United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No. 1024-0018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Name of Property	
Historic Name: Oil City School	
Other Names/Site Number: Oil City Elementary	Middle Magnet School
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	
0 1	
2. Location	
Street & Number: 407 N Kerley Ave	County Codds Borish
City or town: Oil City State: LA Not for Publication: Vicinity	County: Caddo Parish
Not for Publication: Vicinity	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
	Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify
	ation of eligibility meets the documentation standards
	r of Historic Places and meets the procedural and
	art 60. In my opinion, the property ⊠ meets ☐ does
not meet the National Register Criteria.	
I recommend that this property be considered si	gnificant at the following level(s) of significance:
☐ national ☐ state ☐ local	
Applicable National Register Criteria: X A]B ⊠C □D
distin P. Sander	6/14/17
Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sand	ders, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
[1] 가게 살아보다 하다 그 사람이 많아 있다면 하다. 그리고 함께 하는 것으로 다 보고 있습니다.	(Depoted)
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation	, and Tourism
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Gov	rernment
In my opinion, the property \(\bar{\cap} \) meets \(\bar{\cap} \) does no	at meet the National Register criteria
in my opinion, the property [] meets [] does no	A most the National Register offena.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title: State	or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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1	Mational	Dark	Certification
4	Mational	Park	Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

ventered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain/

8.2-2017

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

	Private
X	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

X	Building(s)	
	District	
	Site	
	Structure	
	object	

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
3	9	Buildings
1	4	Sites
	1	Structures
		Objects
4	14	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter Categories from Instructions): Education: School

Current Functions (Enter Categories from Instructions): Vacant/Not in Use

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7. **Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19th and 20th century

Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt/Shingle

Other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Oil City School is school complex begun in 1925 with the construction of the Oil City High School at the rear of the property and later expanded to include Oil City Elementary at the front of the property in 1929. A gymnasium was added in 1940 and a cafeteria addition was added to the gym in 1949. Both the high and elementary schools were designed by Shreveport architect, Edward F. Neild, Sr. The elementary and high schools (now one school) are two stories and are connected via covered walkways. There is an auditorium projecting out from the elementary school that almost bridges the two buildings. The gym sits between both buildings so that the complex forms a "T" of sorts. There is a large yard in front of the former elementary school building and the original football and baseball field sit behind the high school. There are also tennis courts behind the high school as well. There are six or so temporary buildings constructed for classroom overflow located to the east of the former high school building. These are small in scale and non-contributing due to their contemporary construction. The Oil City School has only had some updates done to it since it was built including replacement windows sometime after 1977, cosmetic updates such as the addition of linoleum floors, and upgrades for central air and heat in 2009. There are also 14 non-contributing resources on the campus; however, all of these are small resources that do not impact the overall historic integrity of the campus. These changes do affect the integrity of materials to a degree, but overall, the Oil City School retains a high degree of integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Oil City School is located in Oil City, about thirty miles north of Shreveport in northwest Louisiana. The main façade of the school complex faces North Kerley Avenue, which runs parallel to the railroad tracks the run through the center of Oil City. Surrounding the school is a mostly residential area with a wooded area to the east of the school's football field.

Site

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The school occupies roughly 6 acres and is bounded by Cypress Street to the north, woods to the east, Pines Street to the south, and N. Kerley Avenue to the west. The site itself is flat with a large open yard with playground in front of the school, school buildings in the center of the property, football field at the rear of the property, and parking along the north side of the original high school building. The three school buildings form a 'T' of sorts with the original elementary school at the front, gym and cafeteria sitting perpendicular to the elementary and located in the middle of the complex, and the original high school lining up with the elementary. Modern modular classrooms sit to the southeast of the high school and are detached from the main school buildings. The three main buildings are all connected by covered walkways.

Contributing Resources

Main School Buildings

Elementary School Building, Contributing

Exterior

Built in 1929, the original elementary school building has a Classical Revival style, like that on the high school, which features an exterior of dark red brick with beige stone accents. The façade is divided into three main bays with the two side bays projecting forward and featuring a mostly blank brick wall with decorative brickwork. Above that there is a stone course and a second smaller brick section made of a stretcher/header brick pattern. Centrally located in this section is a stone panel with a shield and swag detail. The cornice is stone to match the lower belt course and the roof is flat.

The large central bay is further divided into 6 individual bays. On the first floor, the two end bays are arched entryways into the school with stone arches and keystones. The entry doors are two double doors with an upper glass panel surrounding by original transoms and sidelights. All other bays on both levels consist of three window units. Engaged columns with simple Tuscan stone capitals divide each of these bays. A stone belt course tops the second floor to create a unified front. Each window bay has a stone lintel and a soldier brick course as a header. The original windows were 12/12 wooden double hung windows, but these were replaced sometime after 1977 with five light, horizontally aligned, metal windows. While the windows were replaced, fortunately, the opening size itself was not altered. Topping off this section of the building are five evenly spaced stone ornaments with a flower design and the stone cornice to match the two side projections.

The side elevations are almost identical except that the south side elevation has had one first floor window converted to a door, which accesses a handicapped ramp. These elevations also have the replacement windows within the original opening size. On the first floor, the two center bays are a window and previously mentioned door. Flanking this on each side are a group of five windows. On the second floor, this same arrangement is found except that the two central bays are windows. On the northern side elevation, the only noticeable alteration is the replacement windows as all original openings have not been altered. There is a small one story projection off of the north side that has a set of two windows, this time two over two, horizontally aligned, metal windows. A decorative soldier course of bricks above the windows adds a bit of detail to this section.

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¹ Throughout the history of the school on this site, the two main buildings have been referred to as Oil City School and Oil City High School. For purposes of the nomination, we will call the buildings by the names as described here: the front building facing N. Kerley is the Elementary School, the building at the back of the property is the High School, and the building in between is the Gym/Cafeteria.

