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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Other Names/Site Number: n/a
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

2. Location

Street & Number: 4948 Chef Menteur Highway
City or town: New Orleans State: LA County: Orleans
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

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, 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 state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Pam Breaux

4-22-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

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

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the 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: _____

for [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

6/16/15
Date of Action

5. Classification

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce/Trade – Financial Institution and Office Building

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Vacant/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Modern Movement – Wrightian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: steel, cast stone, aluminum, glass

roof: asphalt

other: wood, copper, stucco

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 New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building (NOFSL), 4948 Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, is an 8-story bank and office building located at the edge of the suburban Gentilly Woods neighborhood approximately 500 feet west of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, better known as the Industrial Canal. It is prominently situated at the end of Gentilly Woods' major commercial thoroughfare just past the foot of the Danziger Bridge on-ramp, which leads into New Orleans East, and is set back on a roughly 100' x 450' lot about 59 feet from the public right of way. The building was designed in the Wrightian style according to 1964 plans by local architecture firm Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates Architects. Completed in 1965, it is steel-frame construction faced with coarse-aggregate cast-stone panels and color-tinted glass. It has been vacant since 2006. NOFSL stands out among a number of suburban low-rise shopping centers fronted by large parking lots, including a large storage facility across the 6-lane Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90 that originally housed a Sears, Roebuck & Co. store (1956), as well as a number of scattered 1- to 2-story commercial buildings that date between the 1950s and the 2000s. It is by far the tallest building in visual range. The building's exterior, where the structure's stylistic elements are concentrated, retains a high degree of integrity. The interior was significantly compromised by post-Hurricane Katrina vandalism and water damage, but the relatively small ground-floor bank space features red simple interior finishes that did not echo the Wrightian style of the exterior, and the upper floors were speculative "vanilla box" rental office spaces. Thus, since NOFSL's style manifests in its exterior detailing and form, which have sustained only minor losses, the building retains its eligibility for National Register listing.

Narrative Description

This building was designed as an 8-story suburban bank and speculative office building by the local architecture firm Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates Architects in 1964 for developer Samuel J. Recile. It was completed in 1965. The anchor tenant and building namesake was the New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Association, a federally chartered savings and loan association established in 1964. The building incorporates several elements of the Wrightian style: integrated, restrained geometric ornament; pier-like vertical banding that distinguishes the building's upper floors from its planar base; a variety of materials, textures, and warm, earthy tones; and deep, cantilevered projections with copper fascia that provide a strong horizontal element and a visual cap to the structure's height. Furthermore, while the building's vertically oriented rectilinear form and solid massing do not resemble Wright's generally horizontal designs, NOFSL in fact strongly evokes several of Wright's known bank designs, which are rectilinear in form with solid massing

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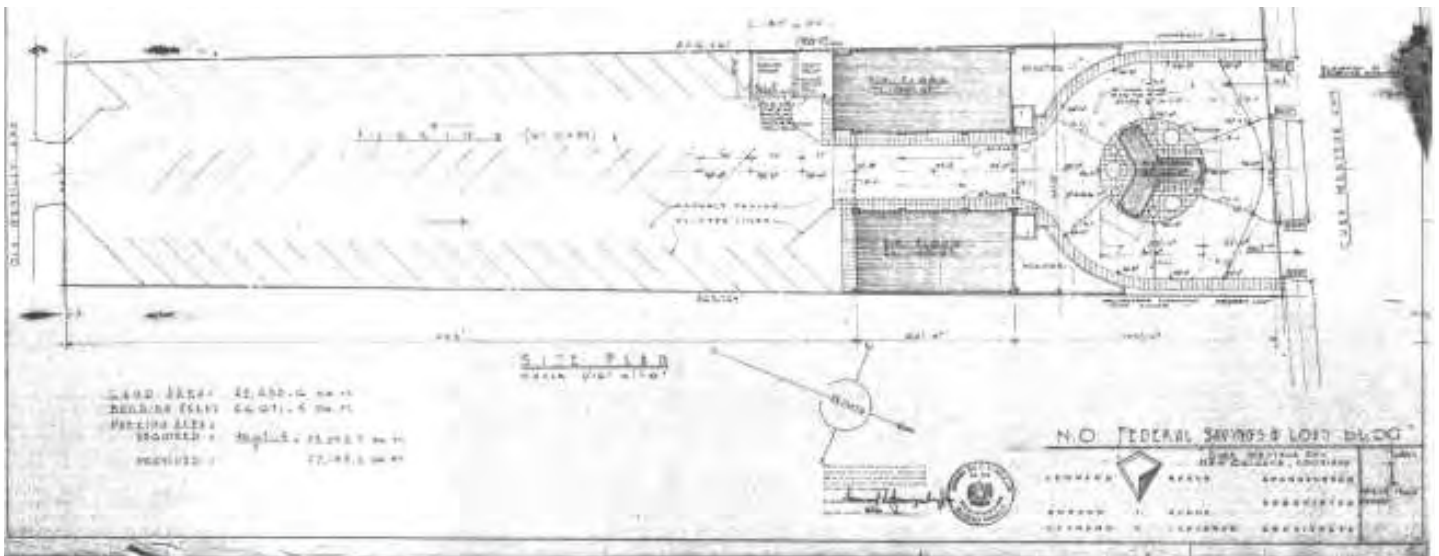
to communicate the solidity and strength of what Wright termed the “town strongbox.”¹ At the same time, it incorporates two prevailing trends of postwar banking architecture: a drive-through component and glass and aluminum storefronts that present a friendly, open face to the public in order to communicate transparency over secrecy.

The building’s formal expression is also in keeping with Wright’s theory of “organic architecture” as defined later in this nomination, namely because it is a logical response to the immediate site (a long and narrow suburban lot that needed to accommodate a substantial number of off-street parking spaces per zoning requirements); to the climate (the east and west facades are windowless to reflect the intense New Orleans heat); and to the client’s desired program of a small, modern suburban bank and a large amount of speculative office space.

Specifically, the building’s Wrightian geometric ornament, which is concentrated but not limited to the upper-third of the building’s façade and rear elevation, can be seen in the alternating rows of square and rectangular openings in the bronze-finish aluminum storefront; the cubic cast-stone spandrel projections dividing the 2nd and 3rd floors; the bas-relief rectilinear panels of the reddish-brown cast-stone spandrels between the 6th and 7th floors; the projecting trim of the topmost tan vertical cast-stone panels; the cube-shaped aluminum light fixtures that mirror the cubic spandrel projections and are integrated into the design so as to give the illusion of pinning the tan vertical panels in place; the projecting vertical elements of the cast-stone mullions at the top floor; and the fin-like rectilinear vertical trim that extends from the corner columns past the cornice line.

The building is 8 stories tall (111'-5"), 3 structural bays wide (94'-7"), and 3 structural bays deep (67'-3"). The modified bitumen roof is flat. The ground floor of the structure is divided in the center by a 30-foot-wide driveway that leads from the front circular drive, underneath the building and past a drive-up teller’s window, and into a long rear parking lot that extends to Old Gentilly Road. All of the building’s openings are located on the front and rear elevations and inside the central drive-through passage.

As seen on the 1964 site plan below, NOFSL was intended to include a 1-story Y-shaped drive-through “motor teller’s building” with circular roof in front of the 8-story structure. The circular driveway that would have skirted the building is extant, but the distinctly Wrightian motor teller building itself was never built. The reason for this is unknown, although the fact that the developer declared personal bankruptcy in 1968 might have been a factor.² In 1983, the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development expropriated the front 40' of the property in order to accommodate the construction of the new Danziger Bridge and service roads, thus leaving no room for the building to be constructed anyway.



Site Plan Original Drawing. The main building is made up of the two rectangles to the left of the circular drive. Note the planned “Motor Teller’s Building” in the circular drive. This was never built.

¹ Frank Lloyd Wright, “The ‘Village Bank’ Series V,” *The Brickbuilder* Vol. X (January-December 1901): 160.

² “Recile is ruled to be bankrupt,” *Times-Picayune*, January 13, 1968.

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Façade (facing north/Chef Menteur Highway) [photos 1, 8-12]:

The façade features the densest concentration of stylistic detail. It is visually divided into 3 distinct zones: a 2-story glass and bronze-finish aluminum storefront base, where the bank was located on the left and rental office spaces on the right; the 5 intermediate floors of rental offices above, which are defined by pier-like vertical bands of coarse-aggregate tan cast-stone panels; and the top floor of rental office space, where larger windows replace the pier-like vertical bands and projecting cast-stone mullions appear to sprout from the tan bands to support the cantilevered roof projection.

The storefront level is divided into 3 parts that correspond to the building's three structural bays. The left bay is currently boarded up and missing its 2-story storefront, which was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The central bay is open at the ground floor where one enters the central drive-through passage to either arrive in the rear parking lot or enter the building on foot. This bay is emphasized by cast-stone vertical panels that extend below the storefronts on either side to meet a cantilevered projection over the central passage. This projection mirrors the larger roof projection and was at one time faced with cement stucco and a copper fascia, portions of which remain. Within the central passage, a night deposit box, bronze-finish aluminum double-door bank entrance (boarded up and missing its glass panels), and drive-up teller's window (intact but damaged by bullet holes) are at left, and at right is the aluminum double-door entrance leading to the elevator lobby for the building's upper floors and the entrance to the rental office space in the lower right storefront. On both sides of the passage, plate glass (now replaced with plywood for security) was installed as a continuation of the storefronts up to the double-door entrances. The remainder of the walls are clad in flat tan cast-stone panels. The right bay of the storefront level is currently boarded up to protect the 2-story aluminum storefront that is still in place. Some of its blue-tinted glass panels are broken. The decorative plastered planters flanking the central drive are original.

The intermediate section of the façade, which corresponds to 5 floors of rental office space, is primarily defined by its pier-like vertical bands of tan-colored cast-stone panels that draw the eye skyward. There are 5 bands of these panels per structural bay, and each bay alternates with a structural column clad in darker, reddish-brown cast-stone panels. Reddish-brown cast-stone spandrels connecting the tan panels at each floor level provide a balancing horizontal element. The starting point of this intermediate section of the building is marked by reddish-brown cast-stone spandrels with cubic projections that mirror the cubic light fixtures near the roofline. The blue-tinted ribbon windows between the columns of tan panels are fixed. At the 7th floor, the spandrels gain bas-relief rectangular panels, and the two uppermost tan panels of each vertical pier-like band are finished with a projecting trim that provides a geometric cap to the bands' upward thrust. The cube-shaped aluminum light fixtures centered at the top of each of these uppermost tan panels are well integrated into the design in that they mirror the cubic spandrel projections below, emphasize the culmination of the tan panels' pier-like arrangement, and give the illusion of having the structural role of fixing the panels in place.

The topmost section of the façade corresponds to the 8th floor or penthouse of the building, which was also rental office space. At this level, the vertical pier-like bands of tan panels are replaced with larger color-tinted top-hinged windows divided by reddish-brown mullions. These mullions, which begin a few feet below the tops of the tan panels and extend to the cantilevered roof projection, feature central projecting trim that has a conventionalized organic feel, like geometric tree trunks or plant stalks and branches. On either end of the building, the reddish-brown structural columns are finished with similar projecting trim that extends a few feet above the cornice line. The cantilevered roof projection stretches the width of the building and is faced with cement stucco. The copper fascia is missing.

Rear elevation (facing south/Old Gentilly Road) [photos 5-6]:

The rear elevation closely resembles the facade in its overall arrangement and detailing. In place of the glass and aluminum storefronts are solid walls of flat cast-stone tan panels. The right bay has one single-leaf service door. The left bay corresponds to the interior mechanical room and is partially obscured by related electrical equipment. In each bay, the intermediate-level pier-like bands of tan panels extend equally to the top of the ground floor. The central bay is open to the central drive-through passage and is marked by a cantilevered projection that matches the one on the façade. The projection's copper fascia is missing.

Side elevation (facing east/Industrial Canal) [photo 7]:

The side elevation facing the Industrial Canal is entirely clad in equally sized coarse-aggregate cast-stone tan-colored panels. It is topped with a matching cast-stone coping. A large logo and sign at the 8th floor read "New Orleans Federal."

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The flat side of the projecting fin-like trim that extends from the reddish-brown corner columns provides visual interest at the roofline.

Side elevation (facing west/Desire Road) [photo 4]:

Like the east elevation, the side elevation facing Desire Road is clad in equally sized, coarse-aggregate flat cast-stone tan-colored panels. It is topped with a matching cast-stone coping. A large sign at the 8th floor reads "New Orleans Federal." The flat sides of the projecting fin-like trim that extends from the reddish-brown corner columns above the cornice provides visual interest at the roofline.

Interior [photos 13-50]:

The building was heavily vandalized and damaged by water in the years after Hurricane Katrina despite the owner's many attempts to secure and seal it. Therefore, the following paragraphs combine descriptions of what was once in place and what remains today.

