



United States Department of the Interior


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

March 4, 2011

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.


Edson Beall
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Phone: 202-354-2255
E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov
Web: www.nps.gov/history/nr

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

074



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1423 N. Claiborne Ave

NA	not for publication
NA	vicinity

city or town New Orleans

state Louisiana code LA county Orleans code 071 zip code 70116

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date 1-14-11

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3-4-11

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival; Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Weatherboard

roof: Asphalt

other: Cast Iron

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The purpose of this nomination is to obtain an individual listing for the Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall, built between 1866 and 1871, which was listed on the National Register as a contributing element to the New Orleans Esplanade Ridge Historic District on June 30, 1980. This listing is being sought for its individual significance to African American heritage as the last remaining building associated with Straight University, one of the first African American Universities in the state of Louisiana that made important strides in the early civil rights movement and African American education. The Straight University Boarding House is located in Orleans Parish in the state of Louisiana. The structure faces North Claiborne Avenue, once a major commercial corridor, and the elevated 1-10 Expressway. It sits in a modest lot, between Esplanade Avenue and Kerlerec Street. The structure is a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, two-story, three bay, and double-gallery home with a side hall plan, hipped roof and a rear ell addition. The structure is of wood frame construction with a brick masonry foundation and an architectural grade asphalt roof. Like other buildings surrounding the structure on North Claiborne Avenue the building was neglected for decades after commercial business left the corridor in the 1960's, and thus has fallen into a state of disrepair with a few alterations to the rear addition. However, the original plan, form, and many of the decorative details remain intact from its period of significance from 1871- 1877 when it was Straight University's Boarding House and Dining Hall.

Narrative Description

The "Straight University Boarding House" is a two story, three bay, transitional Greek Revival-Italianate double gallery building with a side hall plan, hipped roof and a rear ell addition. The house is located just outside of the historic Faubourg Tremé, the first traditionally African-American neighborhood in New Orleans, on a lot that is about fifty feet by one hundred and thirty feet. The site is modest with a small flat lawn. The exterior walls are composed of wood weatherboards on top of a brick chain wall, except for the front façade which features rusticated drop wood siding. The roof was originally composed of slate tile, but years of neglect have caused major damage to the roof, thus the roofing material was replaced with architectural grade asphalt roofing shingles. The building features many Italianate decorative details and Greek Revival details. Some Italianate details include paired brackets, quoins, the segmental arch in the parapet, and the ovoid molding found on the Doric pilasters around the front door. Some of the Greek Revival features include a set of Corinthian columns on both front galleries, dentils found below the cornice, paneled pilasters found around the door, and dentils found around the front door. When the property was acquired by the Preservation Resource Center, the bowed front gallery faced the threat of collapse. It has since been stabilized. The structure also features a rear ell with a side hall cantilevered gallery. Original columns, wood windows with shutters are all architectural features of the rear ell addition. The building has had some damage due to neglect and a few alterations over the years, but it retains its original form on both the interior and exterior and has many original architectural elements intact.

The site fronts North Claiborne Avenue with Esplanade Avenue as the nearest cross street and Kerlerec Street as the other cross street. The site is fairly unassuming being only composed of a drive way with an ovoid opening in the concrete that runs down the Esplanade Avenue side of the building and a small amount of lawn. The site also features an iron fence along the front of the building that is not original to the site.

The front elevation has a foundation made of a brick chain wall covered in stucco. The chain wall also has a decorative cast iron foundation vent. Above the foundation rests the first gallery. The first floor gallery features Corinthian columns; between the columns is a decorative cast iron railing. The second floor has a bowed gallery (at the center), which also features Corinthian columns and decorative cast iron railings. The siding of the whole front elevation is rusticated drop wood siding with wooden quoins running down each side. The Eastlake wood panel front door appears to be original to the building and in good condition. The front door is outlined by a Greek Revival surround with paneled pilasters, an architrave, frieze, and cornice with dentils below. The ovoid transom window above the front door is intact. The windows are all two

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

over two walk through wood windows with their intact surrounds. Above the second gallery are an architrave, frieze, and cornice. Just below the cornice are sets of paired brackets and dentils. The parapet is broken up into three sections with the central section having a segmental arch. Molding outlines each individual piece.

The Esplanade side elevation consists of the main house with a rear ell. The foundation of the main house consists of a brick chain wall. Above that is wood weather board siding that covers the entire elevation. The Esplanade elevation has 8 original openings: seven six over six double hung wood windows with one six over six double hung walk through wood window. Each of the windows has its original wood molding. The original roof was slate with three brick chimneys that pierce the roof. The ell has a lower brick chain wall with wood weather boards above. The rear ell has a cantilevered gallery on the second floor. It has wood rectangular boxed columns with a wooden balustrade. The ell gallery stands at a slightly lower level than that of the main block's rear upper gallery, and a wooden curved staircase connects the two gallery areas (see floor plan attached). The windows in the ell are six over six double hung wood windows. The doors in the ell are four panel solid wood doors with three light transoms above. Both the windows and doors have intact wood surrounds.

The rear elevation foundation is a brick chain wall with wood weather boards above. The rear has two over two double hung wood windows with a metal shed roof on the ell. No chimneys pierce the roof.

The Kerlerec Street side elevation also consists of main house and rear ell. Both sections' foundation consists of the brick chain wall with wood weather board siding throughout. The windows on this side are varied. There is an original pair of stained glass windows in stepped window configuration. The stained glass windows' sashes consist of modified pointed arch lights over a one light sash. Other windows on the main house include six over six double hung wood windows. There are also six over two double hung wood windows, two over two double hung wood windows, two small three-light windows, and an eight light paired casement window. On the main house there is a hipped roof that was once slate and the ell once had a metal shed roof (now lost).

The interior of the house follows a traditional side hall form with a staircase running along one side of the house with room after room on the other side. This floor plan can be seen in the main portion of the house with very few changes to its form. The main house has intact plaster walls; a plaster ceiling medallion; and wood molding including base, picture rail, door, and window. The walls of the structure are composed of wood framing throughout. On the interior the stud frame construction is obscured by original plaster. There are no obvious areas of damage to the wall structure in the main house. The house even includes Greek key door surrounds, in what were the formal rooms of the house. The main house also has three intact wood mantels. Two of mantels are identical in design and feature Doric pilasters on either side with a simple molding below the mantel shelf. The other mantel is the same in decoration, but has thinner Doric pilasters. There are several original four panel solid, wood, interior doors. There are also hard wood floors throughout the house that were revealed after the removal of asbestos floor tiles, a material added later. One major alteration to the main house is the enclosure of the rear double gallery within the interior. However, many of the rear double gallery features remain intact, including four six over six double hung walk through windows, two exterior wood panel doors, and the original wood columns, which are large scale rectangular Doric pillars.

