

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAR 2 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Harahan Elementary School

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 6723 Jefferson Highway

N/A not for publication

city, town Harahan

N/A vicinity of

state LA

code 22

county Jefferson Parish

code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson Parish School Board, Office of the Superintendent

street & number 519 Huey P. Long Avenue, Box 130

city, town Gretna

N/A vicinity of

state LA 70054-0130

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson Parish Courthouse

street & number no specific street or mailing address

city, town Gretna

state LA 70053

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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harahan Elementary School (1926) is a two-story brick Spanish Baroque style structure located near the center of the Mississippi River town of Harahan. On the whole, the building has suffered little alteration over the years, and hence there is no integrity problem.

The whitewashed textured brick building has an axial Palladian five-part plan consisting of a central two-story administrative pavilion, a flanking pair of single story classroom wings, and a pair of single story end pavilions each of which contains a large classroom and a bathroom. Each of the classroom wings has an open arcade in the rear. Behind the central administrative pavilion is a two-story auditorium with an upper gallery and an elliptical proscenium arch.

The school is entered through a short vestibule which leads to a central two-story domed rotunda. A graceful curving staircase connects with a curving columnar balcony to provide access to the three small offices on the second floor of the rotunda area. The staircase and balcony are made largely of cast steel embellished to give the effect of old Spanish wrought iron. This effect is echoed in the original electric light fixtures, most of which still survive. The proscenium arch in the auditorium is elaborately treated with cast plaster acanthus leaf moldings and bands of fruits and flowers. The only other noteworthy interior feature is the tile floor in the rotunda which is ornamented with repeating geometrical motifs.

The massing of the exterior is emphasized by low decorative false front roofs covered with red tile. Most of the actual roof surfaces are flat and sheathed in galvanized iron. The plainness of much of the exterior is dramatically relieved on the central entrance by a two-story applied sculptural pavilion formed of cast cement. It consists of a profusion of decorative elements such as Persian columns, termini, repeating protruding molded corners, multiple superimposed shaped gables, pendants, scroll volutes, multiple ogee molded openings, and much surface relief work, all used without regard to the normal rules of classical architecture. The aforementioned end pavilions have shaped gables and planters ornamented with cement scaled fishes.

Assessment of Integrity:

Since construction the following changes have been made:

- (1) Several of the classrooms have been treated with acoustical ceiling tile.
- (2) The upper gallery of the auditorium has been enclosed for storage space.
- (3) Some of the auditorium windows have been painted over.

These changes should be regarded as minimal. They have not affected the grandiose architectural styling or the basic form of the building, which are the mainstays of its significance.

In addition, the adjacent modern school buildings (see map) do not obscure the major architectural features of the Harahan Elementary School.

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 1926 **Builder/Architect** Architect: William R. Burk

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Harahan Elementary School is architecturally significant on the local level as a landmark in the early twentieth century architectural heritage of Jefferson Parish and architecturally significant on the state level because of its unusual plan.

LOCAL LEVEL:

Most of Jefferson Parish's 50+ year old buildings date from the early twentieth century and would normally be classified as eclectic in style. There are nine major examples of early twentieth century architecture in the parish, eight of which are designed in the Spanish Colonial style. All are large institutional buildings. The Harahan Elementary School is among the parish's finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture because it is one of only four which feature rich churrigueresque articulation. Beyond this, the Harahan school is the only example which features a pretentious domed rotunda. It is therefore unusual because the historically derived styling goes beyond mere surface ornamentation and affects the entire character of the plan.

STATE LEVEL:

Most of Louisiana's surviving older school buildings date from the 1920's. The majority of these have a central entrance which leads to internal corridors. The Harahan Elementary School is very unusual in this regard because the entrance is not merely a wide hallway but a two-story domed rotunda with a monumental curving staircase. The State Historic Preservation Office is not aware of any other comparable school entrance hall in Louisiana.

