

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **OCT 16 1979**
DATE ENTERED **AUG 1 1980**

**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

Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

E of Jackson on LA 10

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 10, 2 miles east of Jackson

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jackson *mic*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th-Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE
022

COUNTY
East Feliciana

CODE
037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Hospital

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

East Louisiana State Hospital

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Louisiana 70748

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

East Feliciana Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE
Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE
Louisiana

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 DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital is located approximately one mile east of the town of Jackson, atop a slight ridge. The building faces north with a small formal garden in front.

The building consists of three parts with two elongated wings and a temple-fronted center section. The interior rooms are reached by means of a wide central corridor which reach from end to end and from front to rear of the building in a cruciform plan. The hall in the center section is particularly impressive with an elliptical archway and an imperial staircase.

The building has three main stories with a low fourth story set within the frieze of the roofline. There is also a half story in the attic. The heavy masonry walls are stuccoed on the exterior. Windows are of the six over six sash type, with friezes over the windows in the center section.

The wing sections have massive rear colonnades with three-story Tuscan columns. The temple portico front consists of six Ionic columns three stories high surmounted by a richly ornamented pediment. This ornamentation consists of terra cotta bolted to the tympanum, and cast iron panels bolted to the frieze.

Major public rooms on the second floor have been reworked, so much of their character has been lost.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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AUG 1 1980

5/80

Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital, East Feliciana Parish

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The rear and sides of the building have been encroached upon by relatively new construction. The front looks onto a circular driveway with a lawn. Boundaries were drawn to cut closely around the rear and sides of the building and take in the front lawn. Boundary lines consist of a rectangle which extends 6 feet beyond the rear and side facades and extend 300 feet beyond the front.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1847-1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. N. Gibbens, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture in Louisiana. This is primarily because it has the only three-story Greek Revival portico in the state. Beyond this, the hospital exemplifies a quintessential tendency of the American Greek Revival movement, i.e. its addiction to the Greek temple form. This form was so admired that it was used for buildings of all types, including schools, churches, homes, etc. This national love of the Greek temple was most clearly seen in the design of institutional buildings. This was because institutional buildings often had size requirements which made them difficult to adapt to the temple form. As a result, great effort was often expended to fit three or more stories into a temple structure while retaining the temple-like appearance.

The Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital is an excellent example of this, because it is a well-proportioned temple form, with four and one half stories "shoe-horned" into it. It shows the temple form stretched to its limits, and it shows the almost universal application of the temple form even to building types to which it was not entirely suited.

The Center Building of East Louisiana State Hospital is also of social/humanitarian significance as the site of the state's first major permanent facility for the care of the mentally ill. This building was the beginning of the greatly expanded, present-day East Louisiana State Hospital.

An act of the legislative session of 1847 established "The Insane Asylum of the State of Louisiana" in Jackson and provided, among other things, for the construction of the Asylum's physical plant. The Asylum's Board of Administrators appointed an architect, a Mr. Gibbens (probably C. N. Gibbens) to draw up the plans. He was specifically told not to design something that would look like a prison. Gibbens came up with the design of the Center Building with its wings. The Board of Administrators purchased a 250-acre tract known as "Flowery Hill" a short distance from the business section of Jackson, separated from the town by a small stream.

On July 5, 1847, Robert Perry signed a contract with the Board for the building of the Asylum, and President David Shattuck of Centenary College signed as security for Perry. The Board requested that the West Wing be completed by December 1, 1847, but there were delays due to bad weather and the building was not ready for occupancy until the fall of 1848. The East Wing was not finished until 1849. Center Building was ready for use in 1854, but it was never completed according to Gibbens' plans. The rear of the building was to have extended another hundred feet and to have contained a central kitchen, storerooms, and

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gordon, Richard L., "A History of East Louisiana State Hospital, 1847-1934," M. A. thesis, LSU (Baton Rouge), 1974, especially pp. 24-27.