The interior of the rear ell has been altered by having a hallway built between the ell and the main house. This can be seen in the existing floor plan provided. In its original form the ell would have only been accessible from the exterior or from the rear double gallery by a curved staircase on the second floor, which is still intact. There is some stud frame damage in this portion of the house due to water damage from the damaged roof before it was repaired. The interior of the rear ell features original wood base, picture rail, door, and window surrounds, and one wood mantel, with the thin Doric pilasters decoration described earlier.

When the building was purchased in 2008 the front gallery structure was buckling and required immediate support. It was stabilized in 2009. The roof had a great deal of damage as exhibited by the large amount of plant growth on the roof and buckling of the roof line. There was significant damage where the roof was hipped in the front. This was exhibited as damage to the plaster ceilings and lathe in the second room towards the front of the house. The roof was repaired in 2009 with new architectural grade asphalt shingles and had its original hipped roof form diligently maintained. Rear ell side doors are missing and one has been replaced by a metal security door, but the original door remains intact and has been placed inside the building. Two of the original six over six double hung wood windows on the Esplanade side elevation have lost their sashes and have been replaced with aluminum sashes. Many windows of the building are currently fitted with metal security bars. Six Corinthian columns remain intact with three column capitals in place, and two cast iron railings on the gallery remain intact and in good condition; all have been taken down and stored to be reinstalled on the

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

building. On the site there were three late, era not confirmed, shed buildings. Two were made of concrete masonry unit block and the other was T1-11 plywood. These sheds were constructed directly in front of the first floor of the rear ell. They were demolished in 2009 to gain access the rear ell. The removal of the sheds revealed that a part of the rear ell on the first floor had been repaired with concrete masonry unit block.

Though the building seems in poor condition from the street, further inspection reveals many features that are original to the building and in repairable condition. Important architectural details remain intact, including columns, brackets and quoins on the exterior and wood mantels, door, and a plaster ceiling medallion on the interior. Most of the architectural details remain intact. Damaged features will be repaired when possible using historic materials and appropriate building techniques. The original roof was recently replaced and the front gallery stabilized in order to prevent further decay. Years of neglect have taken a toll on both the interior and exterior of the building, but the house remains intact, stable, and eligible for the National Register of Historic Place.

Non-Contributing Element

There is an accessory structure located in the rear of the site. The shed is composed entirely of concrete masonry blocks and it is approximately 80 square feet. It has one door opening and one window opening. Neither the door or window are present. The metal shed roof has deteriorated due to years of neglect. This shed is not original to the site and is not contributing to the property's historic significance.

NOTE: The additional shed visible in front of a white vehicle in the photo of the boarding house's rear elevation is outside the boundaries and not a part of this nomination.

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: NA

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E 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.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1871-1877

Significant Dates

1871

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance (1871-1877) is based upon the opening and closing date of the period in which the candidate served as a part of Straight University.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Does not apply

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall is locally significant under Criterion A: Event, in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Education because it is the last remaining site of the original Campus of Straight University, which was one of the first African American Universities in the state of Louisiana that made important strides in the early civil rights movement and African American education. The period of Significance spans from 1871 to 1877, which are the years that the University's Boarding House operated out of the building.

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

"The Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall" – at 1423 N. Claiborne Avenue – is located at the edge of the historic Tremé neighborhood, which is part of the Esplanade Ridge Historic District in New Orleans, Louisiana. This neighborhood was established in 1810 after a rapid expansion in the city's population occurred due to the Haitian Revolution. Many immigrants from San Domingo came to New Orleans to escape the Revolution. They began to settle in an area just north of the Vieux Carré (New Orleans' French Quarter).

Tremé, the portion of the Esplanade Ridge Historic District in which the candidate is located, is home to one of the first working-class African American neighborhoods in the country. Initially, the area consisted of plantation land that was later divided into lots and streets by real-estate developer Claude Tremé. The city of New Orleans purchased the 40 acre area from Tremé in 1810 thus making it part of the City¹. Many diverse cultures inhabited the Tremé neighborhood. By the mid-nineteenth century, it was the epicenter of African-American culture in New Orleans. Many free African Americans who lived and fought to oppose slavery and race laws resided in Tremé. Many of the men established schools and religious institutions for people of color. In the twentieth century, Tremé emerged as the birthplace of jazz, home of the city's social aid and pleasure clubs, and traditional second-line parades. Unfortunately, the once-thriving political activism of the Tremé community faltered. During the twentieth century, this neighborhood was subjected to more demolitions than any other part of the city. The demolitions were a result of urban renewal efforts of the 1940s and the development of the elevated I-10 Expressway above the North Claiborne Corridor in the 1950s and 60s. The Straight University Boarding House reflects the decline of the neighborhood: once a grand and ornate structure, it now sits in disrepair at the edge of the expressway which divided and altered its neighborhood so dramatically.

At the end of the Civil War, New Orleans proved fertile ground for experiments in race relations. Some individuals in the City supported Union control, but because the City fell somewhat early and avoided hosting any major battles, many residents remained steadfast in their Confederate ideals². Nonetheless, in 1864, Louisiana contracted a new constitution abolishing slavery – the first of its kind and a test case for other southern states. However, the constitution did not include language to support suffrage for African Americans.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned lands, commonly called the Freedmen's Bureau, was established in March 1865 by the United States Congress to assist in the transition of freed African Americans into society. Largely through the efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau, local Civil Right leaders emerged to defend the rights of the city's black residents. Initially, their cause was voting rights for African Americans who were free before the war, served in the military or owned property. However, throughout the 1860s, their goals expanded to include universal male suffrage, education and other civil rights³.

The issue of African American education was central in Reconstruction politics in the South, and nowhere was the issue more prevalent than in New Orleans. Civil Rights leaders had already fought hard and successfully for emancipation and enfranchisement, in order to gain social, economic and political rights. They were ready to fight hard for equal education. Under Union control, public schools had briefly been required to integrate and African American children received education from private, Catholic and parochial school. These students had proven that they were just as capable as their white counterparts in the classroom⁴.