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The east elevation of the elementary school building is made of mostly of the auditorium space. On each side of the auditorium, there is a secondary entrance to the main building with double doors and a large multi lite window above lighting the stairwells. The north side of the auditorium has four bays with the easternmost bay being a black brick wall with decorative brickwork to outline the bay. The other three bays are filled with the same style metal windows found throughout the school. A simple projecting belt course above the windows divides the wall to create a small upper section with four evenly spaced metal vents. A stone belt course is located above this, then a small stretcher/header brick section, and a simple aluminum cap for the cornice.

The rear of the auditorium features three bays like those found on the north elevation of the auditorium. The center bay has a set of double doors below the upper section of windows. This elevation also features the same metal vents and stone belt course. The southern elevation of the auditorium mirrors that of the northern elevation.

Interior

The interior of the elementary school has received some updates that are for the most part cosmetic and include linoleum floors and acoustic tile ceilings. Fortunately, the new ceilings were not dropped down significantly allowing for the hallways to retain their original width and height. This leaves the original transom openings visible on the hallway walls as well as the crown molding. Most of the transoms are currently covered over with wooden boards, but they are still extant. The bottom half of the hallway walls is a textured stucco with a simple chair rail. Above that the walls are simple plaster/sheetrock.

The two stairwells have original newel posts and handrails. The second floor hallway is particularly intact with the original ceiling height, ceiling molding, and original eight light transoms. The doors have been updated, but the door opening size has not changed. The same wall treatments with stucco and chair rail are found on the second floor as well. The classrooms throughout this building are the same size as they were historically and many still have their original built in cabinets and storage. Some even have the original chalkboards underneath the modern ones.

The auditorium retains a high degree of integrity particularly when comparing yearbook photos from the 1930s and 1950s to today's photos. The stage sits along the eastern wall and is accessed by two sets of five steps at each end. It is framed by two sets of engaged wooden columns supporting a paneled frieze. Decorative curtains hang inside the frame with "OC" in the center. It appears that the only changes to this stage section has been painting the wood as a 1932 photo shows portions of the framing painted contrasting colors (or potentially stained wood). To each side of the stage is an entry that leads to the rear of the building.

The main auditorium space is filled with wood folding chairs and side and central aisles. The large windows on the side elevations provide plenty of natural light in the auditorium. At the back are two built out boxes about halfway up the wall for storage. Perhaps the most distinctive original feature in this space is the coffered ceiling, which is still intact and in very good shape. The only clear alteration to this space is the addition of linoleum floors around the seats. The original wood floors remain in the seating area itself. Finally, the same textured stucco wainscoting is found in the auditorium with a simple wooden chair rail that runs below the windows.

<u>High School Building, Contributing</u> <u>Exterior</u>

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Built in 1925, the high school building features many of the same architectural details found on the elementary school building with some clear differences in the entry, brick details, and stone ornamentation. Also, it is a simple rectangular building as it does not have the auditorium addition off the rear like the elementary school since both shared the one auditorium.

The façade, facing Pines Street to the south, has a main central entrance with a Classical Revival pedimented entrance. The recessed set of double doors has a cast stone entrance with decorative engaged columns on each side topped with a fairly typical Greek Revival style frieze, dentils, and triangular pediment. At the ground level, there are metal vents and a simple stone belt course.

The two outermost bays of the façade are the widest and feature a set of four windows on each floor. Brick quoins detail the end of the building and a second set of brick quoins delineate between the outermost bays and the bays next to them. The central portion of the building features five equal bays (capped with the previously mentioned brick quoins) divided by four engaged brick columns with stone capitals like those found on the elementary school. All windows are replacements to match those on the elementary school and have stone lintels and soldier course brick headers. A stone belt course unites the whole façade above the second floor windows. At the outermost bays, a decorative stone panel is centrally placed and has a circular design flanked by concentric lines. There are four more decorative stone circles located above each engaged column in the central portion of the façade that have the same circular design as the panels. The circles are surrounded by a circle of header bricks for added detail. The façade is capped off with a simple flat metal cornice.

The eastern elevation of the high school has a centrally placed entrance on the ground floor with double doors and multi lite transom above. The elevation itself is divided into the front third or so (nearest to the façade) being slightly recessed and featuring a blank brick wall. The rest of the elevation features the central entrance already mentioned with a Palladian window on the second floor overlooking the stairwell. Brick quoins adorn both ends of the elevation as well as framing the central section where the door and Palladian window are. The far right, closest to the rear elevation, has three evenly spaced windows on each floor. The same stone belt courses at the ground level and above the second story wrap around to this elevation. A simple stone panel with no decoration is centrally located above the upper belt course over the Palladian window.

The rear elevation has brick quoins at each end and then features entry doors at each outermost bay on the first floor, seven sets of double windows on the first floor, and nine sets of double windows on the second floor. The belt courses continue around this elevation as well. Each entry door has a decorative copper overhang to provide some shelter from the weather.

The western elevation mirrors that of the eastern elevation.

Interior

The interior of the high school features some of the same things as those found in the elementary school including the textured stucco walls with chair rail although in the high school, the chair rail is much higher on the wall, almost to the top of the doors. The flooring is a terra cotta tile. The stair wells are original, but are a little more simply detailed than those in the elementary school as they do not have individual newel posts. Some classrooms on the first floor have had newer flooring added as well as acoustic tile ceilings. They are dropped down some and do go all the way to the windows; however, the original windows and transom windows are still visible and exposed. Most classrooms have their original built in cabinets as well as baseboards. The hallway is a T shape running parallel

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to the façade with a secondary hall leading to the main entry. A trophy case sits along the northern wall of the main hallway and there are lockers along the southern wall of the main hall.

The second floor retains its original ceiling height allowing for the full door frames and transom windows to be visible. Some of the transoms are currently covered over with boards, but they are still extant underneath. Lockers line the southern wall of the second floor hallway. Classrooms on the second floor also retain original cabinetry and baseboards as well as picture rails and crown molding. The actual classroom doors throughout the building appear to date from the 1977 renovation done to the campus, but this, combined with some cosmetic changes on the first floor, are the only recognizable alterations to the high school building's interior.

