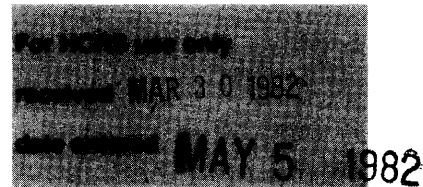


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Shreveport Municipal Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 724 McNeil St. n/a not for publication

city, town Shreveport n/a vicinity of congressional district 4th--Buddy Leach

state LA code 22 county Caddo Parish code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jackie T. Fair and Byrum W. Teekell

street & number 228 Spring Street, Suite 300

city, town Shreveport n/a vicinity of state LA 71107

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caddo Parish Courthouse

street & number 500 Texas Street, Room 103

city, town Shreveport state LA 71101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shreveport Municipal Building (1924) is a five-story neo-classical style building constructed of solid brick exterior walls, reinforced concrete floors, and interior walls of concrete and hollow tile. It is located at 724 McNeil Street on the edge of the city's central business district. Despite the fact that the interior is gutted and open and most of the windows are missing, the Municipal Building still stands as an important example of the work of its architect, Edward F. Neild.

The Municipal Building is mainly significant for its exterior neo-classical articulation. The composition consists of a nine-bay multi-story main block flanked by a pair of small, slightly protruding, one-story side wings. The front and sides of the building are faced in limestone. The basement garage level features rustication, and the first story and protruding wings are smooth faced. The second and third stories are encompassed within a colossal piano nobile formed of Ionic pilasters and a full entablature. The fourth story is concealed behind a balustrade. The reinforced concrete hip roof is covered in red glazed tile.

Ornamentation is sparingly used. The central entrance features a patera enriched frame with consoles and a cornice. Each of the end wings is surmounted by a parapet with a central brinccaded panel. The second and third stories are separated by steel panels which are inset with triglyphs and metopes.

The only surviving interior feature is the graceful curving staircase which leads from the raised basement garage to the main story to the upper courtroom level. The steel and marble stair is set within its own apse dead on axis with the main entrance. It consists of marble slabs resting on a steel frame with an ornamental steel balustrade. The rising curve of the staircase is emphasized by a marble dado.

The fact that the interior has been largely gutted should not be regarded as overly detrimental to the architectural significance of the Municipal Building. This is because in its heyday there were only two major noteworthy interior features-- the staircase and the courtroom. The remaining interior spaces were taken up by offices. So the gutting of the interior resulted in the loss of the courtroom, which was a relatively small portion of the overall aesthetic value of the building. Secondly, in Neild's buildings, as in the buildings of many eclectic architects, the interiors were largely articulated with standard features (moldings, doorways, etc.) which were ordered from catalogs. A relatively small amount of creative energy was actually expended on the interiors. This was certainly true of the Municipal Building. Most of Neild's taste and design ability was spent on the articulation of the exterior facades. So the loss of most of the interior features should not be seen as overly detrimental to the significance of the Municipal Building as an example of Neild's work.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Edward F. Neild

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Old Municipal Building is significant on the state level in the area of architecture as the work of Edward F. Neild, the leading architect of his generation in North Louisiana. In fact, his stature as an architect later went beyond the boundaries of the state.*

Neild was born in Shreveport in 1884. He rose to prominence in the 1920's, '30's, and '40's designing many of Shreveport's most important buildings. These include the nine-story Henry C. Beck Building, the Municipal Building, the Caddo Parish Courthouse, the massive exhibit center at the Shreveport fairgrounds, the Veterans Administration Hospital in Shreveport, and many of the Caddo Parish school buildings.

Neild's rise to national prominence began in 1928 when Judge Harry Truman visited Neild's recently completed Caddo Parish Courthouse. Truman was impressed and engaged Neild to design the Jackson County Courthouse in Missouri. This formed a lasting friendship between Truman and Neild which led to other commissions. When Truman was president Neild was the architect for the major structural renovations made to the White House after the famous "piano leg incident." Neild died in 1955 while working on the design for the Truman Memorial Library in Kansas City. He also designed courthouses in Phoenix, Arizona; Ruston, Louisiana; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stylistically Neild was an eclectic architect mainly rooted in the axial Beaux Arts tradition who gradually turned to modernism in the late-1920's. The Municipal Building was built in 1924 and represents the early eclectic phase of his work. This is significant because by far the greater portion of his extant buildings represent the later modernist phase of his work.

*National significance is not claimed for the building for two reasons:

- (1) The Municipal Building is not considered the finest example of Neild's work. In addition, the interiors have been gutted (as previously described).
- (2) Neild achieved national prominence only within the last fifty years.