The New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Association originally occupied the left/east bay of the 1st and 2nd floor storefront and the front portion of the 2nd-floor space above the central drive-through passage. All of the remaining spaces in the building served as speculative rental offices.

The ground floor of the bank space was divided into 3 sections: a central lobby entered from the central drive-through passage via double doors, a storefront space to the left of the lobby with bank officers' desks and a glass-partitioned private office, and a tellers' counter to the right of the lobby. Beyond the tellers' counter at the rear of the building was the bank vault. According to Spangenberg's 1964 plans, these spaces were simply finished. Floor finishes included flagstone (bank lobby entrance), carpet (offices), and vinyl asbestos tiles (tellers' area). Walls were finished with gypsum board except in the glass-partitioned office, which was wood paneled. The ceilings were suspended acoustical tile. A low brass and wood railing divided the office and lobby spaces. Wood cabinets and counters were topped with Formica. Today, the partitions, railings, counters, and finishes have been removed. There are no specifications for interior lighting fixtures, and no historical photographs of the interior have been located. A hardwood spiral staircase with simple brass balusters connected the ground floor to the mezzanine/2nd floor and was located in the bank officers' storefront area. Today, the bank's walls are exposed concrete-block wall infill, the floors are exposed concrete slab, and the ceilings are exposed steel beams and mechanical/electrical/plumbing work. The vault door remains. The spiral staircase is in place but is in disrepair; its brass balusters were looted.

On the right/west bay of the ground floor is an elevator lobby with two cars and a storefront rental office space. The elevator lobby is still finished with a flagstone floor and vinyl fabric wall covering. The storefront rental office space is now exposed concrete and structural steel similar to its counterpart in the left/east bay (the material was water damaged and had to be removed).

The front half/Chef Menteur Highway side of the 2nd floor was designed as a mezzanine that looked onto the bank or rental office space below. It is stepped back 8' from the storefront and the railing is a reinforced-concrete wall finished with a later dark wood veneer. It is in disrepair but remains in place. The bank occupied the left/east bay of this mezzanine level and the front portion over the central drive-through passage. These spaces functioned as the bank's kitchen, an accounting room and mailroom, and its boardroom. The rooms were originally finished with suspended acoustical-tile ceilings, gypsum board, and carpet, remnants of which remain today.

The 2nd floor central corridor extends the width of the building and divides the former front bank spaces from the rear rental office spaces. These spaces were built out by tenants and exhibit a variety of finishes. Most of the corridor openings on this floor have dark wood casings and paneled wood doors, and several of the rooms feature wood paneling or wainscoting. The corridor is finished in gypsum board with carpeted floors. The suspended acoustical-tile ceilings throughout the 2nd floor are partially intact. The bathrooms retain their original olive-green ceramic tiles.

The 3rd through the 8th floors were all simply finished by tenants in a variety of configurations. Today, they have gypsum-board walls, suspended acoustical-tile ceilings, carpeted floors, and steel-cased openings with smooth hollow-core doors. The bathrooms retain their original olive-green ceramic tiles.

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Mitigation and the Seven Aspects of Integrity:

This building is significant because it is the only known example of a Wrightian-style bank and office building in Orleans Parish and one of only two remaining commercial designs that exhibit architect Leonard Reese Spangenberg's strong connection to Frank Lloyd Wright. Nearly all of the building's significant features are exhibited in its form and on its exterior, which has sustained only minor losses (broken glass, one missing aluminum storefront, stolen copper fasciae). While the interior did sustain significant losses after Hurricane Katrina, this loss is mitigated by the interior's lesser role as mostly speculative office space. Spangenberg did design the bank space, and the loss of most of its features is regrettable, but, according to Spangenberg's plans, this space's simple modern finishes did not echo the exterior's Wrightian style. Therefore, NOFSL retains a high degree of integrity overall in light of the fact that its architectural significance is conveyed exclusively on its exterior.

- **Location** is intact. The building is in its original location.
- **Design, Materials, and Workmanship:** NOFSL's Wrightian style is reflected on its exterior, which has a high degree of design, materials, and workmanship integrity. All of its components are in place except for some ground-floor glass panels, one of the two aluminum storefronts, and some of the copper fascias on the cantilevered projections. Its size and structure are also intact to clearly identify the building as a steel-frame mid-rise bank and office building dating to the mid-20th century. The former use of a portion of the 1st and 2nd floors as a bank is clearly identifiable from the exterior by the night-deposit box, the teller's window, and the central drive-through passage. The interior's materials and workmanship integrity was significantly impacted by post-Hurricane Katrina looting and water damage, but this loss is mitigated by the interior's lesser role as mostly speculative office space. Most of the interior floor plans, including office spaces, bathrooms, elevators, and stairwells, remain intact to communicate the architect's design intent for a multi-tenant office building. Despite the loss of some interior integrity, NOFSL retains a good degree of design, materials, and workmanship integrity overall given that the virtually intact exterior is the most significant expression of the architect's stylistic vision. Spangenberg would easily recognize this building as his original design.
- **Setting** is intact. NOFSL continues to be situated at the edge of a suburban commercial thoroughfare on a long and narrow lot near the working Industrial Canal. According to the 1968 Sanborn Fire-Insurance Map, NOFSL was surrounded by scattered low-rise shopping centers fronted by large parking lots, small-scale motels, scattered 1- to 2-story commercial buildings, and industrial activity along the nearby canal. This is still the case today. The most significant modification to the setting was the construction of the new 6-lane Danziger Bridge in 1984-88. The new bridge replaced a much smaller, 1930s-era bridge with approaches that began at the bank of the Industrial Canal, according to the 1968 Sanborn. In 1983, the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development expropriated 40' of NOFSL's lot front (and that of others) to accommodate the new bridge's longer, wider approaches and service roads. While the addition of these approaches constitutes a change in setting, it is a similar scenario to the concurrent construction of NOFSL and the mid-1960s construction of the I-10 just south of the building. In fact, the NOFSL's developer considered the new I-10 a major selling point of its location because it provided easy access to all of the city's growing areas, particularly New Orleans East and Slidell.³ The Danziger Bridge joins this larger network of 1960s-era elevated expressways and bridges and thus does not significantly detract from NOFSL's setting integrity.
- **Feeling** is intact. NOFSL feels like a mid-rise, mid-century office building with a small, modern, suburban financial institution on the ground floor. Its exterior detailing and form convey the architect's use of the Wrightian style. Its central drive-through passage leading to a large rear parking lot and its exterior banking features reflect the new concept of drive-through banking that grew popular in the 1950s, and its glass and aluminum storefront signal the postwar trend in banking architecture of transparent facades to communicate openness over secrecy.
- **Association** is intact. Its location, design/workmanship/materials, setting, and feeling integrity combine to convey its integrity of association as a suburban mid-rise commercial building designed in the Wrightian style.

³ "Eight-Story Building Set for Eastern Area," *Times-Picayune*, October 11, 1964.

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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.)

	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.
X	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:

	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.): Architecture

Period of Significance: 1965

Significant Dates: 1965 – the building’s construction date

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): Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates
Architects

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance is 1965, the year the building was completed. This date is based on the architect’s drawings and newspaper coverage.

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.)

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The New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building is of local significance under Criterion C: Design, in the area of Architecture, as the only known example of a Wrightian-style bank and office building in Orleans Parish. In addition, it is one of only two of architect and former Taliesin apprentice Leonard Reese Spangenberg's remaining commercial designs in Orleans Parish that exhibit his strong connection to Frank Lloyd Wright. The period of significance for the building is 1965, the building's construction date.

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

The Wrightian style and the Taliesin Fellowship:

The Wrightian style encompasses the prolific body of work of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Inspired by nature and the honesty of the Arts & Crafts movement, Wright's guiding design philosophy was what he termed "organic architecture," which calls for architecture to relate to its immediate site, climate, and client's program, and to utilize materials in a way that respects their intrinsic nature.⁴ These broad principles took many physical forms, including Wright's own identifiable brand of the Prairie style (c.1900 through the 1920s), his later Usonian houses (1930s and 1940s), and many innovative designs that were simply labeled "organic," such as Fallingwater in Bear Run, PA (1935-37) and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York (1956-59).

For ease of classification, the Prairie style is generally defined by a horizontal emphasis that connects the building to its natural surroundings and topography; bands of windows and terraces that diminish the distinction between a building's interior and exterior; shallow or flat roofs with deep overhangs; the use of natural materials that blend with the building's environment; restrained, integrated geometric ornament; the use of vertical elements such as piers to define particular zones; and an open floor plan that is reflected in the building's form.⁵ Extant examples of Wright's commercial/institutional works in the Prairie style include the Unity Temple in Chicago (1904), the City National Bank in Mason City, IA (1910), and the Park Inn Hotel in Mason City, IA (1910). Wright's Usonian period grew out of the Prairie style and was inspired by the desire to make his organic residential designs more affordable by reducing the size of the houses and simplifying construction techniques.

Among Wright's many other innovative designs that defy categorization are the highly ornamented Midway Gardens in Chicago (1913; demolished 1929), for which Wright said he wove a "masonry fabric"; the experimental Textile Block houses in California (1920s), which were constructed of geometrically ornamented concrete block units Wright called "textile blocks"; and the Johnson Wax Headquarters in Racine, WI (1936), a high-rise building that was modeled after a tree trunk with lateral floor slabs as its branches.⁶

Although Wright's work emphasized the importance of nature, he experimented with and often required the use of new materials and technologies in his designs; for instance, massive steel beams made possible the dramatically deep overhangs and open floor plan that characterize his quintessentially Prairie-style Robie House in Chicago (1908-10). According to author and curator David A. Hanks, Wright's ornamentation also required him "to invent an entirely new architectural language that was based on forms that the machine could make and based on the true nature of materials."⁷ This language was the result of abstracting or conventionalizing natural forms, like "taking an actual flower and breaking it down into basic abstract shapes, arriving at geometric designs."⁸ This technique often resulted in designs comprised of squares, triangles, and circles, or more complex compositions such as those on the concrete piers at Unity Temple (1904). Furthermore, this ornament, according to his theory of organic architecture, needed to be fully integrated into the

⁴ Tobias S. Guggenheimer, *A Taliesin Legacy: The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright's Apprentices* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1995), 16.

⁵ James O'Gorman, *Three American Architects: Richardson, Sullivan, and Wright, 1865-1915* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), 140; and David A. Hanks, *The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1979), 7-8.

⁶ Guggenheimer, "Taliesin Legacy," 3-4.

⁷ Hanks, *The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright*, 8.

⁸ Hanks, 7.

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building—"of the very constitution of the structure itself"—rather than simply applied, as it had been in many late 19th-century styles.⁹

Given these numerous and wide-ranging applications of his organic architecture theory, it is impossible to distill Wright's works into a neat list of defining characteristics. Indeed, in comparing Wright's work to that of his International Style contemporaries, architect and author Tobias S. Guggenheimer writes,

Wright's softer touch; his broad palette of materials; his concern with space, scale, and texture; and perhaps most of all, the variety of his building forms confused some critics into believing that he was simply a cranky genius whose work was far too personal to hold broad pedagogical, ethical, and inspirational value to succeeding generations of architects.¹⁰

Of course, that clearly was not the case. In 1932, Wright and his wife, Olgivanna, established the Taliesin Fellowship in Spring Green, WI. Taliesin was more akin to an apprenticeship program than a formalized school of architecture, and its apprentices did everything from gardening and building maintenance to the production of conceptual designs for Wright's commissions. Taliesin's earliest apprentices constructed the Spring Green Taliesin campus themselves. In 1937, Taliesin West was established in Scottsdale, AZ, and from that point on the Wrights and their apprentices traveled between the two locations each year. Some apprentices remained and practiced with Wright for years, while others came for a few short months before joining or starting other firms. Some were chosen to oversee Wright's projects at construction sites across the country. After the lull of World War II, the Fellowship received numerous commissions as a result of the post-war building boom.¹¹ The program continued after Wright's death in 1959, and today it lives on in the accredited Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Since the inception of the Taliesin Fellowship, the work of the Taliesin fellows has run the gamut from structures that immediately evoke Wright's designs to wholly unique structures that stem from the architect's originality of expression as inspired by the organic ethic. Nationally known Taliesin fellows include architects John Lautner, E. Fay Jones, and Paolo Soleri, among many others.

Frank Lloyd Wright's bank designs:

Wright designed a limited number of banks, including the First National Bank in Dwight, IL (1904) and the City National Bank in Mason City, IA (1910), and he also published a prototype for a village bank in *The Brickbuilder* in 1901.¹² All three bear an undeniable resemblance to the New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building in their form, massing, and aspects of their exterior detailing.