NB: "State" is checked in Item 12 because in cases where two levels of significance are involved, the standard procedure is to check the higher of the two.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Jefferson Parish

New Orleans Notarial Archives

Swanson, Betsy. Historic Jefferson Parish From Shore to Shore. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property $\frac{3}{4}$ acre approximately

Quadrangle name New Orleans West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

15	770640	3315040
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Assisted by: Jay J. Borne

name/title National Register Staff
Division of Historic Preservation
organization State of Louisiana

511 Westbank Expwy.,
Suite 300

Gretna, LA 70053

date December 1982 504-362-4094

street & number POB 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 22, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Ann Marie Orzoff
Keeper of the National Register

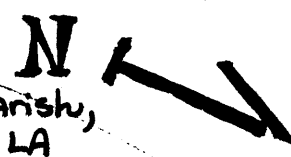
date 4/14/83

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*
Chief of Registration

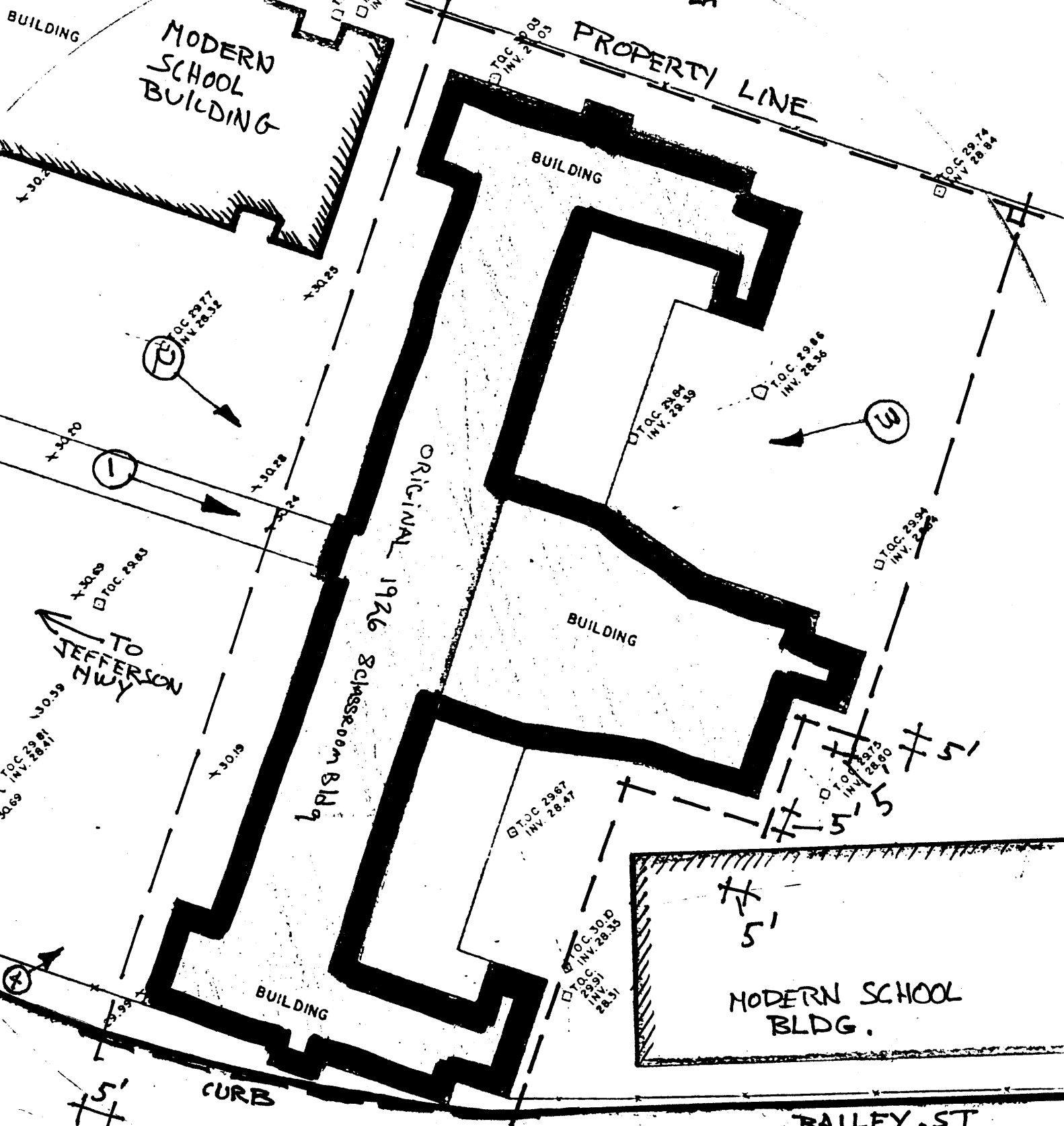
date 4/14/83

HARAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCALE 1"=30'



747 Jefferson Parish, LA



UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED
BOUNDARIES PARALLEL
BUILDING FAÇADES AT
DISTANCES SHOWN

BAILEY ST.