

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Louisiana</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Orleans</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>OCT 2 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**PERSEVERANCE HALL**

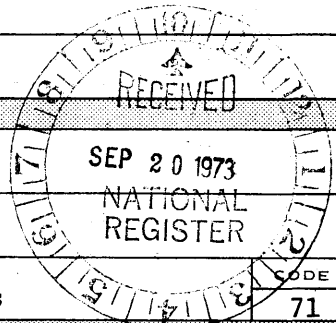
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Former home of Perseverance Lodge No. 4, F&AM**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**901 St. Claude Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **22**      COUNTY: **Orleans**      CODE: **71**



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments See No. 7 <u>DESCRIPTION</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of New Orleans**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall, Duncan Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **22**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City Conveyance Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Civil Courts Building, 421 Loyola Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **22**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Numerous surveys of city property**

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**City Property Manager**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall, Duncan Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **22**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Perseverance Hall on the front extends 26.2' on St. Claude Avenue (municipal number 901 St. Claude Avenue) and 86' on Dumaine Street on the side. At the back is an additional 35'5" of a later building. The original building is of 16" brick walls. The later addition is a frame structure with a galvanized iron garage attached. The height of the two floors is approximately 32', with the false cornice rising another 12'. The structure's front facade is Greek Revival, similar to most buildings of this type in New Orleans of the same period. The second floor is interesting in that it was designed for Masonic lodge meetings, having a 16" rise in the rear end of the floor to afford a stage, and having 7" rises on the sides of the floor for spectators, the floor being left clear for lodge proceedings. The stairway is on the left of the entrance.

The building is now unoccupied, boarded up, and has been subjected in the past to some vandalism, but the structure is sound, some interior detail remains and is definitely restorable, which the City of New Orleans plans to do. The structure will become part of the Louis Armstrong Memorial Park.

(See attached drawings)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

April 1, 1820

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy   | <u>MASONIC</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perseverance Hall is the oldest Masonic Temple in Louisiana. The history of the lodge, Perseverance Lodge No. 4, F&AM parallels the history of the Deep South, and especially the Louisiana and New Orleans scene just after the Louisiana Purchase. Perseverance Lodge No. 4 was originally organized in 1806, at Jeremy, Santo Domingo, as Perseverance Lodge No. 113, under Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. During the Negro uprisings the Lodge emigrated to Santo de Cuba and was there during 1807 and 1808. In the latter part of 1808 the Lodge established itself in New Orleans. In 1810 it obtained a new Charter from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania under the number 118, and in 1812 it was one of the five Lodges which constituted the present Grand Lodge of Louisiana and was then given its present designation of No. 4. Amis Reunis Lodge No. 6 and Trinosophes Lodge No. 7, which were organized in 1829 and 1833, respectively were later annexed to this Lodge, and Foyer Maconnique Lodge No. 44 chartered on October 6, 1838 consolidated with Perseverance No. 4 in September 1879. During its early days in New Orleans it met in the Temple of Etoile Polaire Lodge, and on May 25, 1819 it acquired from the City of New Orleans its present location at St. Claude and Dumaine Streets. The building was completed April 1, 1820, and with no modifications, except the addition of some outbuildings, and a change of fences, the building was still in use for its original purpose until recently. For many years the Grand Lodge of Louisiana used this Temple for its meetings. It is the oldest Masonic Temple in existence in Louisiana, Etoile Polaire's present Temple having been erected in 1853. Contractors for the building were Correjolles and Chaigneau.

Perseverance Hall became, in these early years, a sort of civic center for many activities in the Faubourg Trémé, a rapidly growing residential section of old New Orleans outside the French Quarter, beyond the western boundary of the Vieux Carré, across South Rampart Street. Many of the free men and women of color resided there in small houses, some of which still exist. It was perhaps the proximity of Perseverance Hall to the famous Congo Square, two squares away, which early associated it with the native African chants and rhythms. Perseverance Hall became a center for dances and balls at which some of the earliest black musical groups performed.

In the summer of 1853, when a particularly devastating yellow fever epidemic struck the city, Perseverance Hall was turned into a convalescent infirmary supervised by the benevolent Howard Association. "Many lives may be saved by this judicious arrangement", said The Daily Crescent of August 20.

(CONTINUED)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Various references in library of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, F&AM, Masonic Temple Bldg., New Orleans, La. 70130, including the original contract and printed material about the Lodge and its building  
 Various references in New Orleans newspapers. Microfilms in New Orleans Public Library, Tulane and Loyola Universities, New Orleans, La. 19th century newspapers reported various Lodge activities  
 Material in City Archives, New Orleans Public Library concerning the building permit and dates of erection.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

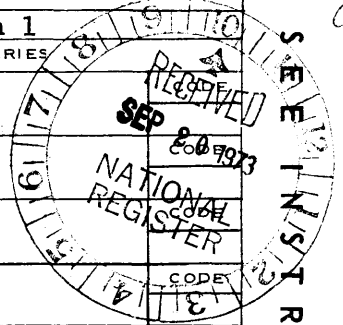
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29° 57' 45" W	90° 4' 5" N	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
 15/782976  
 3318110  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **19,500 s/f** less than 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY



SELECTION INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Ray Samuel, member, Louis Armstrong Memorial Park Committee**

ORGANIZATION: **City of New Orleans** DATE: **July 11, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c/o 321 St. Charles Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans** STATE: **Louisiana 70130** CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Joseph N. B...*  
 Title: *Director, State Historic Sites*  
 Date: *9-18-73 cm*

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *10/2/73*

ATTEST:  
*Wm J. ...*  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date: *9-28-73*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Louisiana	
COUNTY Orleans	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 2 1973

(Number all entries)

SECTION 8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(PERSEVERANCE HALL)

Perhaps Perseverance Hall's greatest claim to fame, aside from its use as Louisiana's earliest lodge hall, is the presence there in dance bands of notable figures in the history of New Orleans jazz. Capt. Verne Streckfus, venerable excursion riverboat captain, stated that, in his search for black bands to play on his steamboats, he often visited Perseverance Hall to listen to the musicians. It should be pointed out that there was another Perseverance Hall on Villere Street, not far away, which was an all black hall. The lodge was known as a "white" hall, but hired black bands for its dances, and rented out the hall to outsiders for dances. Black musicians played in both halls. The adoption of the name was typical.

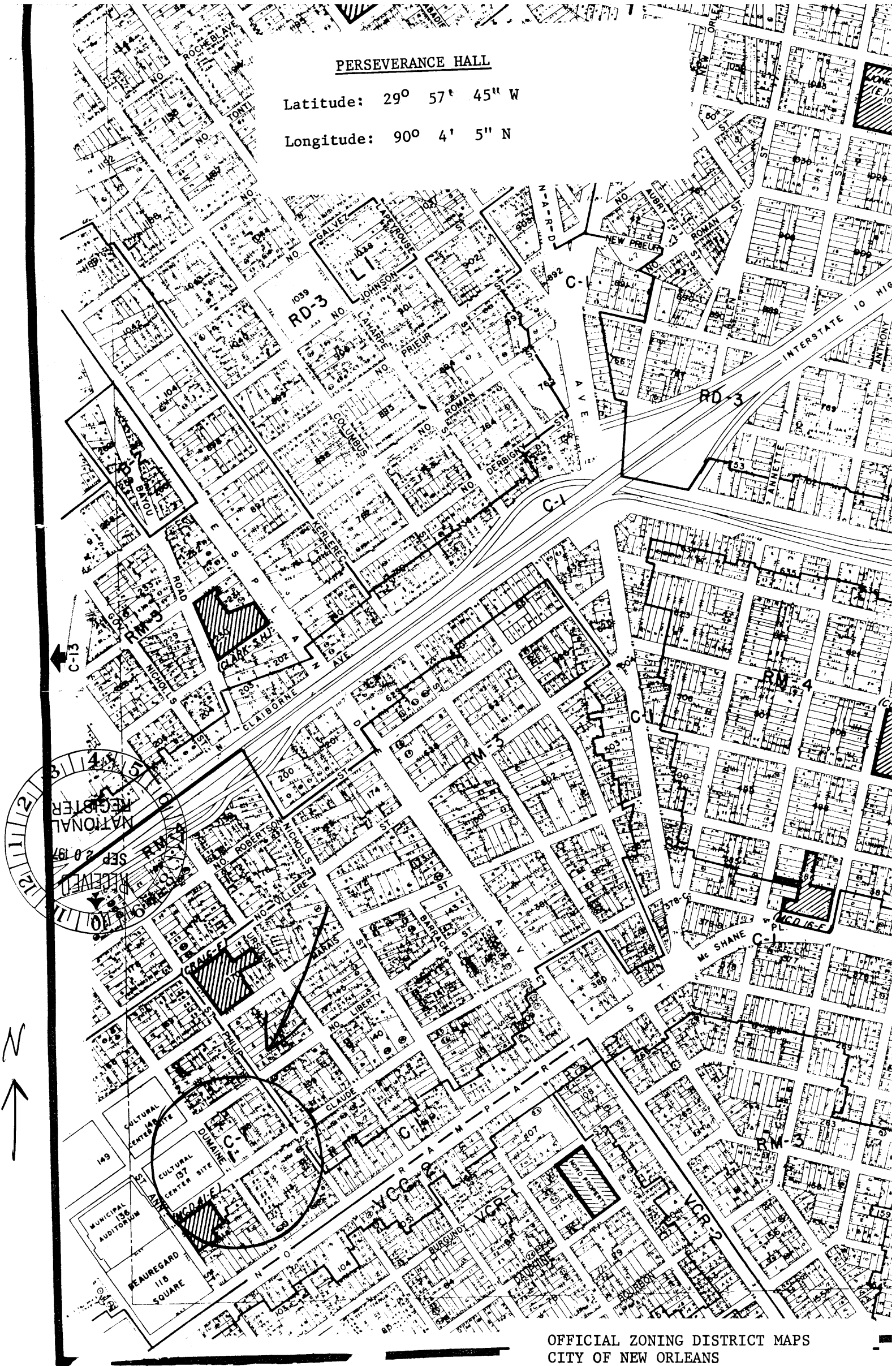
This building has been a fixture, a landmark in one of the oldest sections of the city. Its complete restoration is imminent. It is to house the New Orleans Jazz Museum and to be used for jazz performances.



PERSEVERANCE HALL

Latitude: 29° 57' 45" W

Longitude: 90° 4' 5" N



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE <b>LOUISIANA</b>	
COUNTY <b>ORLEANS</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>001 2</b>	<b>1973</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <b>Perseverance Hall</b>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Former home of Perseverance Lodge No. 4, F&amp;AM</b>			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>901 St. Claude Avenue</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>New Orleans</b>			
STATE: <b>Louisiana</b>	CODE <b>22</b>	COUNTY: <b>Orleans</b>	CODE <b>71</b>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: <b>Official Zoning District Maps, City of New Orleans</b>			
SCALE: <b>1 inch equals 500 ft.</b>			
DATE: <b>Adopted 4/23/70</b>			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

