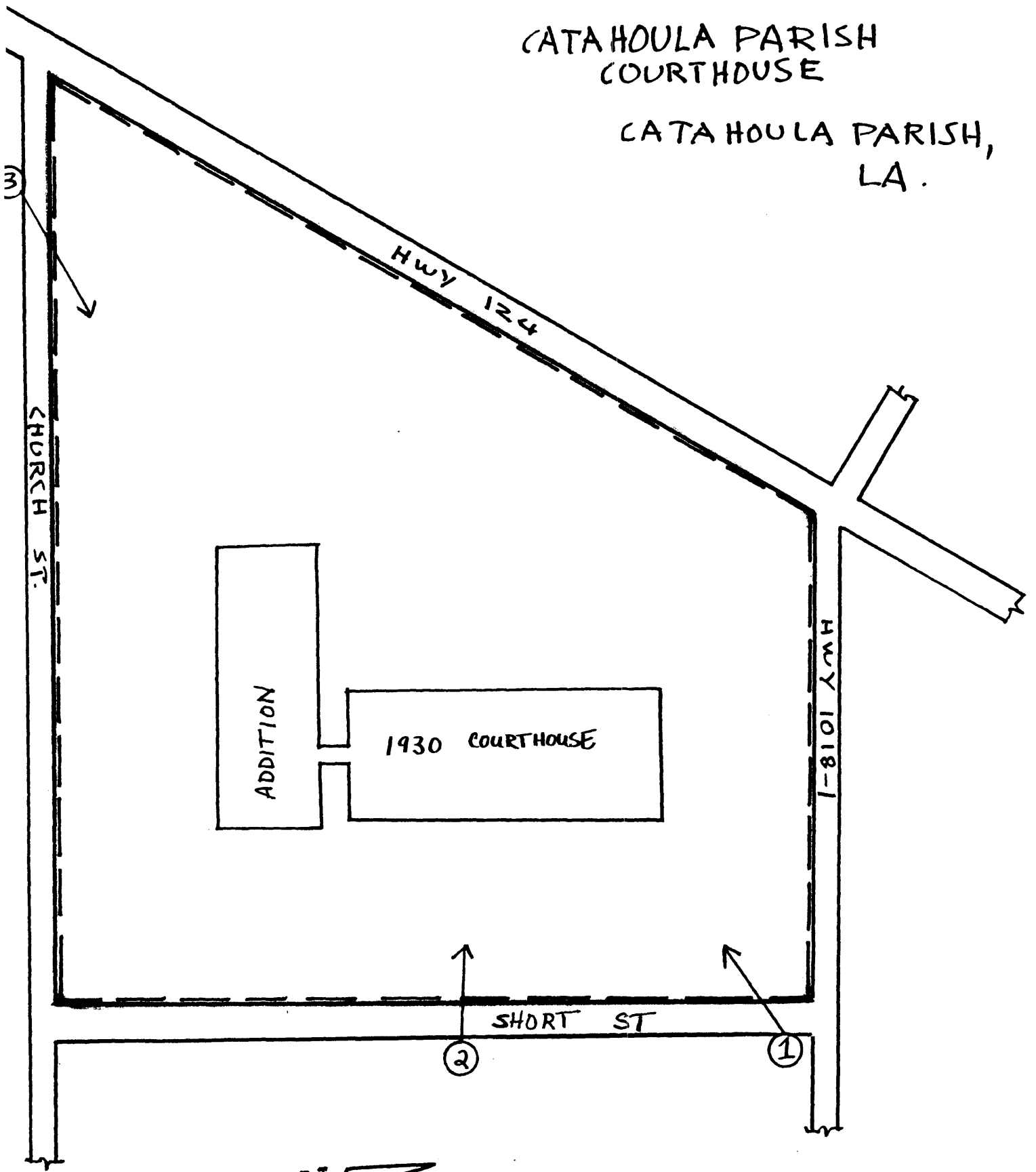
organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1988

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160


city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

CATAHOULA PARISH
COURTHOUSE

CATAHOULA PARISH,
LA.



SCALE 1" = 50'


BOUNDARY