- The 1901 2-story prototype, which Wright described as the "town strongbox," has solid massing and a simple rectilinear form and plan in order "to satisfy the necessities of the average banking business in a direct way, without waste space or waste motion."¹³ The exterior features a plain battered ground floor punctuated by a single central opening and with 4 equally spaced in-antis piers above. Between the piers are horizontal ornamented terracotta panels topped with windows. The interior's public area is a simple U shape, and an elaborately detailed freestanding vault is the central focus of the working area.
- The 1-story First National Bank in Dwight, IL, also has solid massing and a simple rectilinear form with 4 in-antis piers, cubic light fixtures, and a high, plain attic story that gives the building a monumental feel despite its small size.
- The 3-story City National Bank in Mason City, IA, which is part of a larger bank, office, and shopping complex, bears a particularly strong resemblance to the New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building. Like the others, this example has solid massing and a simple rectilinear form. The ground floor is a blank brick wall punctuated by a single central opening flanked by cubic light fixtures. The upper stories are defined by equally spaced piers with

⁹ Hanks, 7, quoting Frank Lloyd Wright, *An Autobiography*, 2nd ed. (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1943), 142.

¹⁰ Guggenheimer, 40.

¹¹ Taliesin Fellows, "History of the Taliesin Fellows," <http://taliesinfellows.org/i/taliesin-fellows/>.

¹² Charles Belfoure, *Monuments to Money: The Architecture of American Banks* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Publishers, Inc., 2005), 196-98.

¹³ Frank Lloyd Wright, "The 'Village Bank' Series V," *The Brickbuilder* Vol. X (January-December 1901): 160.

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windows and one row of ornamented spandrels in between. The piers extend to meet a deep, flat roof projection with a copper fascia and their tops feature a concentration of multi-colored geometric ornament. The predominating color palette includes cream, brown, red, tan, green, and blue. The interior is a 2-story U-shaped banking room faced in cream-colored brick.

The Wrightian Style in Louisiana:

There are no Wright-designed buildings in Louisiana. Before it was destroyed by a hurricane in 1969, his Welbie L. Fuller Residence (1951) in Pass Christian, MS, was the closest example to New Orleans. Leonard Reese Spangenberg, architect of NOFSL, was Wright's construction-site apprentice on the Fuller Residence project.

There are a handful of Wrightian-style buildings in Louisiana designed by former Taliesin fellows or former Wright associates, the majority of which are residences. The best-known pre-war example of these is probably the G. B. Cooley House in Monroe, LA (National Register, 1986) designed by noted Prairie School architect Walter Burley Griffin, who worked with Wright for a time in Chicago. The design dates to 1910, but the house was not built until 1926, according to the National Register nomination. In Orleans Parish, the Salvador D'Antoni Residence at 7929 Freret Street is a Prairie-style house designed by local architect Edward Spurlin in 1917.

Most of the Wrightian-style buildings in Orleans Parish date to the post-war period. Several of these are residences, but for the purposes of this nomination the following list will be limited to the four known commercial designs.

- (1) New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building, the subject of this nomination.
- (2) Unity Temple, 3722 St. Charles Avenue. Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates Architects, 1961. A 2-story, 2-part circular stucco- and metal-clad structure with bands of windows and deep cantilevered overhangs.
- (3) National Maritime Union Building, 2731 Tchoupitoulas Street. Albert C. Ledner, 1956. A 1-story polygonal building with a 12-pointed star-shaped roof clad in copper. Each point of the roof forms a shallow projecting gable that shelters a window underneath. The interior is dominated by a circular clear-span meeting space.
- (4) First Unitarian Church, 1806 Jefferson Avenue. Albert C. Ledner, 1957. A 2-story predominantly glass-walled structure with a 4-pointed roof that forms vertically projecting gables with generous overhangs. It has been converted into a private residence.

Of the above examples, NOFSL is the only bank and office building, the only mid-rise example, and the only building in a suburban setting. It is also the only one that utilizes Wrightian geometric ornament on the exterior; pier-like vertical banding to differentiate zones; a rectilinear form and solid massing; varying textures; and several warm, earthy colors. In contrast, Spangenberg's Unity Temple is primarily Wrightian in its circular, horizontal form, deep overhangs, and bands of windows. Ledner's National Maritime Union Building and First Unitarian Church are strongly Wrightian in form, particularly in their roof shapes, but are otherwise products of the architect's idiosyncratic expression.

A fifth building, Plaza Tower (1001 Howard Avenue, Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates Architects, 1964-69 [National Register, 2014]), is loosely Wrightian but exhibits a number of modernist styles. According to the National Register nomination, it has elements of "constructivism, futurism, expressionism, modernism, and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright." It is a 45-story marble and aluminum-clad skyscraper with an 18-story lower curved section and 5-story annex.

The eastward expansion of Orleans Parish:

Gentilly Woods, a suburban Orleans Parish neighborhood of New Orleans, was developed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Located east of the city's center, Gentilly Woods is bounded by the Industrial Canal to the east, Old Gentilly Road to the south, People's Avenue to the west, and Dreux Avenue to the north. Adjacent neighborhoods include Gentilly Terrace (west), Pontchartrain Park (north), and the Desire area (south). To the east of the Industrial Canal is the section known as New Orleans East.¹⁴

¹⁴ Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, "Gentilly Woods Neighborhood Snapshot," <http://www.datacenterresearch.org/pre->

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During World War II, the Gentilly Woods area was dominated by Higgins Shipyards, which was situated along the Industrial Canal. In response to the post-war housing boom, the shipyards and worker housing were demolished and the area was developed with housing subdivisions. Shopping centers were constructed along Old Gentilly Road and Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90 to serve the growing population. The eastern side of the Industrial Canal, which was still primarily undeveloped wetlands during this period, was accessible via US Hwy 90's Danziger Bridge, a small 1930s-era drawbridge.

The city's sprawling Interstate-10 system, which was constructed in the mid-1960s, had a major impact on outward expansion and suburban development. The I-10 elevated expressway and Industrial Canal Bridge located just south (about 0.2 miles) of Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90 was completed in 1966.¹⁵ This new high-rise bridge was significantly more efficient than the old Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90 Danziger Bridge, which was too low to accommodate the height of most modern shipping vessels and was often raised, stalling traffic.

The new I-10 bridge provided a major traffic artery into New Orleans East and beyond toward Lake Pontchartrain, where it crossed as the I-10 Twin Span Bridge into the growing city of Slidell. Prior to the construction of the I-10, New Orleans East had been rather isolated, with a scattering of residential development clustered near the Industrial Canal and Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90 (e.g., the neighborhoods of Plum Orchard, early 1950s; Pines Village, 1950s; Read Boulevard West, early 1960s), recreational areas along the lakefront (Little Woods, 1920s-30s; Lincoln Beach, 1939) and Lakefront Airport, which had been built in 1934.¹⁶ In the 1950s, the East's marshy land had been leveed and outfitted with a new drainage system that made a much larger percentage of the low-lying land habitable, but the increased access provided by the new I-10 system, which not only connected the East to Gentilly Woods but to the entire city of New Orleans, catalyzed the area's development boom of the 1960s and 1970s.

History of New Orleans developer Samuel J. Recile and the New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Association:

A November 1964 *Times-Picayune* profile of New Orleans developer Samuel J. Recile provides the following description:

He's a young man (he'll be 32 next week) who says he is convinced that he can help build a greater New Orleans while he assembles a personal empire. And so he collects land and now his corporation holds some 50 square miles in Louisiana, 50 buildings in the Vieux Carré alone, a string of shopping centers, service stations and office buildings....Assets in the corporations in which Recile is the principal stockholder are valued in excess of \$75 million.¹⁷

In the mid-1960s, Recile's major development projects included the New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building (1964-65); Plaza Tower (National Register, 1964-69); the Le Richelieu Square apartment-hotel redevelopment at 1234 Chartres Street (1966); and the Bourbon Orleans Hotel at the corner of Bourbon and Orleans streets (1966). He also did several apartment complexes, including a series of four throughout Jefferson Parish called Butterfly Terraces I-IV (only one of which survives). On the vast majority of these projects he used the architectural services of Leonard Reese Spangenberg and Associates Architects. In 1964, Recile purchased the newly built high-rise building at 225 Baronne Street (1962; National Register, 2013) for \$12.8 million with plans for an expensive remodel (according to plans prepared by Spangenberg), but Recile sold it the following year before work began, according to the 225 Baronne Street National Register nomination.¹⁸

The new I-10 and the related growth of New Orleans East and other expanding parts of greater New Orleans played a central role in locating the New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building on Chef Menteur Highway/US Hwy 90. According to an October 1964 *Times-Picayune* article announcing its construction, the new structure was "strategically located at the down ramp of the Federal Interstate hwy. I-10 now under construction." The reporter then quoted Recile:

katrina/orleans/6/29/snapshot.html.

¹⁵ "Interstate Sections Completed on Schedule," *Times-Picayune*, January 30, 1966.

¹⁶ Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, "Pines Village Neighborhood Snapshot," <http://www.datacenterresearch.org/pre-katrina/orleans/9/50/snapshot.html>.

¹⁷ Frank Schneider, "Recile's Name Is Linked to Fantastic Developments," *Times-Picayune*, November 19, 1964.

¹⁸ "Buildings Sell for \$15,100,000," *Times-Picayune*, December 19, 1964.

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[t]his location is particularly suitable for the new financial institution which will occupy it because of the easy access from I-10 which will link all sections of the metropolitan area including the fast growing West Bank, East New Orleans and Slidell areas."¹⁹

Thus Recile recognized and took advantage of the swiftly growing market of New Orleans East and the new I-10 access to other developing areas of the city by locating NOFSL at the edge of Gentilly Woods' commercial thoroughfare. This location was highly desirable for a financial institution, which would help fund the growth of these growing areas, as well as different types of companies looking for office space in new markets. Tenants included the *Gentilly News* newspaper office, notaries, and medical offices, among many others.

By 1968, Recile's ambitions appear to have outpaced him and he was forced to declare personal bankruptcy.²⁰ In 1969, NOFSL, which had been owned by one of Recile's corporations, Puritan Oil and Gas of New England, Inc., was sold to National American Bank for \$1.1 million.

The New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Association was a federally chartered savings and loan association established in 1964. NOFSL was the bank's first and only location. Its inaugural officers included Lester E. Kabacoff, a local developer who in the 1950s had played an important role in the development of the nearby Pontchartrain Park subdivision, one of the country's first middle-class African American suburban neighborhoods; Morgan G. Earnest; David K. Gatto; Edward C. Kurtz; and Joseph H. Kavanaugh.

In 1986, a federal grand jury investigated allegations of fraud at New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan, and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation seized the bank the following year.²¹ A bank named Horizon Federal Savings and Loan moved into the space.

Mid-century-modern bank design in Orleans Parish:

There are no known direct comparisons to NOFSL as a Wrightian-style bank and office building. The vast majority of extant urban and suburban bank and bank/office buildings dating between 1945 and 1965 are late International Style modular-grid boxes (e.g., National Bank of Commerce, 821 Gravier, Nolan Norman Nolan, 1958) or glass and steel boxes with expressive thin-shell concrete elements (e.g., Whitney National Bank, Canal and Broad streets, Parham and Labouisse, 1964).

The Wrightian Style and the New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building:

Architect Leonard Reese Spangenberg's connection to Frank Lloyd Wright was particularly strong compared to other architects practicing in New Orleans after World War II, namely "in respect to his training and his emulation of specific Wright structures and formative strategies," according to Keli Rylance, head of Tulane University's Southeastern Architectural Archive (SEAA).²² In 1946 and 1947 he was a Taliesin fellow, after which he returned to New Orleans to earn an architectural degree from Tulane University. In 1950-51, he served as Wright's overseeing apprentice at the construction site of the Welbie L. Fuller Residence in Pass Christian, MS. In the early 1950s, he went on road trips with fellow architects Philip Roach Jr. and Albert C. Ledner to visit and photograph Wright's designs all across the country. Together, these three men were the foremost practitioners of the organic style in mid-century New Orleans. However, Roach did not study with Wright, and his designs tended toward extreme organic forms. Ledner did study at Taliesin for a few months, and his designs show a definite Wright influence, but his work on the whole exhibits a more personalized, idiosyncratic style.²³ According to Ledner, Spangenberg not only studied with Wright and emulated his work but also dressed like his mentor. In an early-1950s photograph of Ledner and Spangenberg at Wright's Florida Southern

¹⁹ "Eight-Story Building Set for Eastern Area," *Times-Picayune*, October 11, 1964.

²⁰ "Recile is ruled to be bankrupt," *Times-Picayune*, January 13, 1968; and act of sale, Puritan Oil and Gas of New England, Inc. in Reorganization to National American Bank, March 7, 1969. Peter J. Butler, notary.

²¹ Bridget O'Brian, "Grand jury investigates S&L failures," *Times-Picayune*, October 2, 1986; and "In Re New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Association, New Orleans, Louisiana," Legal Notices, *Times-Picayune*, March 30, 1987.

²² Keli Rylance, email to the author, January 28, 2015.