Mayor John T. Monroe (1860-62 and 1866-67) abolished the Unionist school system in New Orleans and by the mid-1860s, freed blacks were not legally allowed to attend tax-funded schools⁵. However, a state constitution adopted in 1868, largely drafted by enfranchised African Americans and radical Republicans, required that public schools be

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

Orleans Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

established without segregation by race. Though there was some initial resistance, by the 1870s, many schools in the city were considered to be desegregated.

In addition to the federally established Freedmen's Bureau, several privately run organizations maintained a presence in New Orleans in support of African American Civil Rights. Among them was the American Missionary Association (AMA), founded in 1846⁵ as an abolitionist organization in Syracuse, NY. This national organization focused on social justice for immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans.

Attracted by the state's large black population and the political awareness of African Americans in New Orleans, the American Missionary Association began sending representatives to Louisiana in 1864⁷. Seymour Straight, a businessman from Cincinnati, Ohio, and friend of the AMA, wrote in 1863 of his concerns that no missionaries were in New Orleans to promote the welfare of the African American community. Pointing to conditions of overcrowding, starvation, disease and disorder, he encouraged the AMA to send missionaries to New Orleans⁸. The AMA's focus on African American education was threefold: "first, to develop their own leaders; second to provide a literate black citizenry; and third, to plant and nurture Christian values in the black South"⁹. Two leaders emerged in the AMA who would shape the organization's future role in New Orleans: Seymour Straight and the Reverend J. W. Healy, who had come down to New Orleans from Chicago as a Congregationalist preacher. The two would join forces and establish one of the first universities for African Americans in the state.

The 1868 State Constitution was a catalyst for the founding of many African American private universities. The first three African American Universities in Louisiana were founded in New Orleans in the same year, 1869: Leland University; Union Normal School, later called New Orleans University; and Straight University¹⁰. Leland University closed shortly after opening due to insufficient funding in 1880¹¹ and its Lower Garden District building was later demolished. New Orleans University eventually merged with Straight University in the 1930s to become Dillard University¹², which is still active today. The original campus of New Orleans University, located uptown, at St. Charles and Jefferson Avenues was demolished in 1949¹³. The main campus of Straight University burned down in 1877¹⁴. Only the boarding house and dining hall, located at 1423 North Claiborne Avenue, survived. It is currently the only remaining building of these three original African American universities.

Named for Seymour Straight, the university's most prominent benefactor, Straight University was founded with the goal of providing higher education for the freedmen of New Orleans¹⁵. The school offered such professional programs as Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Theology, Medicine, and Law. The first classes offered at Straight University in 1869 took place in a church. But, by 1871 Seymour Straight had purchased land and erected a school building at the corner of Esplanade Avenue and North Derbigny Street. This site was considered an ideal location according to an American Missionary Association Report which stated that "the [university] was located in a quiet and beautiful part of city, fronting on a shady street, which resembles the boulevards of Paris"¹⁶.

In its first year Straight University was hailed as "the most successful institution for higher education among Negroes in New Orleans." Straight's standards were high. Students had to pass a rigorous examination that tested them in "the grammar of Latin and Greek languages, Virgil, Cicero, Salust or Caesar, ... Homer's Iliad, ... Algebra and Ancient History."¹⁷ Straight University began strong with 1,054¹⁸ students in the first year, a significantly greater number of students than other African American universities of its time in New Orleans. The successes of the first year encouraged faculty and leaders of the school to focus on expansion. In 1871 Straight University President Joseph W. Healy, according to his personal letters, began to search for additional properties into which the school could expand.

In April of 1871, only fourteen months after the main campus of Straight University was opened, 1423 North Claiborne Avenue was purchased by the American Missionary Association of New York. Originally known as 315 Claiborne Avenue, the house was built between 1866 and 1871 by an Elise Bienvenue, wife of Pierre Fredrick Thomas¹⁹. According to the title transferred on April 18, 1871 Rev. Joseph W. Healy, the first president of Straight University²⁰, signed the title for the property on behalf of the American Missionary Association²¹ and as early as 1871 professors were taking up residence in the house. 1423 North Claiborne Avenue may have been chosen as an extension of the university because it was within the same block as the university's main building²². J. F. Fuller, Professor of Mathematics and Principal of the Elementary Department; Rev. Charles H. Thompson, Professor of Biblical Theology and Literature and Preacher to the University; James A. Adams, principal of Straight University; and J. Melville McPherron, Professor of Mathematics, all resided in 1423 North Claiborne Avenue. The house continued as faculty housing until 1874 when it expanded to serve as a student dormitory and faculty-student dining hall²³. According to the city directory the building was used for faculty housing until a fire destroyed the main building in 1877²⁴.

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

Orleans Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

The early years at Straight University were formative for the Civil Rights Movement during reconstruction. The university served as an intellectual center for many newly freed African Americans in New Orleans, playing host to many nationally significant African American lecturers. The events that surrounded Straight University attracted visible attention during its first years from significant advocates of the early Civil Rights movement. This may have ultimately led to the burning down of the main campus of Straight University in 1877 in a case believed to be arson²⁵. The boarding house at 1423 North Claiborne Avenue was the only building to survive.

After the fire, school officials opened a new campus on Canal Street and eventually joined with New Orleans University to form Dillard University²⁶ and develop a new campus in New Orleans' historic Gentilly Neighborhood.

Historical Note

The former boarding house was sold to a family man and remained a private residence on prosperous North Claiborne Avenue for much of the twentieth century. Until the 1960s, the north end of Claiborne was a main street for African American residents of Tremé, filled with endless commercial ventures and grand homes. The shopping corridor was established as a counterpart to Canal Street, which catered to the shopping needs of mostly white, affluent New Orleanians. As one of the main corridors in Faubourg Tremé, it also served as a meeting ground for community residents.