Gym and Cafeteria, Contributing

Exterior

The gym was added to the school in 1940. The buildings northern elevation is covered partially by the roof of a covered walkway between the elementary and high schools. The bottom half of its southern elevation is covered by the cafeteria addition, which dates to 1949. Thus, its main elevations are its eastern and western elevations, which are dominated by multi lite windows, replacements like those on the other school buildings, inserted within the original opening size. The two ends of the side elevations have taller brick walls with large double door openings and transom openings currently covered with boards (see Figure 6 for original window pattern – 20 lites). These large openings are framed by stone. Each projecting wall has a decorative brick pattern of seven brick high projections with a one brick recessed course in between. A stone belt course runs near the ground. The original awnings and hardware are in place above the existing covered walkway roof.

The recessed central portion of the elevation has four bays of four windows each. The individual window units are 15 lite windows that mimic the original 15 lite windows that were on the building when constructed. The main difference is that the historic windows had a fixed three lite section at the top with double hung windows below. Today's windows are inoperable. The eastern elevation mirrors the western elevation.

The upper portion of the southern elevation features four stone roundels along the top of the decoratively shaped parapet and five small windows. The original design of this elevation had six engaged columns with simple stone capitals, which ultimately framed the five windows. Each column was divided with the same projecting brick course pattern that is found around the entrances on the side elevations. Thus, when the cafeteria was added, the main feature that was no longer visible was this decorative brick column pattern.

The western elevation of the cafeteria features a set of double entry doors and three windows with stone lintels. It is very simply detailed. The southern elevation features five windows matching those on the western elevation, a set of double doors, and a set of double windows. At the far right is a small recessed screened in area just off of the kitchen.

Interior

The interior of the gym is a large open basketball court. The steel ceiling structure is exposed. There are small wooden bleachers along each side elevation. The southern end of the building, abutting the cafeteria, has locker rooms. The interior of the cafeteria is a simple open room with linoleum floors and an acoustic tile ceiling. On the eastern side of the cafeteria is the kitchen.

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Football Field/Baseball Field (Contributing)

Based on the history of the school, the land for the football field was purchased in 1940 and totaled 3.5 acres. Today, it has a backstop at the southwest corner for use as a baseball/softball field as well. A concrete walking path surrounds it.

Non-Contributing Resources

The non-contributing resources are mostly situated between the high school building and the Football/Baseball Fields to the east of the overall campus. See the submitted boundary map for the location of each non-contributing resource. The tennis courts (#10) were added within the last 50 years and fall outside the period of significance for this property. The site of the former locker rooms (#5) are to the northeast of the tennis courts and a modern playground (#9) is south of the tennis courts. There are three greenhouses (#6) (in a row north to south) just to the southeast of the tennis courts. Another modern playground is located on the west side of the campus as well (also labeled #9). Furthest south of the tennis courts is a covered concrete picnic area (#11) and a restroom building (#12), as well as four temporary classrooms or T-buildings (numbered as one resource #7). Finally, there is a small modern building nestled to the rear of the elementary school on the north side, known as the Counselor & Speech building (#8).

Integrity

The Oil City School retains a high degree of integrity as the only real alterations to the historic buildings, mentioned previously, are the replacement windows and cosmetic changes such as the addition of linoleum and acoustic tile ceilings, which has minimally impacted the integrity of materials. Fortunately, the cosmetic changes appear to have been used more on the first floors of the school buildings and have not significantly impacted the integrity of these spaces. The non-contributing resources discussed above are minimal in size and scale and also do not negatively impact the overall historic character of the property. Thus, the Oil City School retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, and workmanship, would easily be recognizable to any alumni of the school from the period of significance and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

Х	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Х	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Α	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes		
В	Removed from its original location		
С	A birthplace or grave		

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D	A cemetery		
Ε	A reconstructed building, object, or structure		
F	A commemorative property		
G	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years		

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Education, Architecture

Period of Significance: Criterion C: 1925-1949; Criterion A: 1925-1967

Significant Dates: 1925, 1929, 1940, 1949

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Neild, Edward F., Sr.

Period of Significance (justification): The periods of significance correspond to the years that the school buildings were constructed (Criterion C) and the years that the school functioned as the only school in Oil City ending with the 50 year cutoff, 1967, as the school actually continued to be used through 2015.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Oil City School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its educational history and significance as the only public school in Oil City. The school complex replaced a much smaller earlier complex of four wood frame buildings at a time when across the state, distinctive brick schools were being built as essentially landmarks of education in small towns. It is also eligible under Criterion C: Architecture, as it embodies the characteristics of the Classical Revival style and is the only high style Classical Revival complex in Oil City. The building has been used as a school since it was originally constructed in 1924 and expanded in 1929, 1940, and 1949, and only recently closed in 2015. The period of significance extends from its initial construction in 1924 through 1967 in compliance with the National Register 50-year guideline.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brief History of Oil City

Oil city was founded c. 1895 as a railroad stop on the Kansas City Southern Railroad. Initially called Ananias, it was combined with two other small towns, Surrey and Caddo City, to become Oil City. Most of the initial residents of Oil city were fishermen, trappers, and farmers. Some were involved in the timber industry and others harvested freshwater pearls. However, the construction of a dam in 1914 killed off the mussels and thus the pearl industry. In 1904, the first oil well was drills in the area with the discovery of oil coming a year later. Howard Hughes, father of the famous Howard Hughes, came to Oil City in 1908 and built a post office there. This is also when the city officially became known as Oil City. By 1910, Oil City had a population of 25,000. The men of Oil City stayed at the oil field camps while their families often stayed in Oil City proper. During this time, J.B. McCann, who worked for one of the local petroleum companies, found natural gas on nearby Caddo

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Lake and built drilling platforms on the lake to get to the gas. In 911, the first over water well was completed and this technology would go on to be employed in the offshore production of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico.2

As it was a boom town, the city's infrastructure wasn't quite the same as in other cities at the time. It was a town of mud and slush and lawlessness. Maggie Smith Warren, a teacher assigned to Oil City in 1921 remembers, "The four-up teams of mules would bog down trying to carry on right here in town. People were being shot down in the street, sometimes tied to a post and whipped by a lawman. We (the new teachers) were afraid because we had never seen anything like this."3 The city had muddy streets and wooden sidewalks (Mrs. Warren remembered when the first concrete sidewalk was built c. 1922 between the school and the Norman Hotel, where she lived). Stores in town included a billiards hall, post office, and an auditorium. Other city offices, such as the train depot, were housed in freight cars. There was also a restaurant, gambling houses, saloons, and hotels in town located just across from the railroad tracks. A single tree in the center of town was used to tie drunks to. Oil City even had its own red light district called Reno Hill. There were five houses of ill-repute in Reno Hill that employed 40-50 women. Reno Hill was shut down in 1917.4 One can definitely see how Oil City was quite the rough and tumble place in the first decades of the 20th century.