²³ Lindsay McCook, "Modernism in New Orleans: A Southeastern Architectural Archive Digital Publication," http://seaa.tulane.edu/sites/all/themes/Howard_Tilton/images/exhibits/modernism/ModernismInNew%20Orleans.pdf.

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University, Spangenberg is wearing a version of Wright's famous porkpie hat.²⁴ Wright's influence can also be seen in Spangenberg's presentation drawing style of bright colored pencil over saturated blueprint, which is considered a post-war Taliesin technique.²⁵

As previously mentioned, Spangenberg's firm designed several high-profile projects for local developer Samuel J. Recile, as well as a few residential and apartment building commissions, some small bank branches, and a few other commissions in Orleans Parish and abroad. Despite his Wrightian training, a large percentage of his work consisted of historic building renovations, mainly in the French Quarter. According to an online exhibit about regional modernism that Tulane University's Southeastern Architectural Archive produced in 2012, "[Spangenberg's] career was a balancing act between sensitively rehabilitating historic properties like the apartment building at 1125 Royal Street and creating innovative, Modernist buildings like Unity Temple."²⁶

In fact, NOFSL was a rare opportunity for Spangenberg to fully utilize the Wrightian style in a commercial design, and the result is a rare and first-rate example of his use of the organic ethic in a post-war suburban setting. It certainly was not the prevailing style for new bank and bank/office buildings in the early 1960s, which were overwhelmingly designed in the late International Style in both suburban and urban contexts. However, post-war Taliesin fellows practicing across the country continued to design according to Wright's broad organic principles because of the philosophy's logic and timelessness rather than its adherence to modern trends and tastes. Thus, while NOFSL is certainly a product of its time—its suburban location on the edge of the city's post-war eastward expansion, its drive-through banking features and transparent ground floor—it is foremost a product of the architect's personal creative expression and, presumably, his productive working relationship with Recile.

The New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building has the following defining Wrightian characteristics:

- use of restrained geometric ornament on the building's exterior that is integrated into the building's design
- pier-like vertical banding that distinguishes the building's upper floors from its planar base, as can be seen in Wright's First National Bank in Dwight, IL (1904), City National Bank in Mason City, IA (1910), and published prototype for a village bank (1901); in order to incorporate the postwar trend of transparent facades for banks, however, Spangenberg's planar base is composed of glass and aluminum rather than solid masonry
- Ornament on the upper sections of the pier-like vertical banding, as can be seen on Wright's City National Bank in Mason City, IA (1910)
- use of natural textures and colors, e.g., the light and dark earthy colors and exposed quartz of the cast-stone panels, the dark bronze of the aluminum storefront, the rich oxidized green of the copper fasciae, and the blue-tinted glazing
- deep, cantilevered projections that provide a strong horizontal element and a visual cap to the structure's height
- rectilinear form and solid massing that evoke the solidity and strength of Wright's "town strongbox" bank designs
- formal expression as an organic response to the building's immediate site (a long and narrow suburban lot that needed to accommodate a substantial number of off-street parking spaces per zoning requirements); to the climate (the east and west facades are windowless to deflect the intense New Orleans heat); and to the client's desired program of a small, modern suburban bank and several floors of speculative office spaces

²⁴ Rylance, email to the author, January 28, 2015; and Southeastern Architectural Archive, "Exhibit Highlights Wright's Influence," http://southeasternarchitecture.blogspot.com/2011_12_01_archive.html. (see first photo on the blog - Spangenberg is on the left).

²⁵ Rylance, email to the author, January 28, 2015.

²⁶ McCook, "Modernism in New Orleans: A Southeastern Architectural Archive Digital Publication."

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Besides NOFSL, examples of Spangenberg's other Wrightian designs are very limited in number:

Residential: 1601 Lakeshore Drive (early 1970s); 984 Topaz Street (c.1965); and 5525 Marcia Avenue (c.1960s) are Spangenberg's known Wrightian residences. (In neighboring Jefferson Parish, which is beyond our area of interest, one of the four Wrightian-style Butterfly Terrace apartment complexes (c.1963) that Spangenberg designed for Recile remains standing near West Jefferson Hospital in Marrero, LA.)

Commercial: In addition to NOFSL, only one of Spangenberg's commercial designs in Orleans Parish is in the Wrightian style: **Unity Temple** (3722 St. Charles Avenue, 1961). This Wrightian-style church is a 2-story, 2-part circular stucco- and metal-clad structure with bands of windows and deep cantilevered overhangs that recalls Wright's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, WI (1956-61), as well as his other circular designs. It is significantly different from NOFSL in its circular, low-lying form, horizontal emphasis, and general lack of exterior geometric ornament.

Spangenberg also designed the **Plaza Tower** (1001 Howard Avenue, 1964-69 [National Register, 2014]), which is loosely Wrightian but exhibits a mix of modernist styles. According to the National Register nomination, it has elements of "constructivism, futurism, expressionism, modernism, and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright." It is a 45-story marble- and aluminum-clad skyscraper with an 18-story lower curved section and 5-story annex. Its National Register significance is based on its engineering, which for a time made it the tallest building in New Orleans and harkened the construction of the many Central Business District skyscrapers that followed.

Of Spangenberg's other known bank designs, only one besides NOFSL remains standing:

National American Bank branch, 6057 Woodland Highway, mid-1970s. This small, 1-story bank branch may have been originally designed in the Wrightian style but it was heavily modified to function as a seafood market/deli and is virtually unrecognizable as a former bank or even as an architect-designed building. The rest of his known bank designs were either razed or never built.

The most significant of Spangenberg's non-Wrightian designs is the **Bourbon Orleans Hotel** (717 Orleans Street, 1966), which is firmly planted in the so-called Vieux Carré Revival style of the mid-twentieth century. This 5.5-story hotel is designed to blend with its historic surroundings and features a stuccoed exterior, arched ground-floor openings, cast-iron galleries and balconies, arched dormers, and a mansard roof.

Thus, of Spangenberg's few remaining commercial designs in Orleans Parish, only two—NOFSL and Unity Temple—demonstrate his strong connection to Frank Lloyd Wright. In addition, NOFSL is one of only four known Wrightian-style commercial buildings in Orleans Parish and the only known local example of a Wrightian-style bank and office building, making it an exceedingly rare example of Wright's influence in postwar New Orleans.

Final summary:

The New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building is the only known example of a Wrightian-style bank and office building in Orleans Parish and a very rare and significant example of local architect and former Taliesin apprentice Leonard Reese Spangenberg's strong connection to Frank Lloyd Wright. Over the course of his career, Spangenberg was afforded few opportunities to design in the Wrightian style, and NOFSL is a first-rate commercial example of his Wrightian expression in a postwar suburban setting. It is an organic design that logically responds to its site, climate, and program and incorporates key elements of the Wrightian style: integrated, restrained geometric ornament; pier-like vertical banding that distinguishes the building's upper floors from its planar base; a variety of materials, textures, and warm, earthy tones; deep, cantilevered projections with copper fasciae; and a rectilinear form and solid massing that recall Wright's "town strongbox" bank designs. Therefore, in light of the building's rarity and finely executed Wrightian design, NOFSL merits listing on the National Register for its local architectural significance.

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Developmental History/Additional historic context information

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

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

Belfoure, Charles. *Monuments to Money: The Architecture of American Banks*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Publishers, Inc., 2005.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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: Southeastern Architectural Archive, Tulane University; William Wesley Peters Library, Taliesin West

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property: less than 1 acre (.89 acres)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 30.006850 | Longitude: -90.031779 |
| 2. Latitude: 30.006940 | Longitude: -90.031480 |
| 3. Latitude: 30.005841 | Longitude: -90.031029 |
| 4. Latitude: 30.005786 | Longitude: -90.031288 |

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

The boundaries of the property can be seen on the included plat map as encompassing Lot 2-B. The map delineates both the current and old legal boundaries (see boundary justification for more information).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries follow the historic property lines of the parcel of land that includes the building and parking lot and also reflect the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation's expropriation of 3,793.9 square feet of the front of the original parcel, which took place April 15, 1983.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gabrielle Begue/Principal and Architectural Historian

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organization: Clio Associates LLC
street & number: 1139 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70113
e-mail: gabrielle@clioassociates.com
telephone: (504) 858-4426
date: March 3, 2015

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building

City or Vicinity: New Orleans

County: Orleans

State: LA

Name of Photographer: Gabrielle Begue and Lori Durio-Price

Date of Photographs: September/October 2014 and February 2015

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Primary building elevation view from Chef Menteur Highway; camera facing south

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View of the Danziger Bridge on-ramp in front of NOFSL; camera facing northeast

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View of Chef Menteur Highway from front of NOFSL; camera facing northwest

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West elevation view from Chef Menteur Highway showing cast-stone panels and fin-like vertical projections at roofline; camera facing east

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Rear elevation view from parking lot; camera facing north

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Central drive-through passage from rear/parking lot; camera facing north

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East elevation view from Chef Menteur Highway; camera facing southwest

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Detail of primary elevation showing cast-stone pier-like vertical bands; cast-stone spandrels; cubic light fixtures, color-tinted glass, cantilevered roof projection; camera facing south

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Detail of cantilevered projection over central drive-through passage showing remnant of copper fascia; camera facing south

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Bank entrance, night-deposit box, and drive-up teller window in central drive-through passage; camera facing southeast

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Elevator lobby and rental storefront office entrance in central drive-through passage; camera facing southwest

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Bank entrance in central drive-through passage; camera facing east

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Former storefront bank space looking toward rear vault; camera facing south

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Spiral staircase in bank space leading to 2nd floor/mezzanine with boarded-up storefront behind; camera facing northeast

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Former storefront bank space; camera facing southeast

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View of aluminum storefront in rental storefront space; camera facing northwest

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Mezzanine in rental storefront space; camera facing southwest

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Elevator lobby leading to rental office spaces; camera facing southwest

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2nd-floor corridor; camera facing east

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Former bank boardroom with some non-historic finishes, 2nd floor; camera facing northwest

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Former bank boardroom with some non-historic finishes, 2nd floor; camera facing northeast

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Former bank administrative space, 2nd floor; camera facing northwest

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View of spiral staircase from mezzanine; camera facing east

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View of mezzanine railing; camera facing north

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Former bank administrative space, 2nd floor; camera facing east

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2nd-floor bathroom with original tile; camera facing east

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Wood doors to 2nd-floor rental office space; camera facing south

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Wood paneling in 2nd-floor rental office space; camera facing southeast

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3rd-floor corridor; camera facing east

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3rd-floor elevators; camera facing south

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3rd-floor rental office space; camera facing northeast

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3rd-floor bathroom with original tiles and fixtures; camera facing west

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4th-floor corridor; camera facing east

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4th-floor rental office space; camera facing northwest

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4th-floor rental office space; camera facing southeast

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4th-floor rental office space; camera facing west

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5th-floor corridor; camera facing east

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5th-floor rental office space; camera facing south

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5th-floor rental office space; camera facing southeast

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6th-floor corridor; camera facing east

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6th-floor rental office space; camera facing west

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6th-floor rental office space; camera facing north

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7th-floor corridor; camera facing east

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7th-floor rental office space; camera facing northeast

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7th-floor rental office space; camera facing southeast

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7th-floor rental office space; camera facing northeast

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7th-floor rental office space; camera facing south

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8th-floor corridor; camera facing east

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8th-floor rental office space; camera facing northwest

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8th-floor rental office space; camera facing northeast

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View of cast-stone fin-like vertical roof projection; camera facing west

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Roof with mechanical room and elevator override at left; camera facing east

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Close-up of cast-stone fin-like vertical roof projection; camera facing southwest

List of Figures:

Figure 1. *Times Picayune* article announcing the opening of New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building dated October 11, 1964. Image courtesy of genealogybank.com.

Figure 2. Original Plans – Site Plan. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield

Figure 3. Original Plans – North and west elevations. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

Figure 4. Original Plans – Exterior perspective elevation. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

Figure 5. Original Plans – Ground and Mezzanine floor plans. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Figure 6. Original Plans – Third through Eighth floor plans. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

Figure 7. Original Plans – Spiral stair details. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

Figure 8. 1997 Plat Map of New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building. Image courtesy New Orleans Parish Tax Assessor.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 11, 1964

SECTION THREE—PAGE NINE

REAL ESTATE • HOME BUILDING

Eight-Story Building Set for Eastern Area

New Quarter Apartments



VIEW OF EXTERIOR ON CHARTRES, AND IBERVILLE
—Design by Leo Imparato.

Recile to Erect Unit on Highway

New for the eastern section of the city will be an eight-story modern office building along the Chef Menteur hwy.

Sam. J. Recile, represented by his Southern Land Title Corp., will construct the contemporary-styled structure at 4948 Chef Menteur hwy.

The building, strategically located at the down ramp of the Federal Interstate hwy. 1-10 now under construction, will be the First Federal Savings and Loan Building, named after its first and major tenant.