Letter from Mamie A. Rouzan to State Historic Preservation Office, 21 June 1979, located in National Register file for Center Building and the Wings of Wings of East Louisiana State Hospital, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 670800 3412260

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mamie Austin Rouzan

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 57

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Louisiana

70748

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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

J. Bernard Lamar

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/5/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally B. Reddy

DATE

8/1/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Beth Grosvenor*

DATE

7/28/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 7/31/85
date entered

Continuation sheet EAST LA. STATE HOSPITAL Item number 8 Addendum Page

8. Statement of Significance - ADDENDUM
East Feliciana Parish, LA

The purpose of this addendum is to raise the designation of the East Louisiana State Hospital, East Feliciana Parish, to a level of national significance in the area of architecture. When the nomination was originally prepared national significance was not seriously considered because the State Historic Preservation Office staff did not feel that it had the data to make a case on the national level. Recently the staff received a request to elevate the level of significance of the building and as a result the matter was reconsidered. Upon reflection we feel that the hospital building enjoys national architectural significance because of its temple form and its colonnaded wings.


The Temple Form:

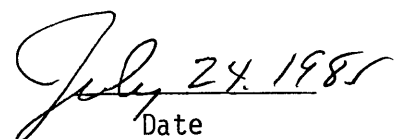
In many ways American addiction to the temple form is most evident in large institutional buildings with complex plan requirements. East Louisiana State Hospital, being a four and a half story temple form structure, is unusually large as Greek Revival temples go. There are numerous two story temple buildings remaining across the country but temples containing three or more stories are relatively rare. These three-story plus temple structures are important because they are usually the most monumental examples of the style. Moreover, they are a particularly good illustration of how much America admired the Greek temple. They show how far architects were prepared to stretch the form in order to continue to apply it to any and all building types.

The Colonnaded Wings:

The colonnaded wings are significant in their own right on the national level because they represent the ultimate statement in a regional mode of the Greek Revival style. They constitute one of a limited number of important examples of a regional variation of the Greek Revival which is fundamentally different from the basic model (i.e., the temple form). Hence they represent an important facet of the American Greek Revival movement.

It is generally acknowledged that the galleried houses of the Gulf Coast region gave rise to the peripteral mode plantation houses of the mid-nineteenth century. They also gave rise to large linear institutional buildings with colossal colonnades such as the Pentagon Barracks (National Register) and the wings at East Louisiana State Hospital. Structures of this ilk are shallow in plan, very wide, and utilize the gallery as a major circulation space. Although they resemble Greek stoas, they were probably not conceived as stoas when they were built. Structures like the hospital are peculiar to the Gulf South region. As Jessie Poesch noted in The Art of the Old South, they are "in essence, an adaptation to institutional life of the basic scheme developed for Louisiana plantation houses."


Robert B. DeBlieux, State Historic
Preservation Officer


Date

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CONTINUATION SHEET

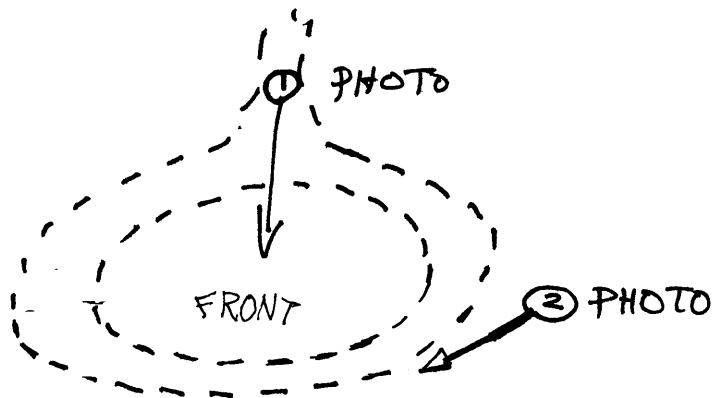
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Statement of Significance (Con't)

other facilities. Although the Asylum's early superintendents frequently asked the Legislature for funds to complete Center Building, they were never provided.

The Asylum began accepting patients in 1848. These first patients came from the Insane Department of New Orleans' Charity Hospital and from local jails across the state. The initial staff at the Insane Asylum consisted of twelve people. From 1848 to 1850 there were 130 admissions. By 1898 there were over a thousand patients in residence at the Asylum. In 1922 its name was changed to East Louisiana State Hospital. Today it has a staff of over a thousand employees, and almost seven hundred patients reside there. The latter figure would be much higher if the hospital's functions had not been divided among several new independent agencies in recent years.



↑ N



REAR extension

3 PHOTO

