

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

For NPS use only

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

received 1985
date entered MAY 9 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Neville High School

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 600 Forsythe Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Monroe N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Ouachita Parish code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Monroe City Schools

street & number P. O. Box 4180

city, town Monroe N/A vicinity of state LA 71201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ouachita Parish Courthouse

street & number 300 St. John P. O. Box 1862

city, town Monroe state LA 71201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Neville High School (1931) is a three and four story brick Modernistic building located in a park-like setting in suburban Monroe. The only noteworthy alteration is a 1950's gymnasium addition.

The school has a more or less symmetrical plan with a dominant four story central pavilion, three story wings, and three story end pavilions. There is also a rear auditorium wing which is appended to the west side. Each wing has a central hallway and each pavilion has a staircase.

Although Neville is essentially a horizontal building, the following factors give it an almost strident verticality:

- (1) The exterior is articulated with massive piers which terminate above the parapet line.
- (2) The main pavilion features compound piers which step back boldly to encompass the top story.
- (3) Although the main pavilion is only one story higher than the rest of the building, it projects dramatically above the surrounding flat roofscape. This is due to the extra height given the pavilion by its upper crawl space and its crowning hip roof.
- (4) All of the windows and doors are grouped into vertical shafts by buttress-like projections of brick and by spandrel panels set between the stories.
- (5) Each of the end pavilions features a three story brick panel.

The exterior of Neville is clad with red and black brick with concrete trim cast to resemble limestone. The design makes extensive use of stylized corbelling, both atop the piers and in some of the spandrel panels. This gives the building something of a Mesopotamian look. Other spandrel panels have what appear to be stylized papyrus and lotus flowers in relief. Some panels feature ornamental brickwork--for example, groups of headers in a checkerboard pattern. Major portals of the building are set under two center Gothic arches. The entrances to the auditorium are surmounted by cast circular panels containing bas relief dramatic figures.

The interiors are more or less conventional for a period school building and for the most part are not worthy of note. The three exceptions to this are the main lobby, auditorium, and auditorium lobby. These spaces are elaborately styled with multiple corbelled arches, wide fluted panels, and pointed arches.

Assessment of Integrity:

Since construction the only noteworthy change in the building has been the addition of a gymnasium at the southeast corner. It is set to the rear and does not affect the building's massing along its principal elevation. Moreover, the high school's architecturally significant elements remain intact.

NB: The auditorium fly gallery (at the rear) is not styled and may appear to the casual observer to be a later addition. It is not. (Photos 5 and 7)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1931 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Merl L. Padgett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C (named for Ernest Long Neville, school superintendent)

Neville High School is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an outstanding example of Modernistic architecture within the context of northeastern Louisiana. (This region includes the parishes of Lincoln, Union, Jackson, Caldwell, Franklin, Richland, Catahoula, Concordia, Tensas, Madison, Ouachita, Morehouse, and East and West Carroll.)

The International Style made virtually no impact in northeastern Louisiana until the 1950's. Hence during the late 1920's and the 1930's, the Modernistic style, exemplified by Neville High School, represented the most advanced taste in the region. Although there is no survey to give exact figures, most towns of any size in the area contain examples of the style. They run the gamut from vaguely Modernistic commercial buildings with their hesitant touches of decorative brick or tile to courthouses and large institutional buildings.

Neville High School is conspicuous among this group for three reasons:

- (1) It is one of the very largest examples of the style in the area. This factor, together with its symmetrical front and park-like setting, almost gives Neville the bearing of a Modernistic Versailles.
- (2) Unlike most examples which depend for their effect upon a few select details, Neville features a range of adornment which embraces every aspect of the exterior.
- (3) Neville is rare in that its Modernistic styling includes the use of dramatic massing. Most other examples depend upon ornamentation alone.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch submitted by applicant. Copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 8 acres

Quadrangle name Monroe North, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	8	2	1	0	0	3	5	9	18	4	15	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to encompass the school and its park-like setting. They cut closely behind the school in order to exclude less than fifty year old ancillary buildings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNERS

Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date January 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804


12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

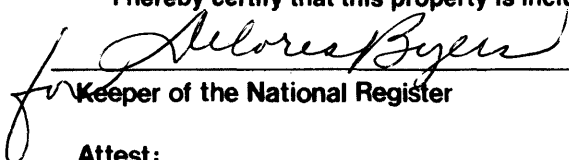


Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 28, 1985

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

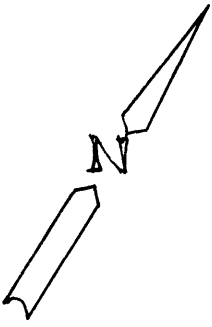
Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



NEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (MONROE)
OUACHITA PARISH
LA.

(NOT TO SCALE)

FURSYTHE ST.

6TH ST.

8TH ST.