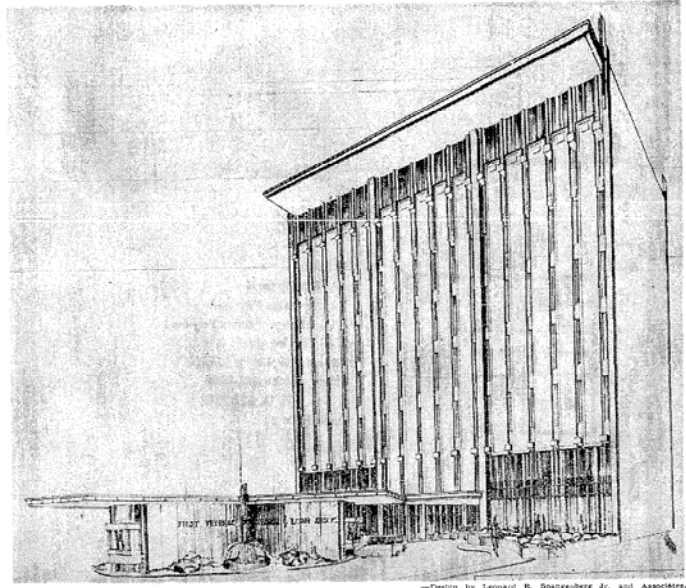
The property on which the building will rise is presently occupied in part by the Amigo Motel which is to be demolished.

Ground measurements are 100 feet along Chef Menteur hwy., about 450 feet deep and about 86 feet in the rear. The property adjoins Schwegmann Bros. Giant Super Market.

Of pre-cast concrete construction the building will have exposed chip-marble finish on exterior panels. It will have bronze durinodic aluminum exterior detail with tinted glass throughout.

Designed by Leonard R. Spangenberg Jr. and Associates, the 97-foot high building will contain 43,356 square feet of floor space. Car parking area on the site will have 27,533 square feet, 5,500 square feet more than required by the area's zoning.

A portion of the ground floor level and mezzanine will be occupied by the First Federal Sav-



BUILDING TO GO UP ON 100-FOOT CHEF MENTEUR HWY. SITE
—Design by Leonard R. Spangenberg Jr. and Associates.

ings and Loan Association, one of the city's first federally chartered savings and loan institutions. A circular drive-up island will be provided to serve motorists. The ground level of the structure will be divided by a driveway leading to the rear parking area. "This location is particularly suitable for the new financial area including the fast growing West Bank, East New Orleans and Slidell areas," Recile said. "because of the easy access and link all G. Brian Corporation is a rental agent."

Figure 1. *Times Picayune* article announcing the opening of New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building dated October 11, 1964. Image courtesy of genealogybank.com.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

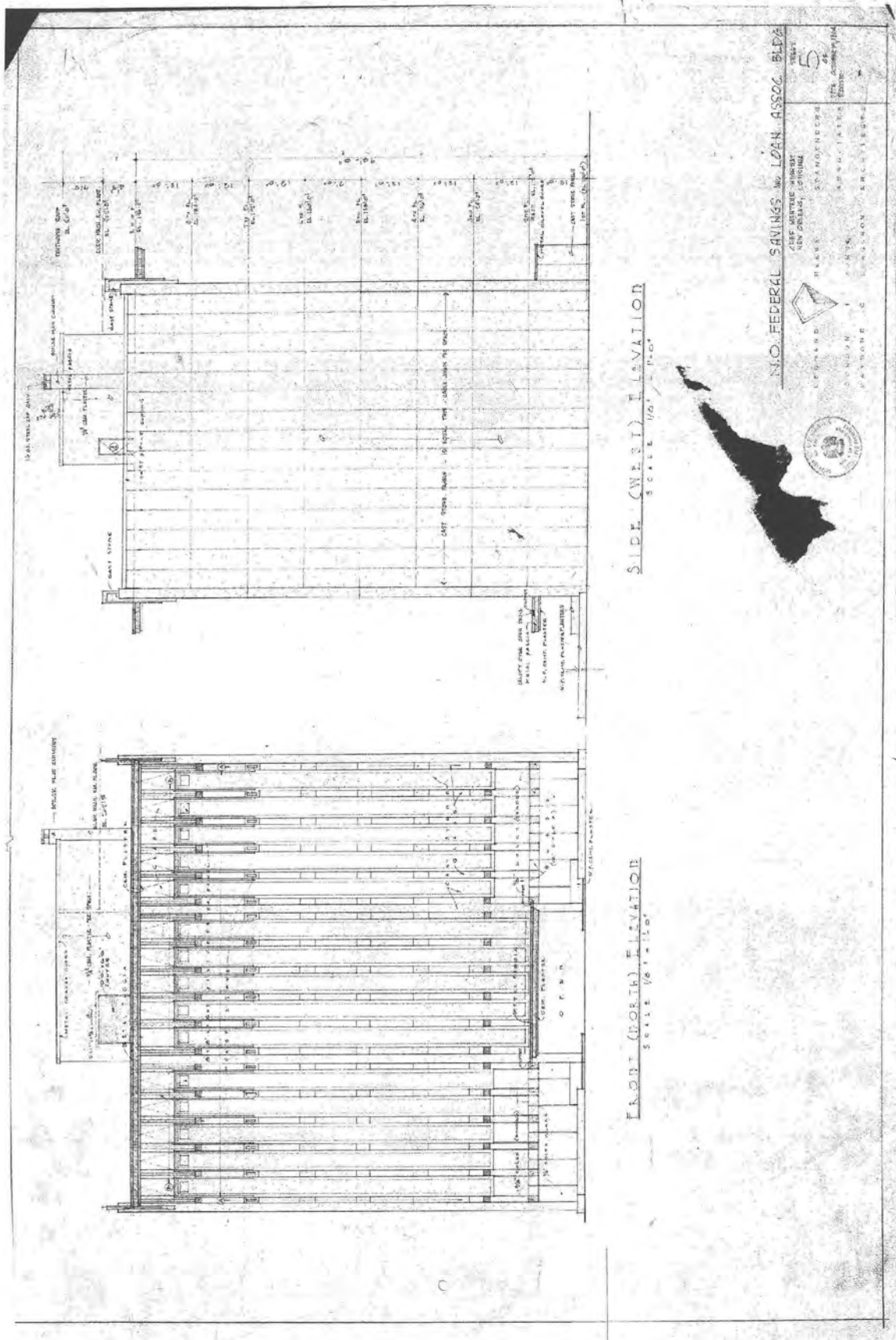


Figure 3. Original Plans – North and west elevations. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

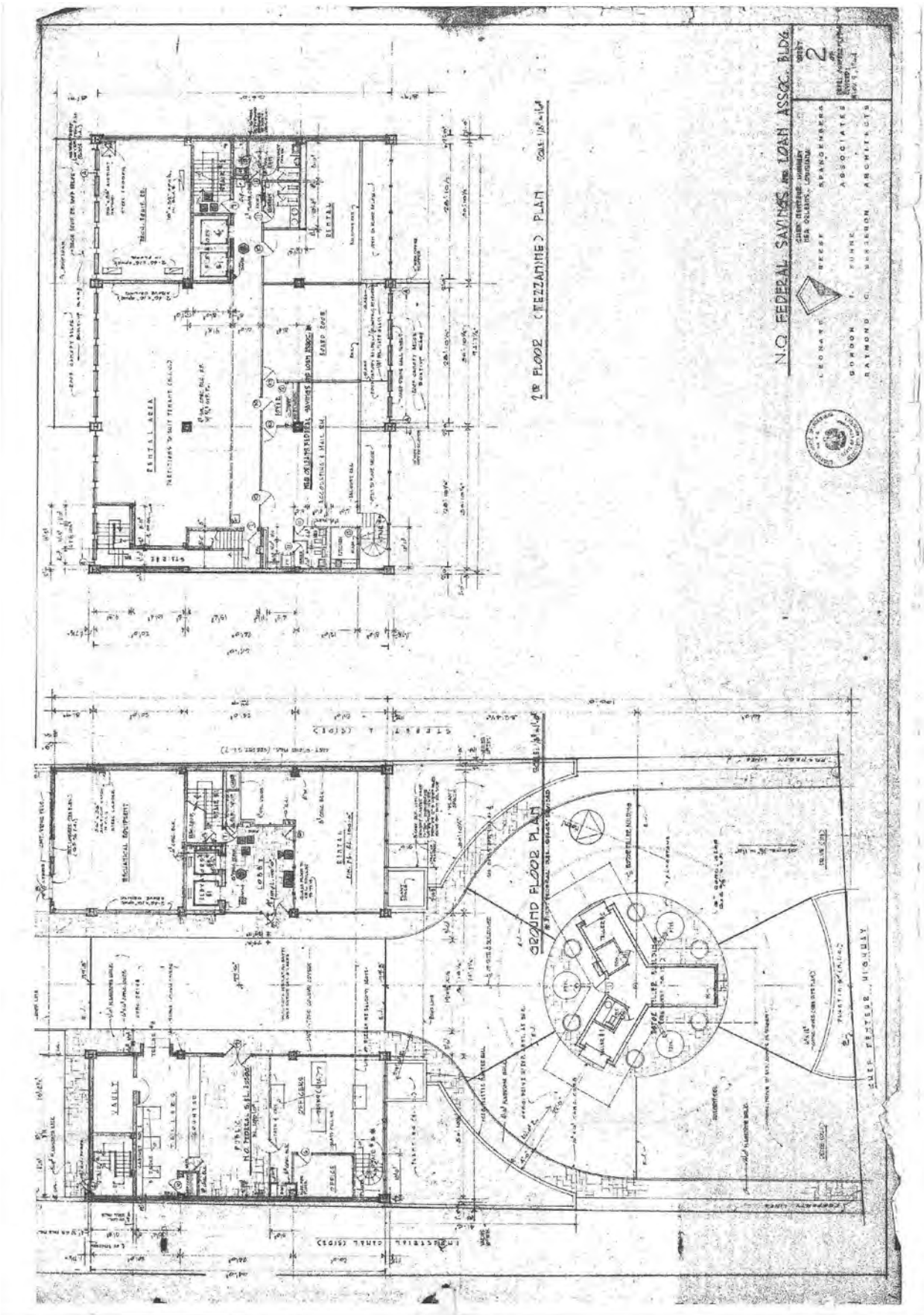


Figure 5. Original Plans – Ground and Mezzanine floor plans. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

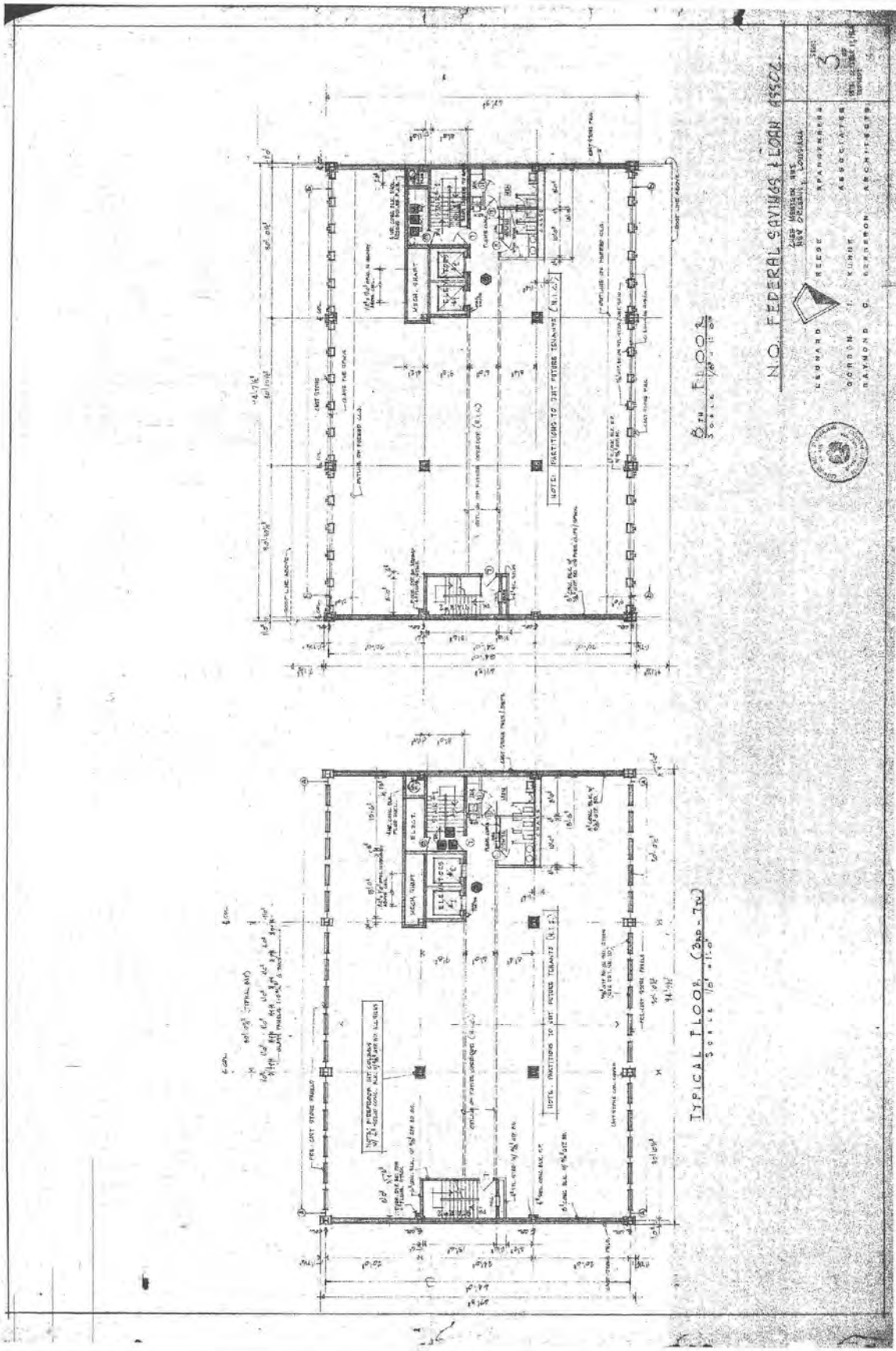


Figure 6. Original Plans – Third through Eighth floor plans. Image courtesy of Reggie D. Winfield.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

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.