Eventually, Oil City would get more permanent buildings, but fires in 1917, the 1920s, and 1938 destroyed many of the original historic buildings of Oil City. In addition to the Oil City School, there is one other National Register listed building in the city, the Trees City Office and Bank Building. It was built in 1910 as the headquarters and office for the JC Trees Oil Company and is currently used as the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum.

Criterion A: Education

Public Education in Oil City, Pre-1924

Prior to the construction of the new Oil City Elementary and High School, the first school in Oil City was a one room school house with one teacher, a Mrs. Dean. As the student population grew, two rooms were added onto the one room school house. Eventually, this one room school was replaced with four frame buildings (in place by at least 1921) that house all of the classrooms. Around this time, students from the Ferry Lake community, located three miles west of Oil City, also began attending school in Oil City. Thus, the four new frame buildings were even more necessary. Each teacher had a building and taught two grade levels per building. Classes were held from 8:00 am through 4:00 pm and covered all of the normal school subjects. Teachers were housed in a cottage on the school grounds. In 1921, other schools in the vicinity of Oil City began sending their students to Oil City. This led to an even bigger growth in student population, which is what helped spur the construction of the new Oil City Elementary and High School. Per a former teacher at the school at that time, the younger children moved into the new elementary school in April of 1929. Once the new school was built, the former four frame buildings were no longer used and one was even moved off of the site and used as the principal's home.5

Oil City School, 1925: Construction and Expansion

Because Oil City was founded just before 1900, its documented educational history is rather short. The above discussion covers the earliest years of education in the town, when, like many other small towns, multiple one room school houses were large enough to handle the city and surrounding area's population. But as the population grew, so did the need for a larger school. At that time, it was a "coming of age" time throughout the state in terms of building new monumental brick schools. Not only did these new school buildings offer updated

²"Our History." Town of Oil City website; www.touwnofoilcity.com/history.html. Accessed February 6, 2017.

³ Maggie Smith Warren. History of Oil City, LA, School, 1910-1955. Booklet prepared in 1977 for a school reunion, not published.

^{4 &}quot;Our History."

⁵ Warren, pgs. 1-2, 4.

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facilities, but they also became landmarks in small towns throughout the state.⁶ This certainly would have been the case in Oil City. Also, the school was built during the separate but equal time when black and white children were not educated together. Prior to desegregation, beginning with the 1967-68 school year, African American students from Oil City attended Herndon High School (grades 1-12) located near Gilliam, which is 12 miles to the northeast of Oil City. It opened in September 1956. Prior to that, as was common throughout the state, there were rural African American schools in northern Caddo Parish, but the specific one that served Oil City African American students is not known.

A 1923 Shreveport Times article stated that architect's plans for a new school building in Oil City were authorized at a regular meeting of the Caddo Parish School Board. Bonds were used to finance the construction of the building and bids were being accepted. The proposed cost for the school at the time was \$65,000.⁷ The architect, Edward F. Neild, Sr., also took bids from contractors at his office in August of 1923 for the new school building. At that time, he required a \$25 deposit to issue plans so that the contractors could prepare their bids.⁸

As the school grew, more land was leased for the football field in 1936 (the school finally purchased the 3.5 acres in 1940), the gym was constructed in 1940, and the cafeteria was added onto the gym c. 1949.

Criterion C: Architecture: Classical Revival in Louisiana and Oil City

Architectural Context

The earliest Classical Revival styles in the United States began at the end of the 18th century as American architectural designs began to take inspiration from Roman and Greek buildings. Roman Classical Revival and Greek Revival became the dominant styles that arose from this movement. A general time frame for Greek Revival buildings in the United States is 1825-1860, right up to the beginning of the Civil War. Following the Civil War, new styles emerged that departed from classicism and it wasn't until the end of the 19th century and into the first few decades of the 20th century that Classical Revival styles made a comeback

One of the most important distinctive details of the early Classical Revival styles was massive columns topped with a front facing pediment – the ubiquitous temple form. Gone were the days when builders and carpenters copied their style from a generic builder's handbook. Professionally trained architects were now leading the way toward a more classic design. As the population moved from primitive settlers and farmers into more sophisticated and wealthy planters, buildings and homes reflected this increase in wealth. People were moving away from the austere homes and simple churches. The original Harrisonburg Methodist Church (see Figures 1 and 2) featured many elements of the Greek Revival style including a pedimented façade, front gabled roof, 6/6 wood windows, and cornice lines of wide trim. It also had simple entablatures surrounding the front entry. Following the 1927 flood, which flooded the ground floor of the church, renovations were made in 1929, removing the second story and adding on Classical Revival details to the exterior. The current church retains many of the original structural features of the first church, which remain hidden within the walls, and has typical Classical Revival styles from the early 20th century, which were popular in both the country as a whole and Louisiana.

The early 20th century renewed interest in Classical Revival came primarily after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago, which had a classical theme and the best known architects of the day designed the exhibition buildings in Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles, thus bringing these classical styles back to

⁶ Laura Ewen Blokker. "Education in Louisiana." *Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation Historic Context.* http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/Education_in_Louisiana.pdf. Accessed February 6, 2017.

⁷ "Oil City's New School Building Plans Ordered." *Shreveport Times*. June 17, 1923, pg 5.

⁸ "Notice to Contractors." *Shreveport Times.* August 4, 1923, page 10.

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the forefront. These styles were a departure from the excesses of earlier styles such as Victorian and also commemorated the ideals of America.

