

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

1. Name

historic Old Post Office

and/or common Baton Rouge City Club

2. Location

street & number 355 North Boulevard _____ not for publication

city, town Baton Rouge _____ vicinity of congressional district 6th - Henson Moore

state Louisiana code 022 county East Baton Rouge code 033

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: City Club

4. Owner of Property

name City of Baton Rouge

street & number City Hall

city, town Baton Rouge _____ vicinity of state Louisiana 70821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Baton Rouge _____ state Louisiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge _____ state Louisiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Post Office is set on North Boulevard near the center of downtown Baton Rouge. Although the building faces a narrow neutral zone park, it has in all other respects a completely urban setting.

The building is three stories high with a plan which has been reworked over the years. The only major interior space which remains intact is the old courtroom upstairs with its two-story coffered ceiling and round arch windows.

The building is constructed of heavy masonry with buff Baltimore brick and terra cotta facing. The exterior is articulated in a manner which was inspired by the northern Italian Renaissance in its later phase.

The ground floor forms a base for the second-story piano nobile. The third story is set within the massive frieze of the building. The central portion of the piano nobile is lighted by a set of five arched windows in which the common impost blocks rest directly upon the slender Corinthian columns. The building is entered via a five-bay Ionic portico with massive corner posts and a heavy parapet. It is surmounted by an elaborate terra cotta balustrade with urns and a central cartouche. The exterior design is extensively ornamented with terra cotta brinCADE.

Recently a rear wing was added but this addition has not affected the main views of the building.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria A & C

The Old Post Office is one of the finest and most pretentious examples of turn-of-the-century Renaissance Revival architecture in the state. Few other comparable buildings in Louisiana can boast such a high degree of stylistic sophistication and close adherence to Italian prototypes and such extensive use of terra cotta ornamentation. In its day, its design stood at the forefront of architectural development in the state. It represented a divergence from the loosely imitative, and over done eclecticism of the Victorian period and the introduction of an architecture based upon the imitation of this or that particular historical style.

The Old Post Office is also of significance in the area of politics/government since it was an important government building in the city for many years. It served as the post office from its construction in 1895 until 1933, when it became the city hall. It remained the city hall until 1956. Since 1957 the building has been used as the City Club.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Downtown Landmark," Baton Rouge State-Times, 3 January 1964.
 Heck, Robert W., Historic Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge: Community Renewal Program, 1970.
 "Study of Sites Recalls Other P. O. Locations," Baton Rouge State-Times, 6 September 1962.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1/6 acre

Quadrangle name _____ .16

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

1	5	6	7	4	0	9	0	3	3	6	9	5	3	0
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
 (See attached sketch map.)

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

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mayor Woody Dumas

organization City of Baton Rouge date November 1979

street & number City Hall telephone _____

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 70821

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/1/80

For NCRS use only

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