Unfortunately, North Claiborne Avenue and Faubourg Tremé were subjected to many demolitions throughout the mid-20th century in the name of Urban Renewal. Yet, for this neighborhood, the most destructive force of the twentieth century was the development of an elevated expressway in the 1960s over the former North Claiborne Boulevard. The I-10 expressway essentially divided the neighborhood in half and radically altered both the scale and character of the neighborhood. Unlike days past, the largely African American community was unable to garner much needed political support to stop development of the project. Nearly 500 homes were demolished²⁷, leaving many of the remaining homes, including 1423 North Claiborne Avenue, alienated from their neighbors. Many business owners and residents have abandoned the area, leaving behind an abundance of vacant property surrounded by concrete and heavy traffic.

Though the neighborhood has seen some reinvestment in recent years, those properties closest to the expressway generally remain abandoned. Several of them face the threat of demolition by neglect. In 2008, Operation Comeback, a program of the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, purchased the dilapidated property at 1423 North Claiborne Avenue, which was listed for demolition by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority. The house had suffered from wind damage to the roof due to Hurricane Katrina and severe deterioration from years of deferred maintenance. Operation Comeback, which "promotes the purchase and renovation of vacant historic properties", took on the task of historically rehabilitating the property with a goal of inspiring increased private development along the formerly grand boulevard. As local support for the removal of the expressway grows, Operation Comeback hopes to be at the forefront of the redevelopment of the boulevard.

In 2009, in partnership with The Prince of Wales' Foundation for the Built Environment, Delgado Community College and the Louisiana Carpenters Union, The Preservation Resource Center launched the Prince's Rebuilding Communities Program, an apprenticeship program dedicated to the traditional building crafts. In September, 2010, 16 new apprentices joined the program for its second year. After a three-week intensive classroom training, the apprentices were divided up into their respective crafts: brick masonry, iron work, plaster, rough carpentry and mill work, and began working on-site at 1423 North Claiborne for seven months. 1423 North Claiborne is the centerpiece of the program, as it incorporates all five trades and will potentially serve as a centerpiece of the neighborhood and a catalyst for reinvestment along the North Claiborne corridor. In the program's inaugural year, students removed most of the drop ceilings on the building's interior, exposing an ornamental plaster ceiling medallion and crown moldings. Windows were removed and taken off-site for repair and replication. Some masonry work was also completed on the brick piers and iron work students studied the ornamental railings for repairs and replication.

This year, apprentices will be placed on site to complete more work and bring the house closer to a state of completion. Plasterers will continue replicating medallions and make repairs to plaster walls. Iron workers will continue fabrication of exterior iron work. Mill workers will continue repair and replacement of trim, windows and doors. Rough carpenters will work to stabilize the building through framing repairs, sill and joist repairs and repair and replacement of flooring throughout the building's interior. Brick masons will repair chimneys. All work will be done implementing traditional building techniques to preserve the building's historic integrity and teach students the value associated with

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

Orleans Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

traditional building. The Preservation Resource Center has also established a relationship with The Homebuilder's Institute and will host a series of work-build days at 1423 North Claiborne Avenue monthly. By acting as a training site, this building will not only serve to educate members of New Orleans' building trades in the importance of traditional building, but will instill an inherent sense of pride of place for those who work there.

- ¹ "Living with History in New Orleans Neighborhoods." (The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA) Accessed online on July 16, 2010. <http://www.prcno.org/neighborhoods/brochures/Treme.pdf>
- ² Kimberly Hanger, A Medley of Cultures: Louisiana History at the Cabildo (New Orleans: Louisiana Museum Foundation, 1996) Ch. 4, pp.1
- ³ Ibid. pp. 3
- ⁴ Devore Logsdon Crescent City Public Schools: Public Education in New Orleans 1841-1991 (Orleans Parish School Board, New Orleans 1991) pp 67
- ⁵ Ibid pp 65
- ⁶ The Amistad Research Center Official Website. Amistad Research Center, Inc. (Tulane University, New Orleans, 2009) www.amistadresearchcenter.org.
- ⁷ Jacquelyn S. Haywood, The American Missionary Association in Louisiana During Reconstruction. (University of California, Los Angeles, 1974)
- ⁸ AMA Website, Ibid
- ⁹ Haywood, Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Wm. H. Gray, Jr. "The Growth and Decline of Private Secondary Schools in Louisiana." *The Journal of Negro Education*, Vol. 8, No.4, pp. 696.
- ¹¹ John W Blassingame. Black in New Orleans. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1973) pp.124
- ¹² Louise Bernard and Radiclan Clytus. "Within These Walls: A Short History of Dillard University." (Dillard University, New Orleans, 1997), pp. 4.
- ¹³ "Chronology of Gilbert Academy" Gilbert Academy Collection, Will W. Alexander Library, Dillard University. New Orleans, La.
- ¹⁴ John W Blassingame, Ibid, 128.
- ¹⁵ Todd L Savitt. "Straight University Medical Department: The Short Life of a Black Medical School in Reconstruction." *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 41, No.2, pp. 179.
- ¹⁶ Andrea Dupre. The Beginning of Education for the Freedmen as Revealed in the American Missionary Association Archives: The Founding and Growth of Straight University. (Dillard University, New Orleans, January 30, 1971) AMA Archives, Series A, Box 102, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.
- ¹⁷ John W Blassingame. Black in New Orleans. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1973) pp.129.
- ¹⁸ Ibid, pp 126
- ¹⁹ Mary Louise Christovich, and Roulhac Toloedano. New Orleans Architecture: Volume VI Faubourg Treme and the Bayou Road. (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna 1980), pp 154.
- ²⁰ Straight University Catalogue Academic Year 1870-1871, AMA Archives, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.
- ²¹ Notary William Mc. C Jones. Act 342. Acts of Louisiana, (Notarial Archives Research Center of the City of New Orleans, April 18, 1871).
- ²² Straight University, Ibid
- ²³ Haywood, Ibid. pp 211
- ²⁴ "J. Melville Mcpherron." New Orleans City Directory 1877. Louisiana Division, New Orleans Public Library, New Orleans, LA.
- ²⁵ Todd L Savitt. "Straight University Medical Department: The Short Life of a Black Medical School in Reconstruction." *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 41, No.2, pp.178.
- ²⁶ Louise Bernard and Radiclan Clytus. "Within These Walls: A Short History of Dillard University." (Dillard University, New Orleans, 1997), pp. 4.
- ²⁷ Lolis E Elie. "Planners Push to Tear Out Elevated I- 10 over Claiborne" *The Times Picayune*. July 11, 2009.