The Classical Revival styles, which normally encompass both the Colonial Revival style, popular from 1880-1955, and the Neoclassical Style, popular from 1900-1950, were used in Louisiana on a variety of buildings including public buildings and in domestic architecture. The public buildings generally focused on federal and state government buildings as well as schools, universities, churches, and private businesses. Some public buildings, mostly governmental ones and schools, were large and impressive to help show the growing wealth and power of the state and the nation at the time prior to the Great Depression. Most of these buildings took on the temple form found in early revival styles. In a historic context developed for the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, the author writes:

"Early Neoclassical buildings in Louisiana resemble Greek and Roman temples from which their designs are based. Entrances are often defined by a full height pedimented porch that spans either the full width of the primary façade or projects at the central bay. While the majority of Colonial Revival resources in Louisiana are classified as residential, Neoclassical resources, in addition to residential buildings, include other property types such as governmental, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings."

In looking at the characteristics of both the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles, there are several areas of common overlap that include features found on both the Oil City Elementary and High School Buildings. Even the gym, built in 1940, attempts to fit in with the classical design of the earlier buildings. The common characteristics and features found on the buildings that fit both Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles are: two story in height, rectangular in massing, use of masonry veneer, brick quoin detailing, symmetrical window patterns, both had double hung windows originally, and the use of Palladian windows on the high school side elevations. In addition to these common characteristics between the two styles, the high school building also has the typical Colonial Revival details of a classic one bay central opening. Interestingly though, the details on the entry err more towards the Neoclassical style with the use of lonic capitals supporting the entablature and unbroken pediment. When looking at the elementary school building, it utilizes the classical simply detailed engaged columns to break up the façade, which is more of a Colonial Revival detail. Finally, the elementary school even delves into some very simplified Italian Renaissance Revival with the use of the two symmetrically placed arched openings. The door surrounds themselves are much more simplified and fit more with a typical Colonial Revival detail.

A similarly styled high school building in Iowa, Louisiana – the 1937 Iowa High School – was listed on the National Register in 2011 for its architectural and educational significance and is classified as Classical Revival. The nomination points out that it, like Oil City, is primarily a Classical Revival style with features from other styles. This seems to have been a popular method of design for the monumental brick schools of this era. Some of the Classical Revival elements the nomination points out that are also found on Oil City School buildings include the use of double hung paired wooden windows, which the Oil City School buildings had originally, and the use of brick quoins on each of the building's corners to add detail. It also features Palladian style windows like those found on the side elevations of the high school building.¹¹

Thus, the Oil City School buildings cannot be hemmed into on specific type of Classical Revival style, but rather, overall feature several details that can only be put into the overall Classical Revival architectural style.

Other examples of Classical Revival in the Surrounding Area

⁹ Valenzuela Preservation Studio. "Historic Context for the Neo-Classical Architectural Style in Louisiana." Prepared for the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, LA. May 2012.

¹⁰ Ihid

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places, 1937 Iowa High School, Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, National Register #11000397.

Caddo Parish, LA
County and State

In the Caddo Parish area, this style is seen more in the urban center of Shreveport. If the Classical Revival is found in the smaller towns of Caddo Parish, like Oil City, it was reserved for the schools, banks, or major civic buildings. Examples of National Register listings in Shreveport that are termed "Classical Revival" include Central High School and the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium. There are also other examples located within Shreveport's four National Register Historic Districts.

Based on local survey, there are no other examples of similarly styled buildings in Oil City, further raising the architectural significance of this landmark school within the city.

Edward F. Neild, Sr.

Edward Fairfax Neild, Sr., was born in Shreveport in 1884 to George and Elizabeth Neild. He studied at Tulane University in the school of engineering and graduated in 1906. After traveling throughout Europe to study art and architecture, he returned to the Shreveport area. Originally, he practiced by himself until 1934 and later formed the firm of Neild-Somdal Associates, who became well known throughout the state and designed many properties, including several listed on the National Register. Over 20 National Register listings are either attributed solely to Neild or to his firm and include schools in Shreveport, Bossier City, Ruston, and Baton Rouge; and the US Post Office and Courthouse and a hospital in Alexandria. President Harry S. Truman toured Louisiana while in office and was so impressed with Neild's work that he commissioned him to design the Jackson County, Missouri, courthouse, consult on the rehabilitation of the White House, and later, he served as the architect for Truman's presidential library. Among his many awards and accomplishments, he was made an AIA Fellow in 1948. His son, Edward, Jr., also became an architect and many of his designs survive today throughout the state.

Conclusion

As demonstrated above, The Oil City School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its educational history and significance as the only public school in Oil City. Furthermore, it is a prime example of the distinctive brick schools that were being built as landmarks of education in small towns all over the state. It is also eligible under Criterion C: Architecture, as it embodies the characteristics of the Classical Revival style and is the only high style Classical Revival complex in Oil City.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blokker, Laura Ewen. "Education in Louisiana." Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation Historic Context.

http://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/Education_in_Louis_iana.pdf. Accessed February 6, 2017.

"Edward F. Neild Sr." https://www.geni.com/people/Edward-F-Neild-Sr/6000000035248292619 Accessed February 10, 2017.

http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/hp/nhl/index.asp. Accessed February 9, 2017.

¹² "Edward F. Neild Sr." https://www.geni.com/people/Edward-F-Neild-Sr/6000000035248292619 Accessed February 10, 2017

¹³ "Neild, Edward F." http://www.lahistory.org/site31.php. Accessed February 10, 2017.

¹⁴ Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation National Register Database.

¹⁵ "Neild, Edward F." http://www.lahistory.org/site31.php. Accessed February 10, 2017.