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building, Orleans Parish, LA



Latitude: 30.006463 Longitude: -90.031466

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building, Orleans Parish, LA



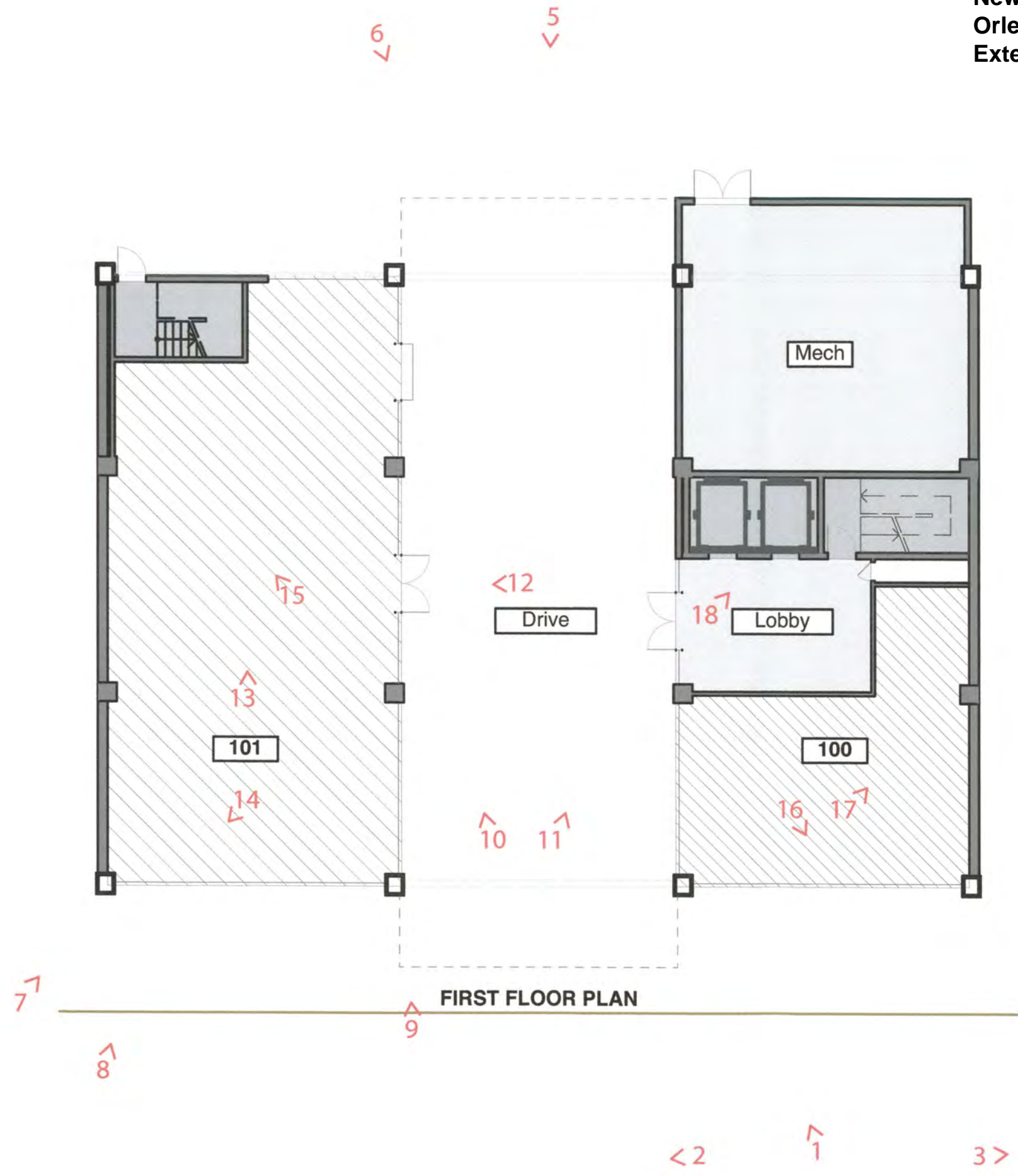
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New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building, Orleans Parish, LA

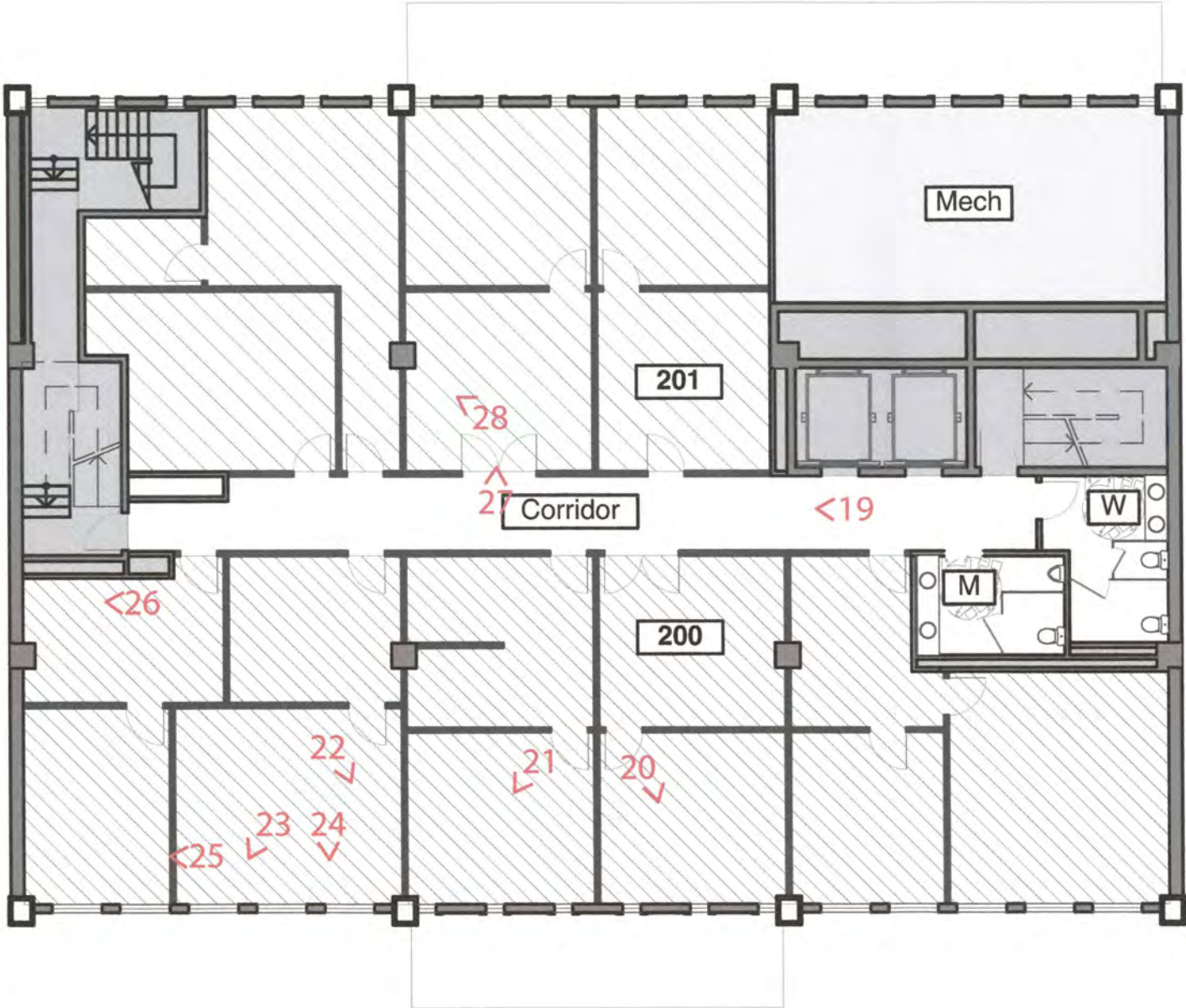


Latitude	Longitude
1. 30.006850	-90.031779
2. 30.006940	-90.031480
3. 30.005841	-90.031029
4. 30.005786	-90.031288

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Exterior and First Floor Sketch Map



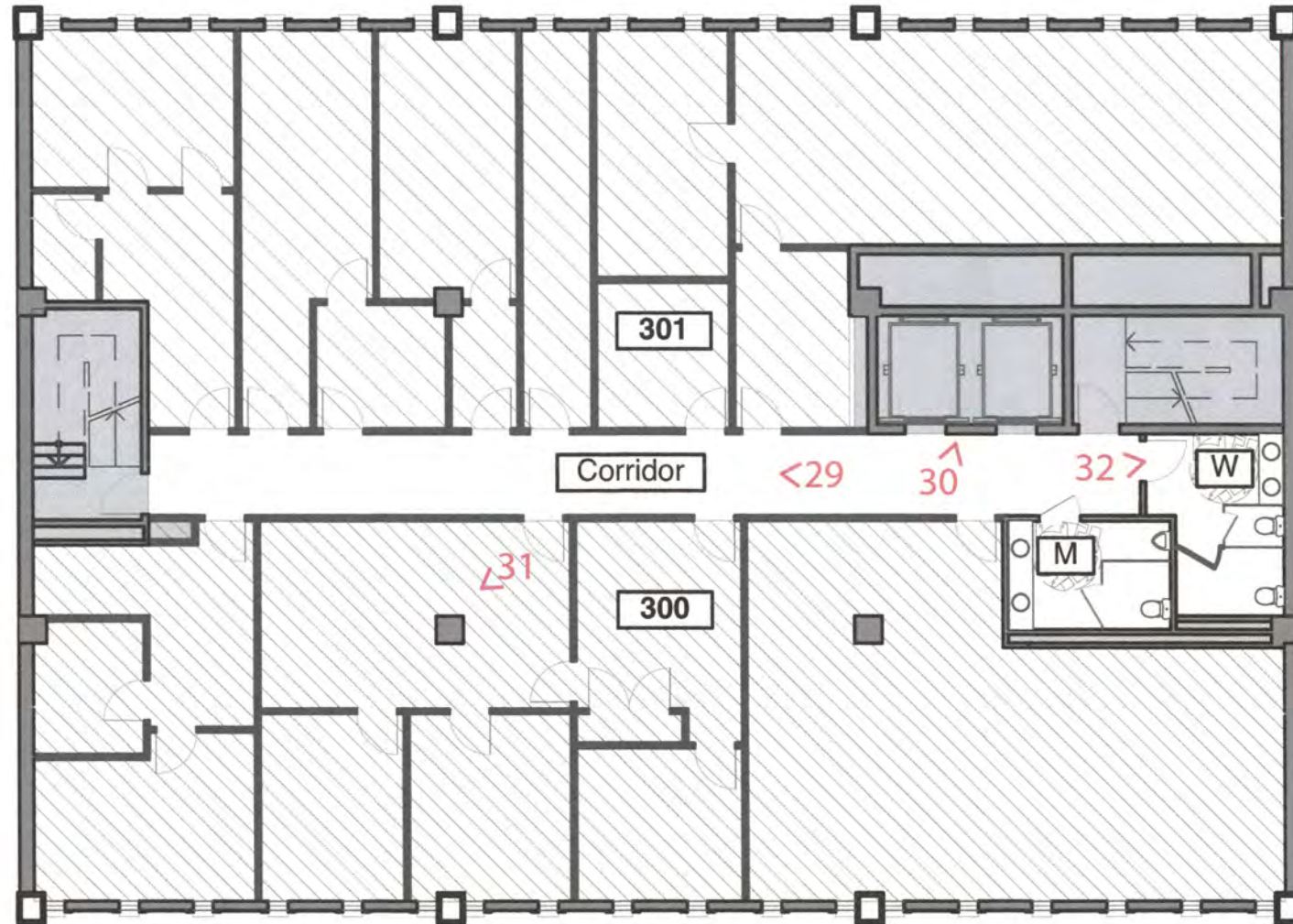
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Second Floor Sketch Map