HISTORICAL SKETCH:

The Old Shreveport Municipal Building was dedicated on April 4, 1924. The cost for the site and building was \$186,168.68. The purpose of this new facility was to house the Shreveport Police Department and the City Court, including judges and jail. The basement was used primarily as a garage. The first floor was used by the police department and contained offices for the building inspector, the chief of police, the commissioner of public safety, fingerprinting, and roll call. The second floor consisted

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Continuation sheet Shreveport Municipal Building Item number 8

Page 2

8. Historical Sketch (Continued)

of a large courtroom, the judges' chambers, and offices for the civil clerk, criminal clerk, and city marshall. The third floor contained the jail, and the small fourth floor or attic was mostly used for storage. The city vacated the building in 1958, and it has had several owners since that time. It is presently vacant; however, the current owners are planning to restore it and convert it into an office building.

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Continuation sheet Shreveport Municipal Bldg. Item number 9

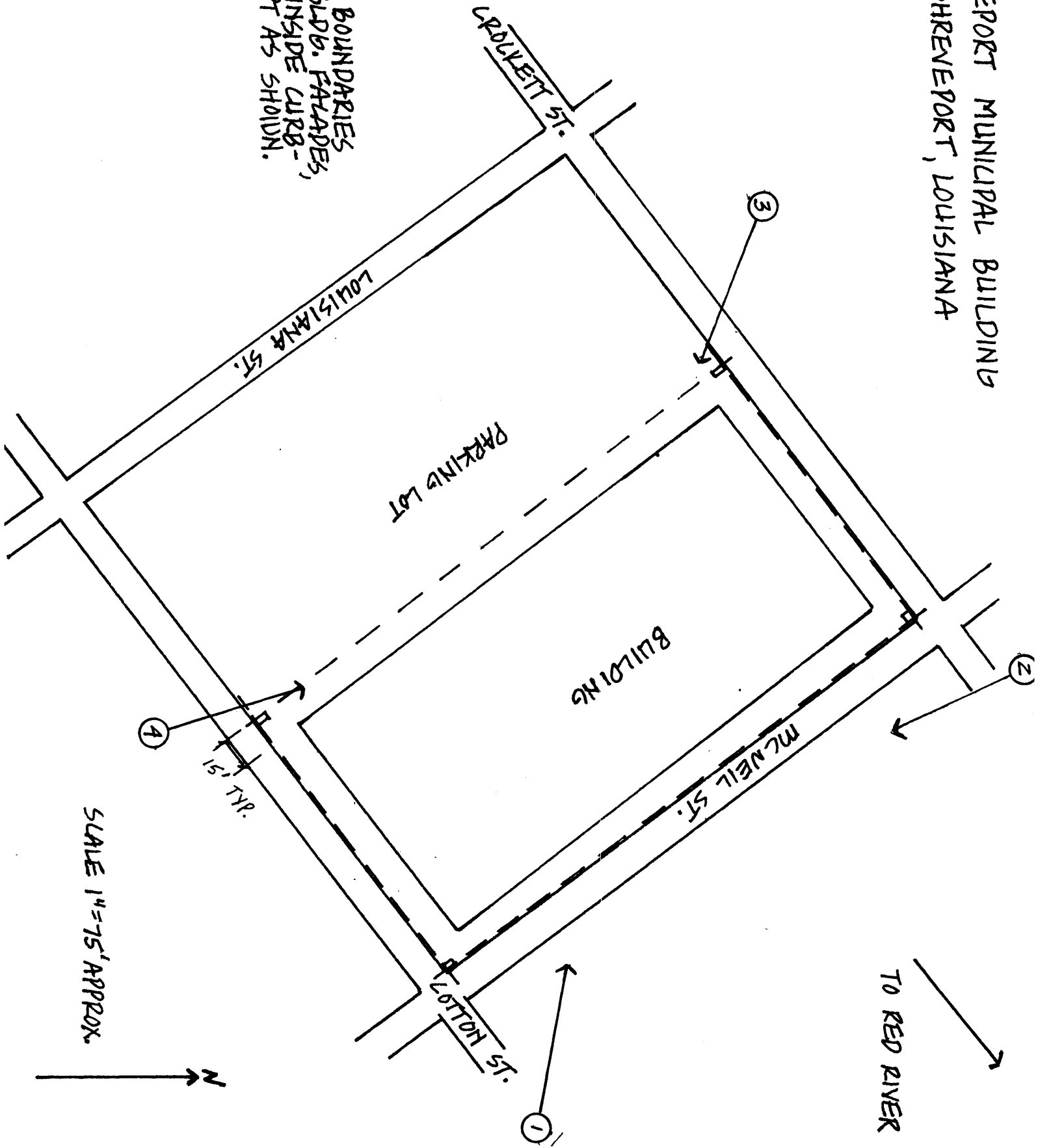
Page 2

9. Bibliography (Continued)

Information on Edward F. Neild supplied by Scott Smitherman of Sandahl Associates
(the lineal descendant of Neild's architectural firm).

Edward F. Neild Obituary. Shreveport Journal, July 7, 1955.

SHREVEPORT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES
PARALLEL BLDG. FAZADES,
FOLLOWING INSIDE CURB-
LINE, EXCEPT AS SHOWN.

SCALE 1"=75' APPROX.