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Primary Sources:

Gottschalk, Notary Edward. Act 604. Acts of Louisiana, (Notarial Archives Research Center of the City of New Orleans, October 26, 1866).

"J. Melville Mcpherron." New Orleans City Directory 1877. Louisiana Division, New Orleans Public Library, New Orleans, LA.

Jones, Notary William Mc. C. Act 342. Acts of Louisiana, (Notarial Archives Research Center of the City of New Orleans, April 18, 1871).

Straight University Catalogue Academic Year 1870-1871. AMA Archives, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Straight University Act of Incorporation June 25, 1869. AMA Archives, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Secondary Sources:

The Amistad Research Center Official Website. Amistad Research Center, Inc. (Tulane University, New Orleans, 2009) www.amistadresearchcenter.org.

Bernard, Louise and Clytus, Radiclan. "Within These Walls: A Short History of Dillard University." (Dillard University, New Orleans, 1997).

Blassingame, John W. *Black in New Orleans*. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1973).

Christovich, Mary Louise, and Toloedano, Roulhac. *New Orleans Architecture: Volume V Esplanade Ridge*. (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna 1977).

Christovich, Mary Louise, and Toloedano, Roulhac. *New Orleans Architecture: Volume VI Faubourg Tremé and the Bayou Road*. (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna 1980).

Congress for the New Urbanism Freeways without Future Official Website. Accessed: June 18, 2010. www.cnu.org/highways/freewayswithoutfutures.

Dillard University Official Website. Accessed: June 18, 2010. www.dillard.edu.

Dupre, Andrea. *The Beginning of Education for the Freedmen as Revealed in the American Missionary Association Archives: The Founding and Growth of Straight University*. (Dillard University, New Orleans, January 30, 1971) AMA Archives, Series A, Box 102, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Elie, Lolis E. "Planners Push to Tear Out Elevated I-10 over Claiborne" *The Times Picayune*. July 11, 2009. Flucker, Turry and Savage, Phoenix. *African Americans of New Orleans*. (Arcadia Publishing, Charleston SC, 2010).

GNO Community Data Center analysis of Valassis Residential and Business Database. Accessed online July 16, 2010. <http://www.gnocdc.org/RecoveryByNeighborhood/index.html>

Gray, Wm. H. Jr. "The Growth and Decline of Private Secondary Schools in Louisiana." *The Journal of Negro Education*, Vol. 8, No.4, pp. 696.

Hanger, Kimberly A Medley of Cultures: Louisiana History at the Cabildo (New Orleans: Louisiana Museum Foundation, 1996)

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Haywood, Jacquelyn Slaughter. "The American Missionary Association in Louisiana during Reconstruction." (University of California, Los Angeles, 1974) pp. 211.

Krupa, Michelle. "Mitch Landrieu willing to discuss tearing down elevated I-10 in New Orleans." *The Times Picayune*. July 15, 2010.

Logsdon, Devore Crescent City Public Schools: Public Education in New Orleans 1841-1991 (Orleans Parish School Board, New Orleans 1991) pp 67

"Living with History in New Orleans Neighborhoods." (The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA) Accessed online on July 16, 2010. <http://www.prcno.org/neighborhoods/brochures/Treme.pdf>

Louisianan, New Orleans New Paper, April 20, 1871. pp 2.

Louisianan, New Orleans New Paper, May 25, 1871. pp 2.

Savitt, Todd L. "Straight University Medical Department: The Short Life of a Black Medical School in Reconstruction." *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 41, No.2, pp. 179.

The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans Official Website. Accessed June 18, 2010. www.prcno.org

Therkelsen, Sara A. and Maxwell-Parish, Chanomi. *Frances Ellen Watkins*. (University of Minnesota, 2010). Accessed: June 18, 2010. <http://voices.cla.umn.edu/artistpages/watkinsFrances.php>

Vogt, Lloyd. *New Orleans Houses: A House Watchers Guide*. (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna 1985).

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: **Preservation Resource Center, New Orleans**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 782850 3319070
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

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

1423 North Claiborne Avenue is located in the Third district of the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, in square no. 760, bounded by Claiborne Avenue, Esplanade Avenue, Kerlerec, and Derbigny Streets. The lot is designated by the letter "A" on a sketch map created by J. A. D'Henecourt, surveyor, dated October 7, 1866. According to which said sketch said portion of ground measures 46 Feet, 9 inches, and 2 lines front on Claiborne Avenue, the like measurement in the rear by 127 feet and 11 inches in depth between equal and parallel lines.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries follow property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Irvin
organization Preservation Resource Center date October 22, 2010
street & number 923 Tchoupitoulas St. telephone (504) 636-3047
city or town New Orleans state LA zip code 70130
e-mail airvin@prcno.org