Oil City School Name of Property	Caddo Parish, LA County and State
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation National F	Register Database.
http://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/hp/nhl/i	ndex.asp. Accessed February 9, 2017.
National Register of Historic Places, 1937 Iowa High National Register #11000397.	School, Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana,
"Neild, Edward F." http://www.lahistory.org/site31.ph	o. Accessed February 10, 2017.
"Notice to Contractors." Shreveport Times. August 4,	1923, page 10.
"Oil City's New School Building Plans Ordered." Shre	eveport Times. June 17, 1923, pg 5.
"Our History." Town of Oil City website; www.touwno 2017.	foilcity.com/history.html. Accessed February 6,
Valenzuela Preservation Studio. "Historic Context for Louisiana." Prepared for the Louisiana Office Preservation, Baton Rouge, LA. May 2012.	
Warren, Maggie Smith. History of Oil City, LA, School school reunion, not published.	ol, 1910-1955. Booklet prepared in 1977 for a
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing	g (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register	g (co c c.) acc
previously determined eligible by the Nation	ıal Register
designated a National Historic Landmark	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Su	
recorded by Historic American Engineering	
recorded by Historic American Landscape S	Survey #
Primary location of additional data:	
x State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Federal agency	
Local government	
University	
Other Name of repository:	
Name of repository.	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigne	∍d) :N/A
10. Geographical Data	

Acreage of Property: 6.6 acres

Zip code: 71061

Oil City School
Name of Property

Caddo Parish, LA
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 32.748704 Longitude: -93.971805 2. Latitude: 32.742628 Longitude: -93.971877 3. Latitude: 32.748466 Longitude: -93.971824 4. Latitude: 32.748384 Longitude: -93.971718 5. Latitude: 32.747940 Longitude: -93.971527 6. Latitude: 32.747900 Longitude: -93.969043 Longitude: -93.969058 7. Latitude: 32.749083 Longitude: -93.970186 8. Latitude: 32.749106 Longitude: -93.970181 9. Latitude: 32.748719 Longitude: -93.971663 10. Latitude: 32.748741

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Oil City School is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Oil City School, Caddo Parish, LA, Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries chosen are the historic boundaries associated with the development of the Oil City School campus.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Tammy Hawks and National Register Staff

Organization: N/A

Street & Number: 10614 Shady Rest Road City or town: Oil City State: LA

E-mail: jathawks0911@yahoo.com

Telephone: 318-470-3446

Date: 01/16/2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property

Caddo Parish, LA

County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Oil City School

City or Vicinity: Oil City County: Caddo Parish State: Louisiana

Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson

Date of Photographs: 08/31/2016

- 1 of 63: Western and southern elevations of the elementary school building; camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 63: Façade of the elementary school building; camera facing northeast.
- 3 of 63: Northwest corner of the façade of the elementary school building; camera facing east.
- 4 of 63: Northern elevation of the elementary school building; camera facing southwest.
- 5 of 63: Rear elevation of the elementary as well as the northern elevation of the auditorium; camera facing west.
- 6 of 63: View of the auditorium and counselor & speech building; camera facing southwest.
- 7 of 63: Northern elevation of the high school building; camera facing southwest.
- 8 of 63: View from eastern side of the high school building looking towards the gym; camera facing southwest.
- 9 of 63: Eastern elevation of the high school building; camera facing west.
- 10 of 63: View of the right side of the high school building façade looking at the temporary classroom buildings; camera facing northeast.
- 11 of 63: Façade of the high school building; camera facing northeast.
- 12 of 63: Eastern elevation of the gym; camera facing northwest.
- 13 of 63: Eastern section of the southern elevation of the cafeteria; camera facing northwest.
- 14 of 63: Southern elevation of the cafeteria; camera facing northeast.
- 15 of 63: Western elevation of the cafeteria; camera facing northeast.
- 16 of 63: Western elevation of the gym; camera facing northeast.
- 17 of 63: Southern elevation of the elementary school building; camera facing north.
- 18 of 63: Southern elevation of the counselor & speech building; camera facing northwest.
- 19 of 63: One of two sets of rear doors on the elementary school building; camera facing west.
- 20 of 63: Covered walkway between the auditorium and gym; camera facing east.
- 21 of 63: Rear elevation of the auditorium; camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 63: Interior, library; camera facing west.
- 23 of 63: Interior, library; camera facing east.
- 24 of 63: Interior, view of one of two sets of main entrance doors on the elementary school; camera facing west.
- 25 of 63: Interior, auditorium; camera facing northwest.
- 26 of 63: Interior, auditorium; camera facing east.
- 27 of 63: Interior, elementary school hallway; camera facing north.
- 28 of 63: Interior, elementary school hallway and one of two sets of main stairs; camera facing east.
- 29 of 63: Interior, elementary school stair landing; camera facing west.
- 30 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor hallway; camera facing northwest.
- 31 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor stair landing; camera facing east.
- 32 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor hallway; camera facing south.
- 33 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor classroom; camera facing northwest.

Name of Property

Caddo Parish, LA

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- 34 of 63: Interior, elementary school hall original built-in closet; camera facing west.
- 35 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor classroom; camera facing southeast.
- 36 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor classroom; camera facing west.
- 37 of 63: Interior, elementary school second floor classroom looking towards hall; camera facing southeast.
- 38 of 63: Interior, elementary school first floor classroom; camera facing west.
- 39 of 63: Interior, elementary school first floor classroom; camera facing east.
- 40 of 63: Interior, elementary school first floor classroom; camera facing east.
- 41 of 63: Interior, elementary school hallway and other set of main entry doors; camera facing west.
- 42 of 63: Interior, high school building, view of stairs and main hallway beyond; camera facing east.
- 43 of 63: Interior, high school building, view of one set of main stairs; camera facing west.
- 44 of 63: Interior, high school building, first floor classroom; camera facing north.
- 45 of 63: Interior, high school building main hallway; camera facing east.
- 46 of 63: Interior, high school building, first floor classroom; camera facing southeast.
- 47 of 63: Interior, high school building, first floor classroom; camera facing west.
- 48 of 63: Interior, high school center hallway (north/south); camera facing south.
- 49 of 63: Interior, high school building main hallway (east/west); camera facing west.
- 50 of 63: Interior, high school building, second set of main stairs; camera facing east.
- 51 of 63: Interior, high school building, Palladian window over stairs; camera facing southeast.
- 52 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor hallway; camera facing west.
- 53 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor classroom; camera facing east.
- 54 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor classroom; camera facing west.
- 55 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor classroom; camera facing northeast.
- 56 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor classroom; camera facing southwest.
- 57 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor stair landing; camera facing southwest.
- 58 of 63: Interior, high school building, second floor hallway; camera facing east.
- 59 of 63: Interior, gym; camera facing north.
- 60 of 63: Interior, gym, close-up detail of original bleachers; camera facing southwest.
- 61 of 63: Interior, cafeteria; camera facing south.
- 62 of 63: Interior, cafeteria; camera facing east.
- 63 of 63: Interior, cafeteria; camera facing northwest.