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

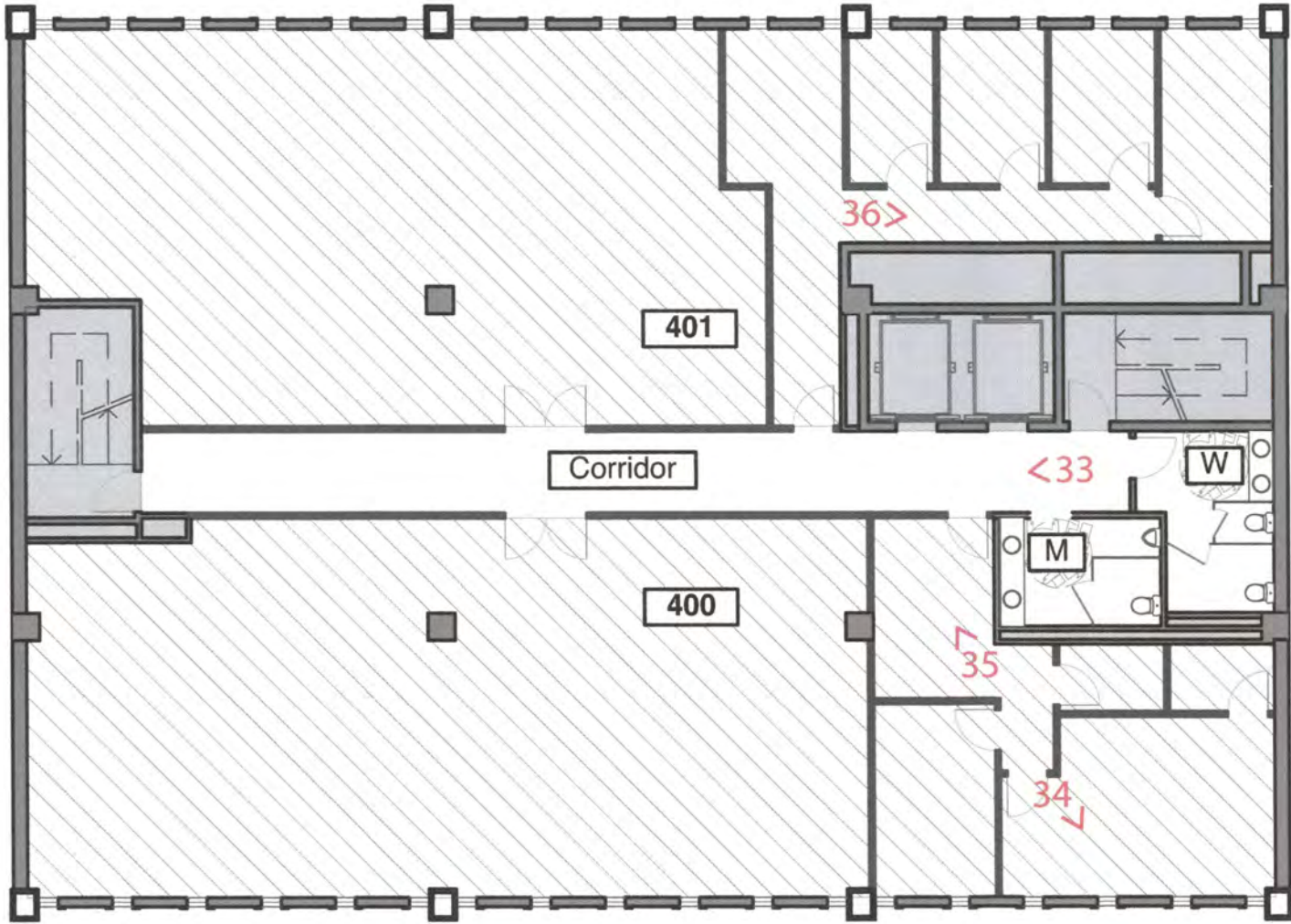
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Third Floor Sketch Map



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

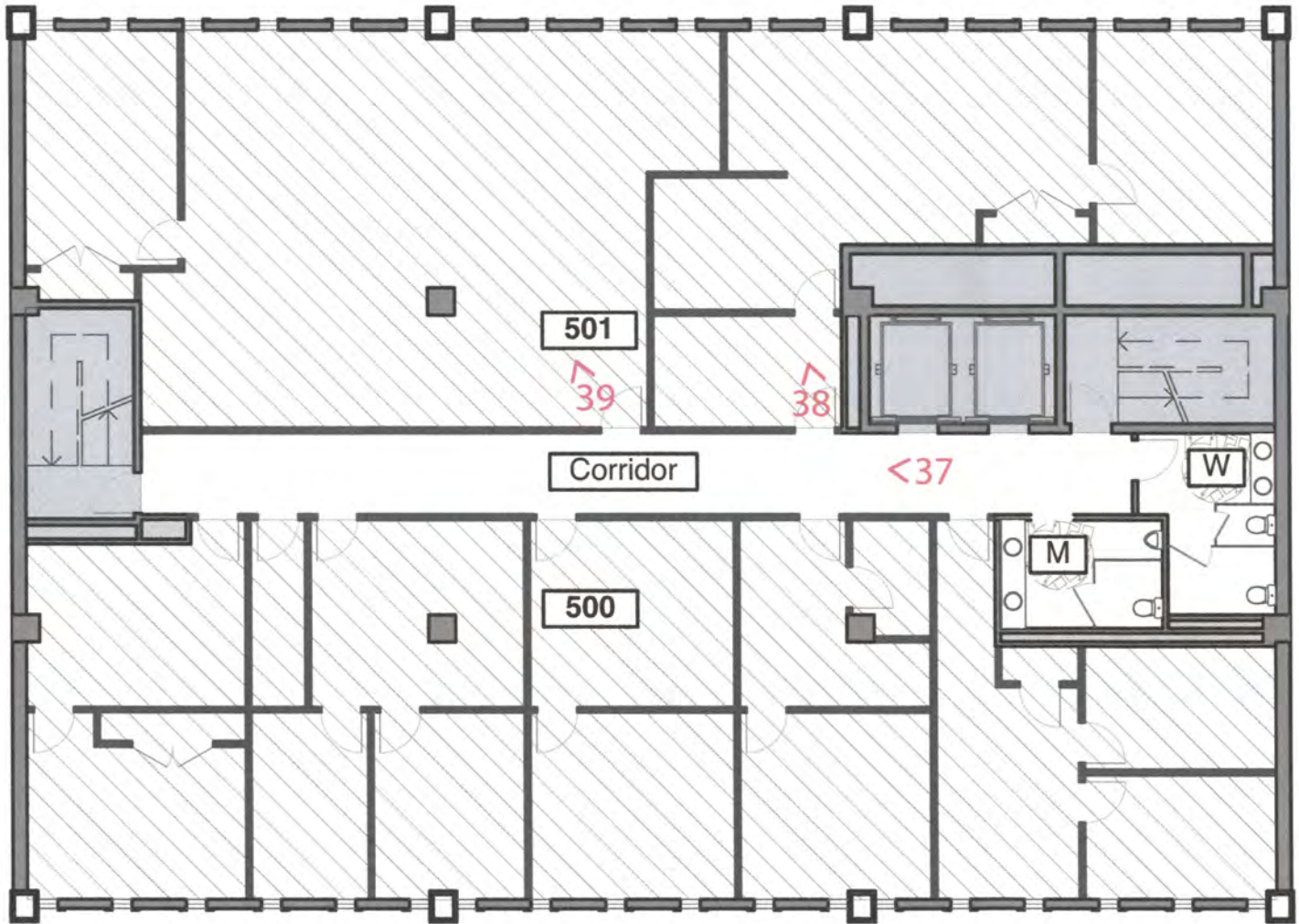
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Fourth Floor Sketch Map



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

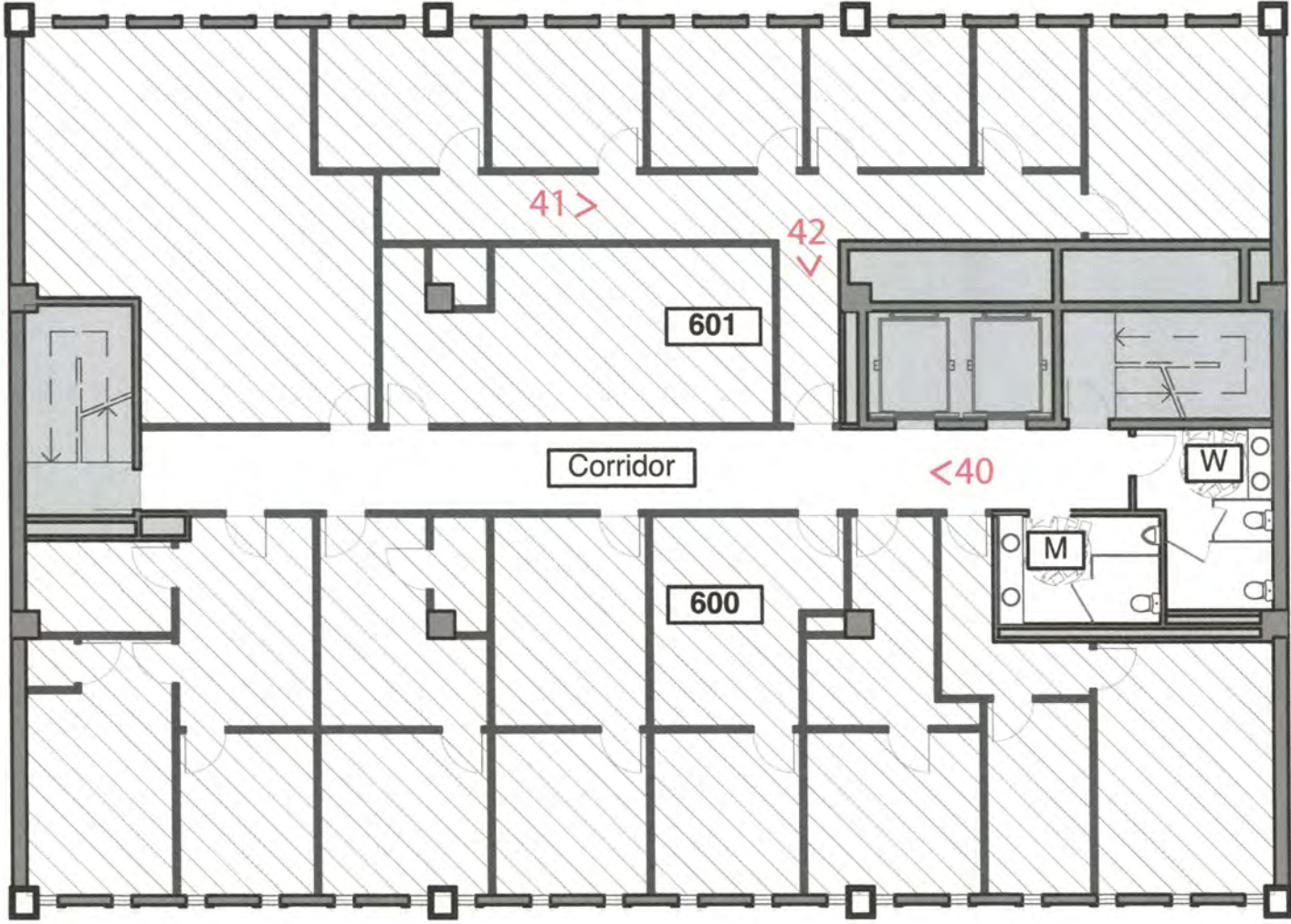
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Fifth Floor Sketch Map



FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

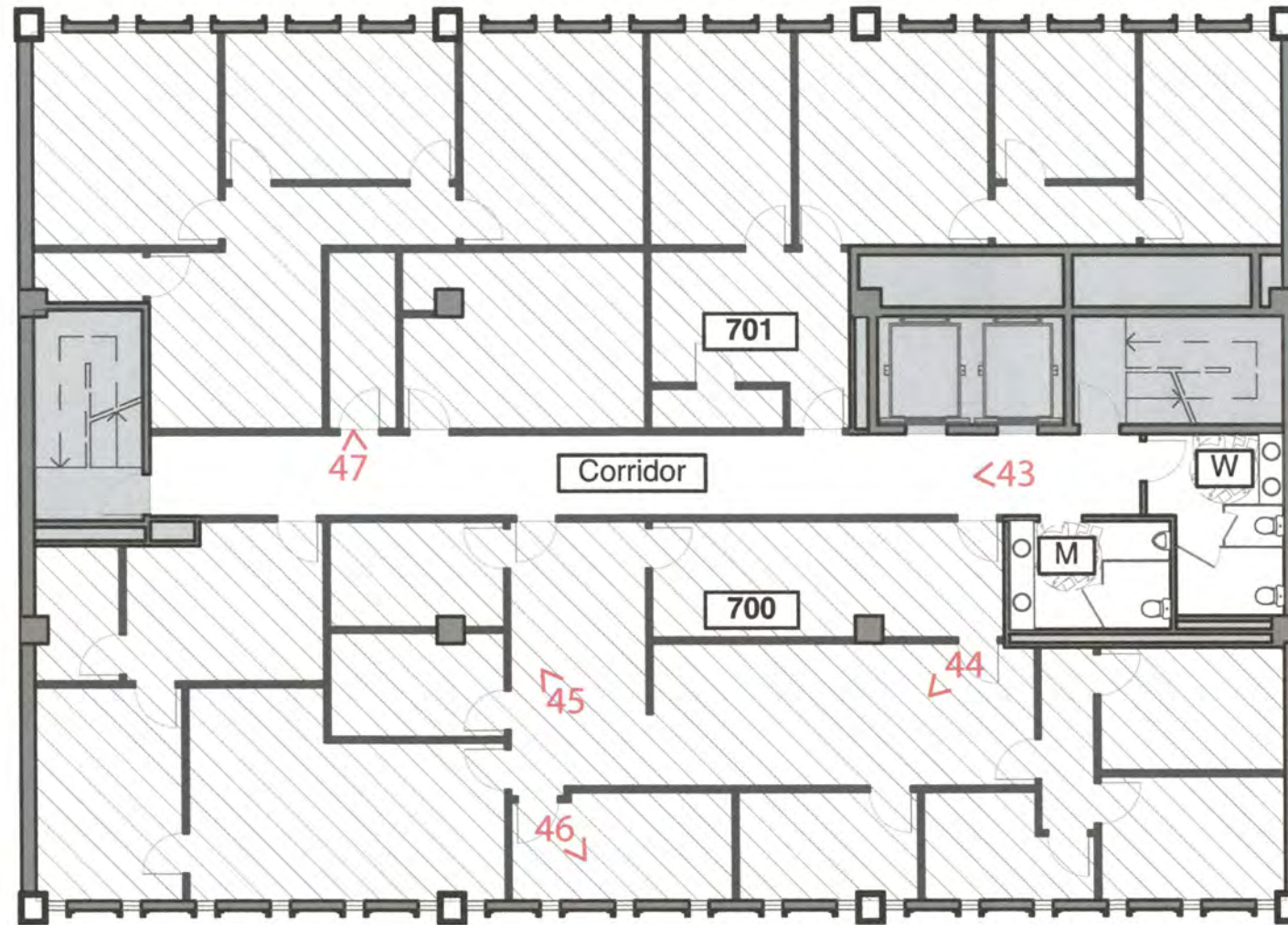
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Sixth Floor Sketch Map



SIXTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

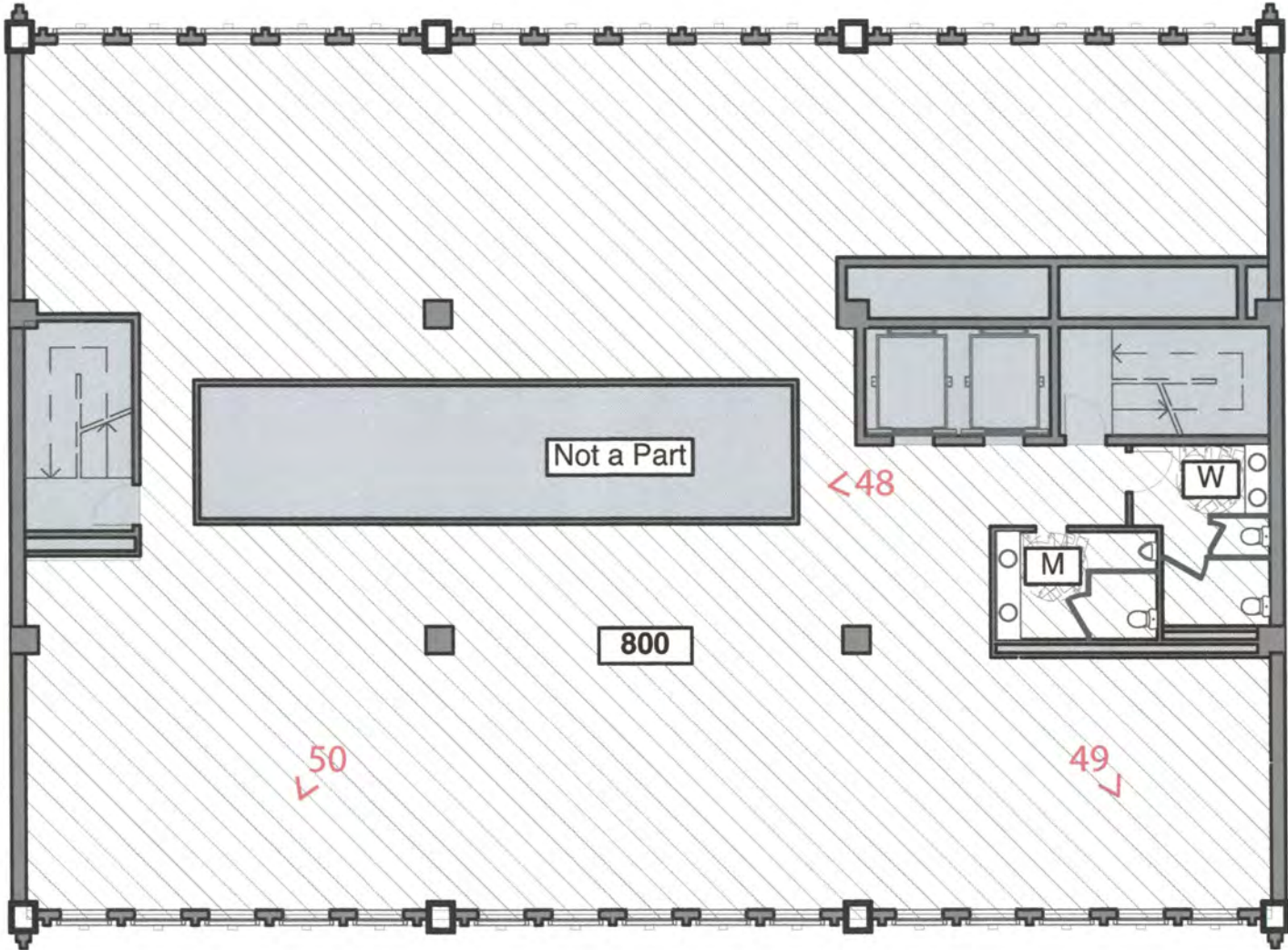
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Seventh Floor Sketch Map



SEVENTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

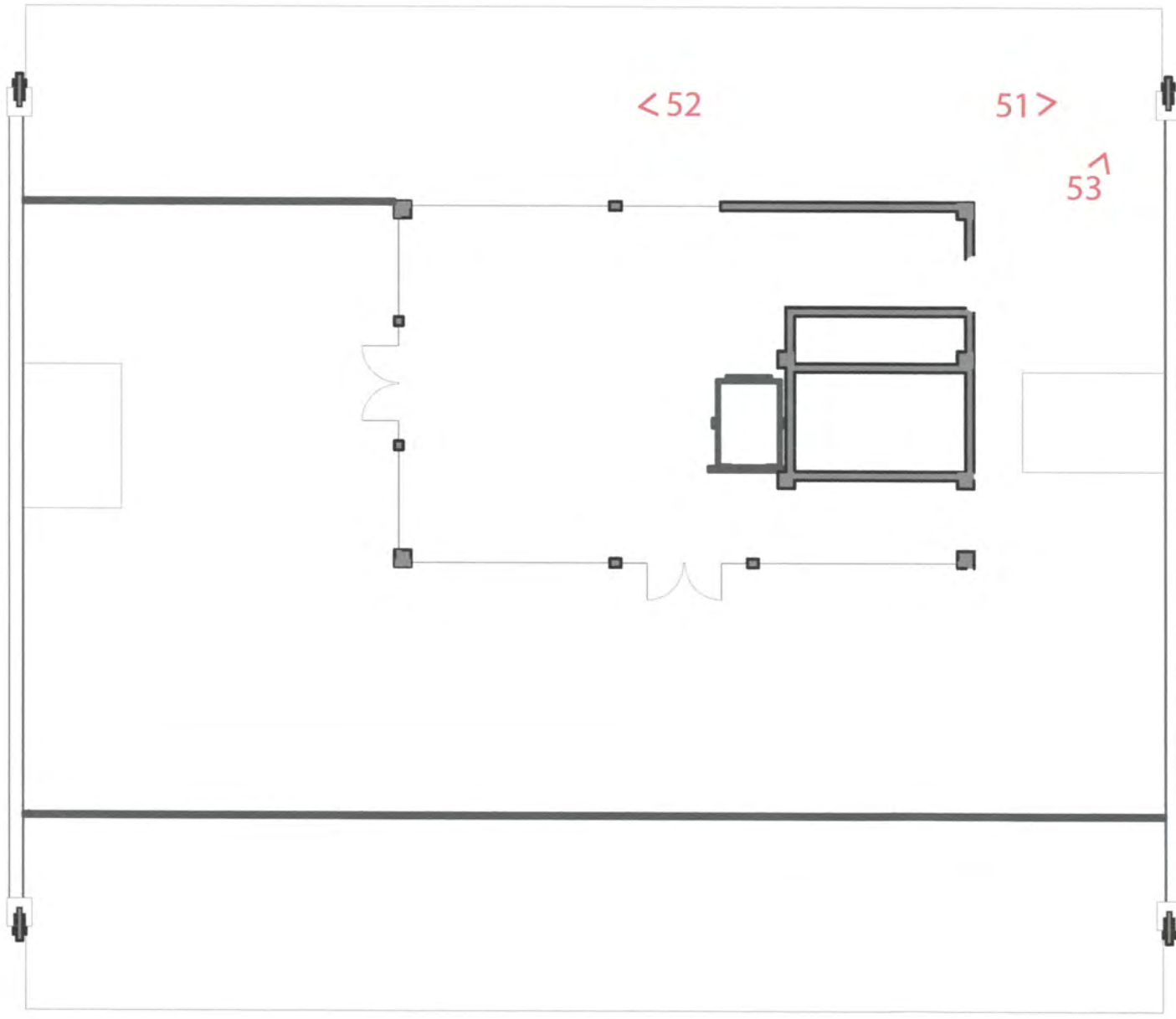
New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Eighth Floor Sketch Map



EIGHTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Orleans Parish, LA
Ninth Floor Sketch Map



NINTH FLOOR PLAN

1/16" = 1'-0"

[Faint handwritten notes in the bottom left corner, including the word 'Sketch' and some illegible scribbles.]



Text **ER** to **23000**
ER Wait Times
Tulane

MOTEL





Orleans
EL

WEEKLY RATE
MOONCY

ONE WAY

NEW ORLEANS FEDERAL





1000

1000

8



39

NEW ORLEANS FEDERAL



I AM ENGAGED

• PLEDGE TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR ALL CHILDREN •

I PLEDGE to ask my child
about his or her day at school.

WWW.GETENGAGEDNOA.COM







WARNING
SECURE
SUPERIOR
ALARM
SERVICES
1-800-444-8288

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ESLIC
Emergency Services & Lock Services Center

100

WIDE
WHEELS



NEKRO

100













MAIL CHUTE CO.

LETTERS











CAUTION
CAUTION
CAUTION
CAUTION









202











WOMEN

AND THE MRS.
PLEASE RETURN AFTER
THANKS













INVENTORY
ASAD
LOAN





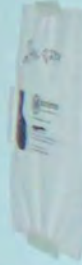








04
19-04
llama
6-10-04
Vandy
Mental Health Unit
1) Ronald Neas
2) Special Officer Ned Rice
3) Goble Bigger
4) Queen Queen
5) Metcalf Bigger
6) Latoya Cole
7) Patrick Williams









712

NOTARY

NOTARY

NO SMOKING IN HERE















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Orleans

DATE RECEIVED: 5/01/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/29/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/15/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/16/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000346

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA 902

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 6/16/15

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.



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



April 27, 2015

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan, Orleans Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica 

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tif format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- 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:

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
 Other Names/Site Number: n/a
 Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

2. Location

Street & Number: 4948 Chef Menteur Highway
 City or town: New Orleans State: LA County: Orleans
 Not for Publication: Vicinity:

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, 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 state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Pam Breaux 4-22-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

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**

New Orleans Federal Savings & Loan Building
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the 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: _____

for [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

6/16/15
Date of Action

5. Classification

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce/Trade – Financial Institution and Office Building

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Vacant/Not in Use