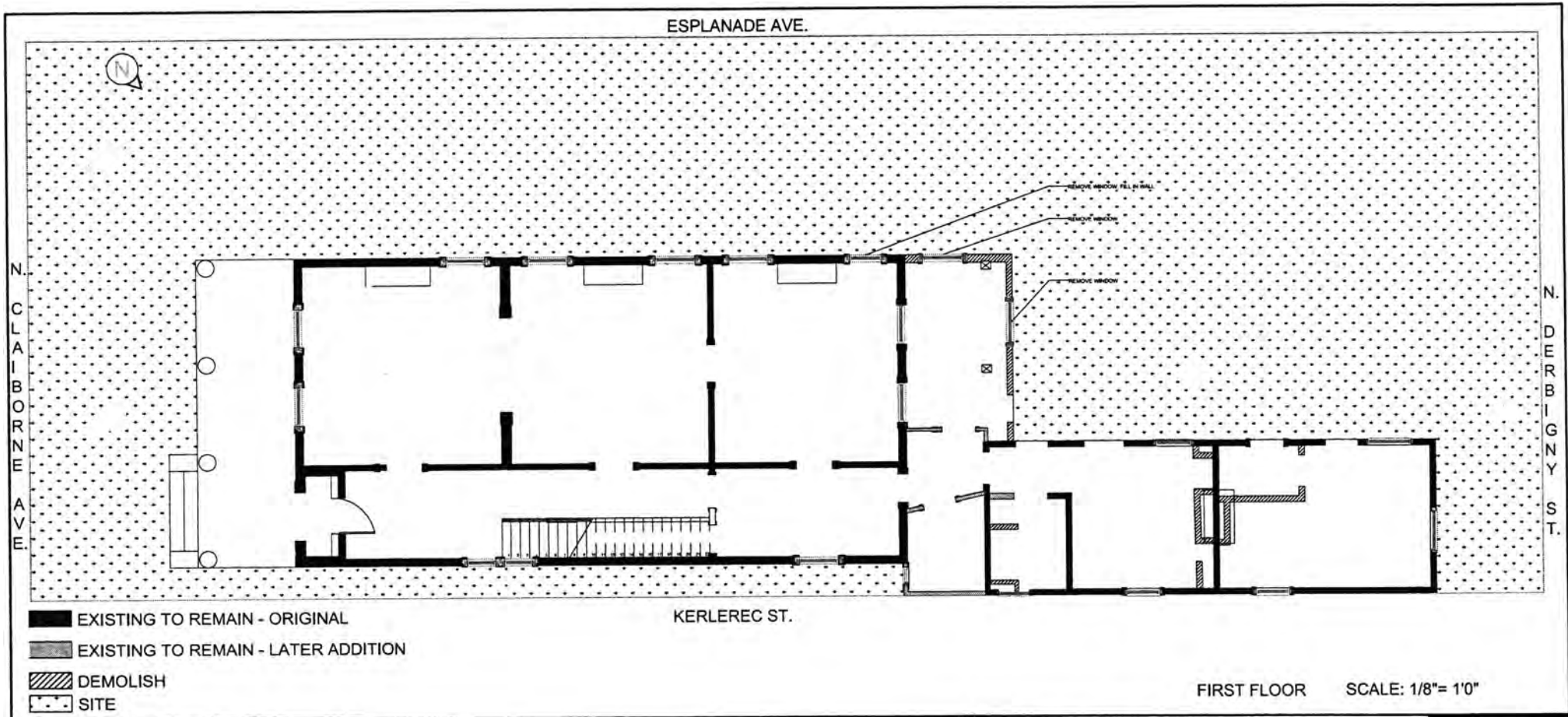
Form Edited By

name/title Patricia Duncan, National Register Coordinator
organization Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation date Fall 2010
street & number PO Box 44247 telephone 225.219.4595
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804
e-mail pduncan@crt.state.la.us

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

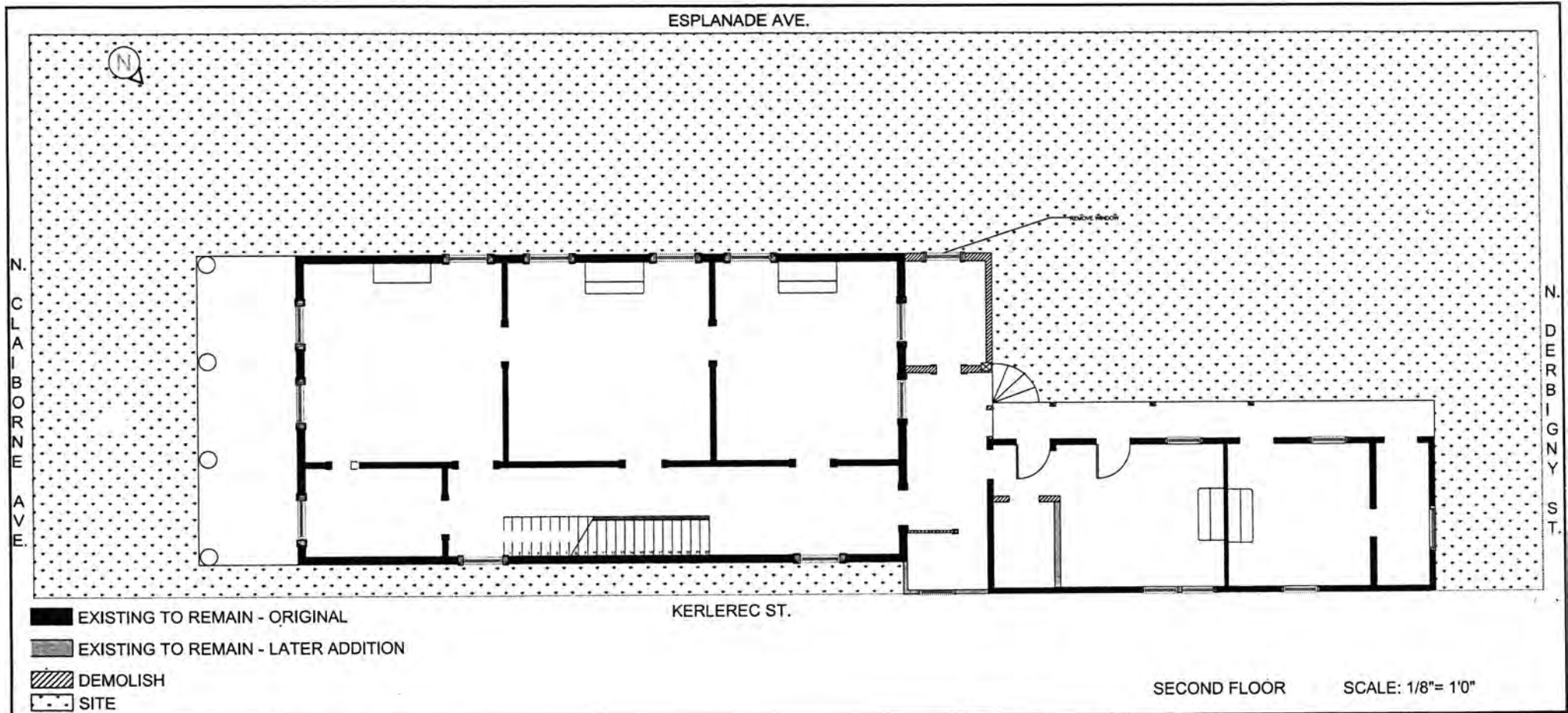
name Preservation Alliance of New Orleans/Preservation Resource Center
street & number 923 Tchoupitoulas St. telephone (504) 581-7032
city or town New Orleans state LA zip code 70130



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
1423 N. CLAIBORNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70116

REVISED: NOVEMBER 16, 2009

OPERATION COMEBACK
PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER
923 TCHOUPITOULAS ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
1423 N. CLAIBORNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70116

REVISED: NOVEMBER 16, 2009

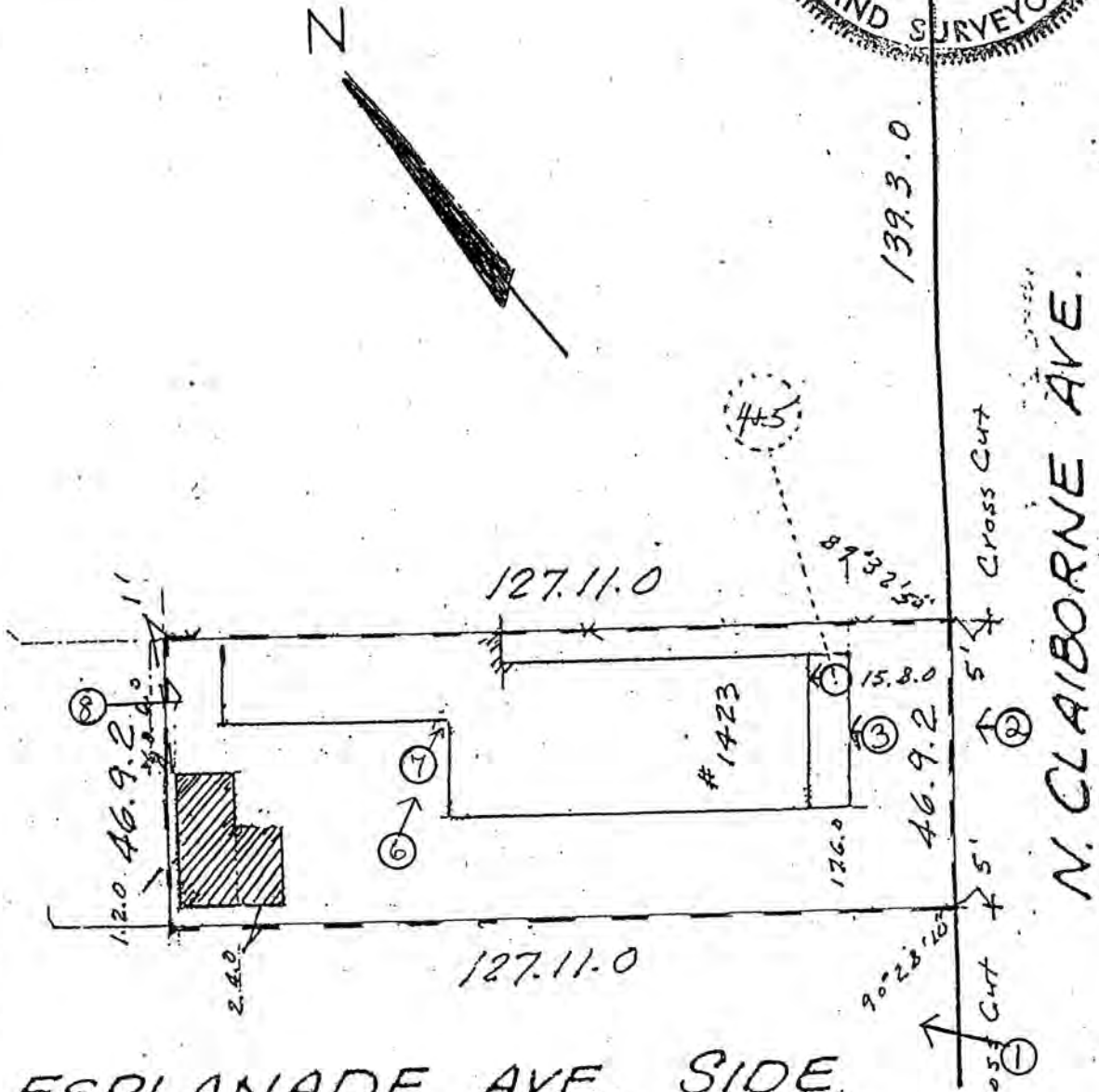
OPERATION COMEBACK
PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER
923 TCHOUPITOULAS ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

KERLEREC ST.

Straight University Boarding House
And Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA



N. DERBIGNY ST. SIDE



ESPLANADE AVE. SIDE

- Boundary
- Contributing Element
- Non-Contributing Element

Note:
Improvements may not be to scale for clarity.
The dimensions shown prevail over scale.

THE SERVITUDES SHOWN ON THIS PLAT ARE LIMITED TO THOSE FURNISHED TO US. THERE IS NO REPRESENTATION THAT ALL APPLICABLE SERVITUDES ARE SHOWN HEREON. THE SURVEYOR HAS MADE NO TITLE SEARCH OR PUBLIC RECORD SEARCH IN COMPILING DATA FOR THIS SURVEY.

Date: December 2, 2009.

Scale: 1" = 30'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Orleans

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3.2.11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3.17.11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/04/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000074

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3-4-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center

Summer, 2009

North West

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Side elevation

Photo No. 1 of 18



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irwin of the Preservation Resource Center

Summer 2009

North West facade facing N. Claiborne

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Front Facade, facing N. Claiborne Ave

Photo No. 2 of 18



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irwin of the Preservation Resource Center

Spring, 2010

LA SHPD Digital Archives

North West

Photo No. 3 of 13

Bowel Gallery at Front Elevation



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Imin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

North West

Photo No. 4 of 13

Exterior front door



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPD Digital Archives
North West

Photo No. 5 of 18

Exterior front door detail



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

LA SHPD Digital Archives

North East

Photo No. 6 of 13

Rear E11



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives
North east (and up)

Photo No. 7 of 18

Stairs at Rear Ell



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall

New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

South East

LA SHPD Digital Archives

Rear Elevation

Photo No. 8 of 18



FIELD'S
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

L
B
P

J
M
P

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irwin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives
Interior

Photo No. 9 of 18
Front door interior



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHFD Digital Archives
Interior

Photo No. 10 of 18

Interior Staircase



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 11 of 13

Stairs near front entrance



④ Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010
LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 12 of 18

Front Entrance including front door and stairs



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 13 of 18

Greek key door surround, first floor, first room



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irwin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 14 of 18

Greek key Door Surround, Second Floor, second room



LBP

X

LBP

LBP

X

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center

Fall, 2010

LA SHPD Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 15 of 13

First floor, third room, six-over-six double-hung walk-through
windows



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No. 16 of 18

Double-hung walk through windows at second floor, rear
elevation



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPD Digital Archives

Interior

Photo No 17 of 18

Mantel in second room, second floor



Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA

Annie Irvin of the Preservation Resource Center
Fall, 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior

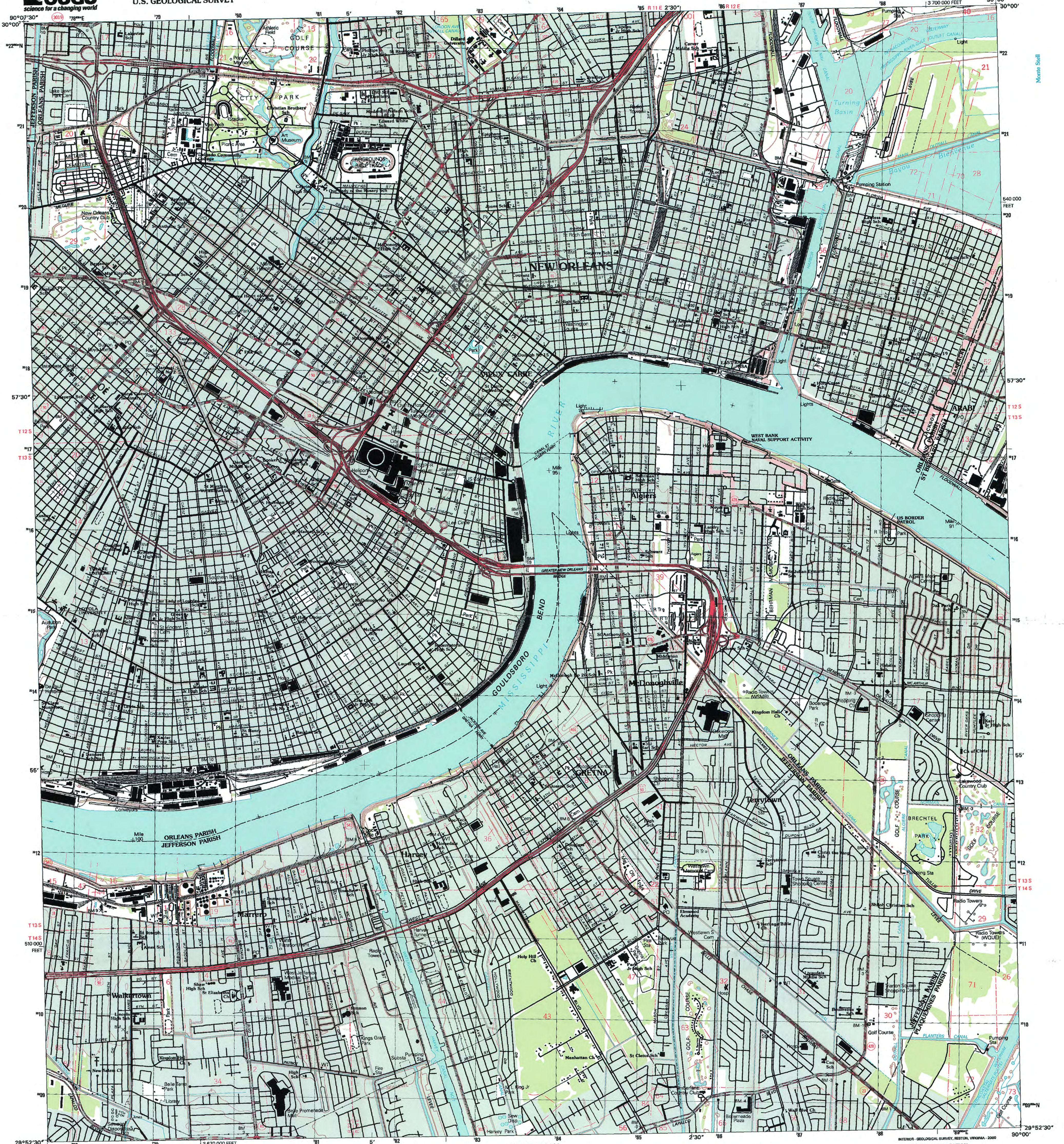
Photo No. 18 of 18

Double-hung walk through window at second floor, rear
elevation

Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall
 New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA
 15/782850 3319070

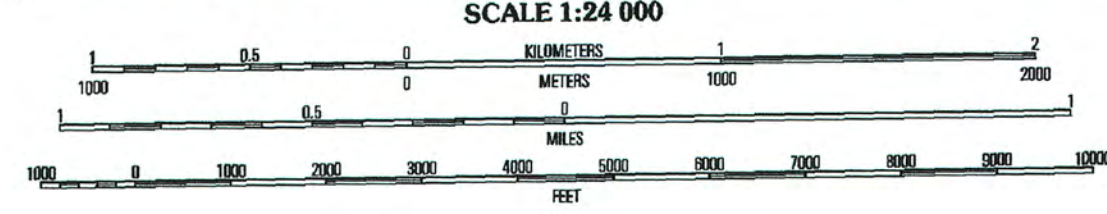
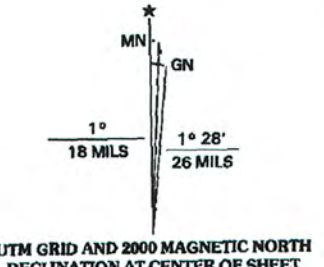
NEW ORLEANS EAST QUADRANGLE
 LOUISIANA
 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

USGS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



BASE SHEET
 NEW ORLEANS EAST
 7.5-MINUTE SERIES
 M. Stoll

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Topography compiled 1989. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1991.
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
 10 000-foot ticks: Louisiana Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geographic Survey NADCON software.
 This quadrangle covers a subsidence area.
 City of New Orleans and Orleans Parish are coextensive.
 Landmark buildings verified 1991.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
 AND LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Indian Beach
 2 Spanish Fort
 3 Little Woods
 4 New Orleans West
 5 Chalmette
 6 Lake Calcasieu East
 7 Bertrandoille
 8 Belle Chasse

NEW ORLEANS EAST, LA
 1998
 NIMA 7943 I NE-SERIES V885



2013



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

PAM BREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 14, 2011

National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Straight University Boarding House and Dining Hall, Orleans Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

Patricia Duncan
Architectural Historian
National Register Coordinator

PD/pld
Enclosures