Caddo Parish, LA

County and State

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of Edward F. Neild, architect, until noon Wednesday, August 22, 1923, for the erection of a Public School Building at Oil City, Louisiana.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the office of the architect. A deposit of \$25.00 will be required for each set of plans issued, this amount to be returned upon return of the plans. The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals submitted.

Figure 1. A Notice to Contractors concerning the construction of the Oil City School in 1923. Image courtesy of *Shreveport Times*, August 4, 1923, pg 10.



Shreveport Times 12-Apr-1928, Page 11

Figure 2. April 12, 1928 *Shreveport Times* article discussing the plans for the new Oil City School. Image courtesy of the *Shreveport Times*.

Caddo Parish, LA

County and State

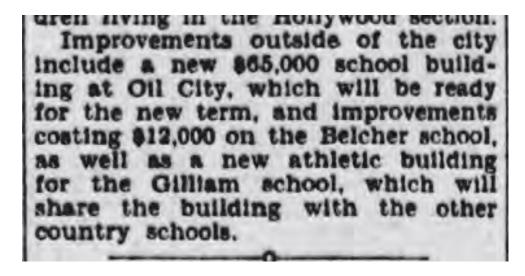


Figure 3. Section of a September 10, 1929 *Shreveport Times* article discussing the plans for the new Oil City School. Image courtesy of the *Shreveport Times*.



Figure 4. The high school building in 1949. Image courtesy of the 1949 Oil City High School Bengal (yearbook).

Caddo Parish, LA
County and State

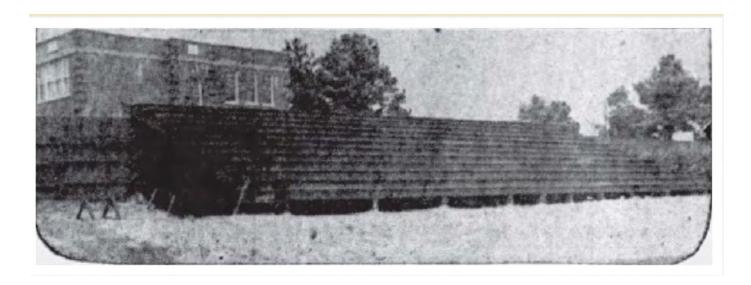


Figure 5. The high school stadium, said to seat 600 people, was built in 1936 as a WPA project. The bleachers were still there until c. 1965, but were dilapidated and were replaced at that time. Image courtesy of the *Shreveport Times*, July 19, 1936, page 9.

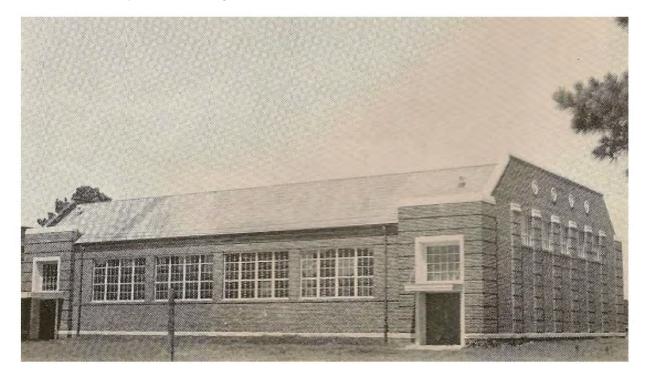


Figure 6. The Gymnasium in 1949 just prior to the construction of the cafeteria. Image courtesy of the 1950 Oil City High School Bengal (yearbook).

Name of Property

Caddo Parish, LA

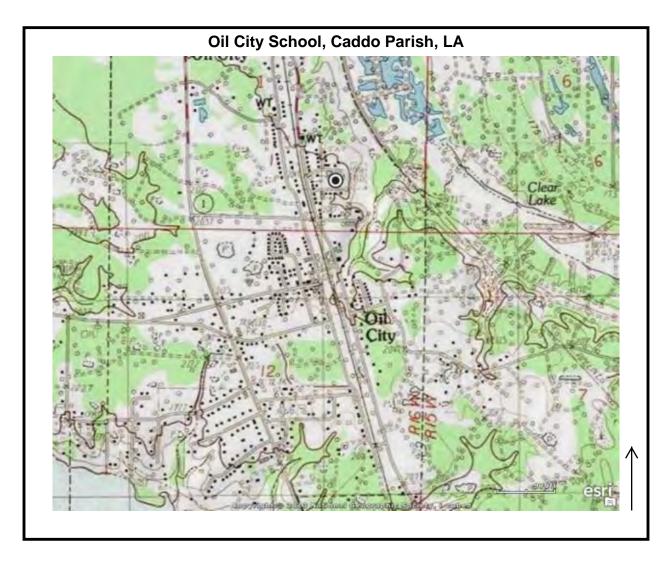
County and State



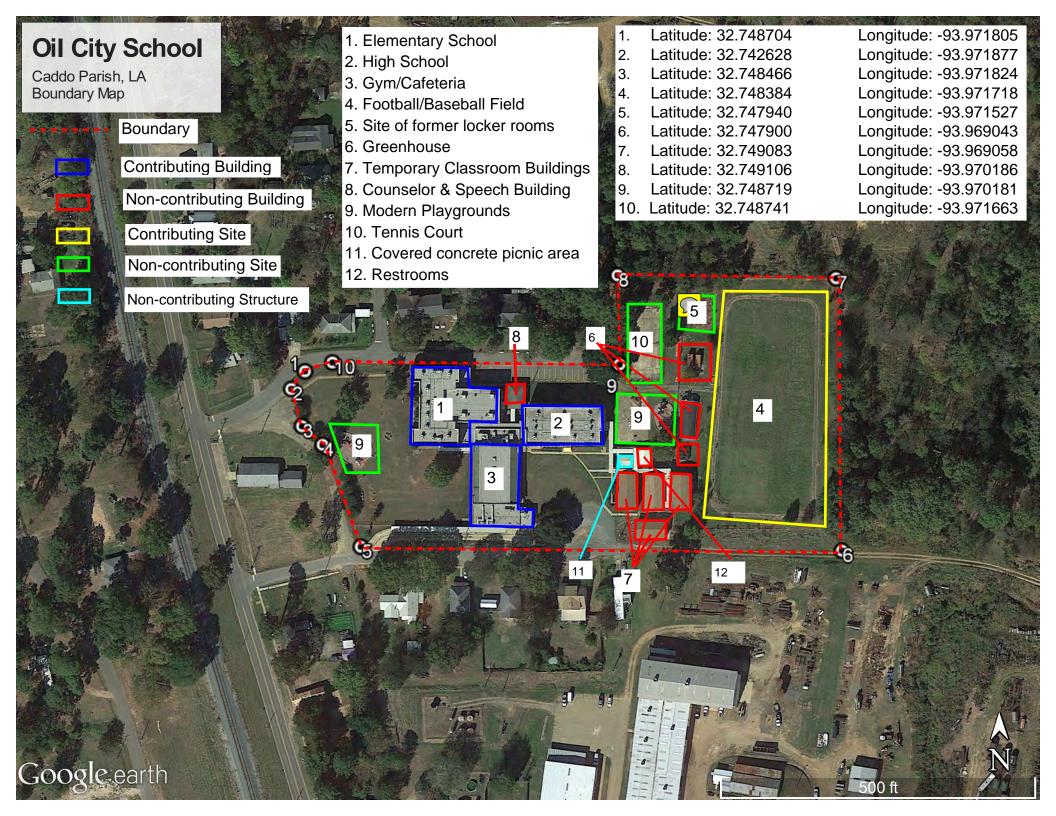
Figure 7. The Oil City School auditorium's interior in 1932. Image courtesy of the author.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

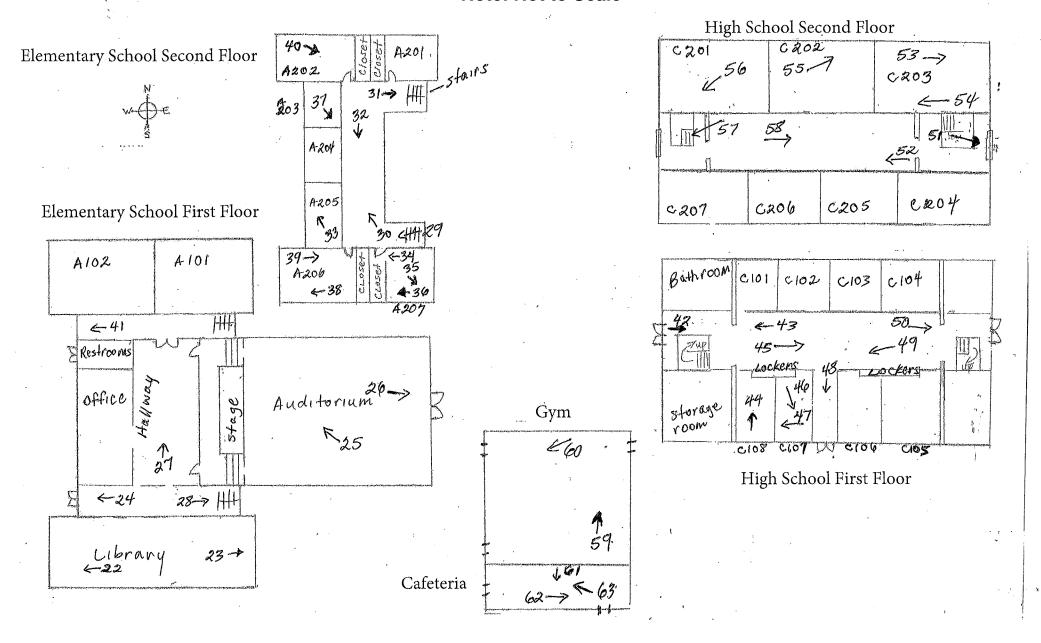


Latitude: 32.748386 Longitude: -93.970782





Oil City School Caddo Parish, LA Photo Key ***Note: Not to Scale***

































































































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination
Property Name:	Oil City School
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	LOUISIANA, Caddo
Date Rece 6/23/20	
Reference number:	SG100001429
Nominator:	State
Reason For Review	
Reason For Review X Accept Abstract/Summary Comments:	Return Reject 8/2/2017 Date Intact school plant, including school, gym, and auditorium, from an oil-boom town whose growth in the 1920s necessitated construction of this classical revival facility.
X Accept Abstract/Summary	Return Reject B/2/2017 Date Intact school plant, including school, gym, and auditorium, from an oil-boom town whose
X Accept Abstract/Summary Comments: Recommendation/	Return Reject 8/2/2017 Date Intact school plant, including school, gym, and auditorium, from an oil-boom town whose growth in the 1920s necessitated construction of this classical revival facility. Accept / A&C
X Accept Abstract/Summary Comments: Recommendation/ Criteria	Return Reject 8/2/2017 Date Intact school plant, including school, gym, and auditorium, from an oil-boom town whose growth in the 1920s necessitated construction of this classical revival facility. Accept / A&C Discipline Historian

National Park Service.



BILLY NUNGESSER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Conisiana

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



June 21, 2017

TO:	Mr. James Gabbert, National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228, 1849 C St, NW, Washington, DC 20240
FROM:	Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
RE:	Oil City School, Caddo Parish, LA
Jim,	
the Nationa property in	ed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Oil City School to al Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or @crt.la.gov .
Thanks,	
Jessica (me -
Enclosures	
X	CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
X	CD with electronic images (tif format)
X	Physical Transmission Letter
X	Physical Signature Page, with original signature Other:
Comments	
	Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
	The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do do not
	constitute a majority of property owners. Other: