

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Tallulah High School
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 603 Bayou Drive

NA
NA

 not for publication
city or town Tallulah vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71282

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ national ___ statewide X local

Pam Breaux 7-24-13
Signature of certifying official Pam Breaux Date

State Historic Preservation Officer Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Title 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

Tallulah High School
 Name of Property

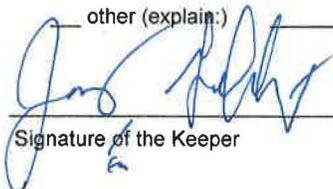
Madison Parish, LA
 County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

other (explain:)


 Signature of the Keeper

9/10/2013
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete

walls: Brick, concrete

roof: asphalt

other:

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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The imposing two story Classical Revival building (1927) that formerly housed the Tallulah High School occupies a park-like setting facing Brushy Bayou on the southern end of town. Tallulah is the seat of Madison Parish, located in the Mississippi delta of northeastern Louisiana. The building is finished in brick and accented with white trim. (The brick is of varying colors, with red being predominant.) The former high school has been vacant for years, resulting in deterioration and some losses. Nonetheless, it still readily conveys its architectural identity and National Register eligibility under Criterion C.

Narrative Description

Overall Composition and Character:

The following will describe the building as a whole, identifying architectural features common to all elevations. Each elevation will then be addressed, identifying features peculiar to that elevation.

The hipped roof school building has the Baroque five-part articulation common to school buildings of the period. (It was in the Baroque period that architects achieved a formula for articulating quite wide classical buildings.) The façade walls advance and recede to mark projecting end pavilions and a grand projecting pedimented entrance portico. The end pavilions also protrude beyond the main building mass on the rear elevation. At the center of the rear elevation is a long auditorium/classroom wing (yielding an overall T footprint).

There is a full entablature with modillions on all elevations. Windows are mainly six-over-six and mainly appear in groups (in twos, threes, fours, and fives). A cast concrete band (in contrasting white) encircles the building under the second story windows. Each window on the ground story features a contrasting cast concrete sill. The ground story windows are boarded over, but most survive behind the boards.

Façade:

A short flight of steps flanked by wing walls leads to a grand, centrally placed, three-bay portico -- the focus of the five-part façade. (The central bay is slightly wider than the other

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two.) The portico features a well-proportioned pediment outlined by modillions and a fully developed entablature. At the center of the tympanum are applied letters (the initials for the school). The columns, of the Tuscan Order, are particularly well-detailed. Each features a torus, abacus, astragal, and neck. The two at the center feature a plinth. Pilasters (one partially missing) are of the Corinthian order. The entrance features a heavily molded pediment. Below is a transom (broken due to vandalism) with a fanlight design in the glass. The entrance itself is boarded over. (The doors survive behind the boards.)

End Pavilions, Side Elevations:

The distinguishing feature of the northern side elevation (end pavilion) is a well-detailed and well-proportioned entrance with a broken pediment (urn at the center); fluted pilasters with astragals and molded capitals; and an entablature featuring molded panels. Double doors with a multi-pane transom also survive. (The window within each door is boarded over at present.)

The southern side elevation did not have a comparably styled doorway. The plain functional entrance is marked by a brick arcaded colonnade that led to an earlier school on the site (as shown on a 1938 Sanborn Insurance Company Map). (The earlier school is no longer extant.)

Rear Elevation:

The only features peculiar to the rear elevation are a tall smokestack at the end of the auditorium wing and two tall multi-pane windows marking staircase locations. There is a plain functional entrance below each of these windows.

Interior:

The floorplan is typical of period schools. The main hallway spans the width of the building, with classrooms on either side. It is accessed by a fairly shallow entrance hall. There are classrooms accessed by a central hall on the second story of the rear wing (above the first floor auditorium).

The interiors are functional, with modest detailing. Hallways feature a wooden baseboard and chair-rail (both dark stained). Wooden paneled doors with operable multi-light transoms above access classrooms. There are also various operable transom-like windows high on classroom walls to provide additional ventilation. Walls and ceilings are finished in plaster, except for various classrooms with pressed metal ceilings. A simple functional staircase is

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located at each side of the auditorium wing (as marked on the rear elevation by the above noted tall multi-pane windows). Classrooms retain their original wood blackboard frames.

Alterations/Assessment of Integrity:

As noted previously, the school has been abandoned for years, and has suffered from vandalism and general neglect. Most notably, ground floor openings are boarded over. The arcade at the southern end is broken off (which occurred when the earlier building referenced above was demolished). Various walkways with metal roofing have been attached to the high school, as shown in the accompanying photos. They lead to non-contributing buildings at the rear and side that are not being included in this nomination.

Despite the above, the former Tallulah High School retains all of the National Register's seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association). Most importantly, the building retains all of those architectural features that make it a notable Classical Revival landmark within the community (with the small exception of one of the pilaster capitals).

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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.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

J. W. Smith (architect)

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.
- N/A Criteria Considerations not applicable

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is the date of construction: 1927.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) NA

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

The former Tallulah High School Building is locally significant under Criterion C: (Design and Construction) in the area of architecture as an important example of the Classical Revival style within the parish seat of Tallulah, Madison Parish, Louisiana. It is important primarily because it is a well-executed Classical Revival building and secondarily because it is a particularly grand example of that style within the community. The period of significance is the date of construction: 1927.

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

Historical Background:

Tallulah is the seat of a decidedly rural parish in the rich delta lands of northeastern Louisiana. Madison Parish was created in 1838, and Tallulah dates its founding to 1857. By the 1880s, the small community was at the juncture of two railroads. In 1882 parish voters transferred the parish seat from Delta to Tallulah. Agriculture and timber harvesting formed the backbone of the economy. The town's population in 1890 was 847. In 1930, Madison Parish's total population was 14,829; Tallulah's 3,332.

The Classical Revival Style:

The architectural world has long looked to classical antiquity for inspiration. Surely the most famed instance was the Italian Renaissance, when architects rediscovered the classical world and reinvented it in cities such as Florence. In the mid-eighteenth century English architects discovered Ancient Greece and gave us the Greek Revival.

A renewed interest in classical motifs came in the United States in the last years of the nineteenth century, blossoming in the early twentieth century. It is generally agreed that the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held in Chicago, played a huge role in reviving classicism (in contrast to what some might call the architectural excesses of the Victorian Age). Dubbed the "White City," the fair featured monumental and imposing Roman style classical buildings, in white plaster, set in a vast and verdant landscape of parks, lagoon and grand avenues.

The very earliest phase of this revived classicism is the Beaux-Arts style, taking its cue from the grand buildings of the Exposition. Appearing closely on its heels was a more chaste,

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less theatrical interpretation, the Classical Revival style. The Classical Revival style was an immensely popular style for commercial and institutional buildings in the United States from c.1905 through the 1920s and beyond. As the decades passed, it generally became more and more restrained. In the Deep South, it remained popular into the post-World War II years (reminding Southerners of white-columned antebellum mansions). And it remained a model for federal buildings into the modern era as well.

The Classical Revival style is first and foremost a formal and symmetrical style. Its buildings are often termed grand and imposing. The most important (character-defining) element of the style is the column in its various orders. Huge white columns appear in stately pedimented porticoes and in grand colonnades. Other Classical Revival features include pilasters, modillion cornices (often outlining a pediment), and pedimented doorways. While arches are seen, openings are more often than not square head.

Local Architectural Context:

While Tallulah has never been comprehensively surveyed for historic structures, the staff of the LA SHPO in the late 1980s conducted a windshield survey for purposes of preparing National Register nominations under Criterion C. While the community has a long history, its historic building stock has been diminished by floods and other factors. The windshield survey at that time estimated some 150, 50+ year old buildings, almost all of which were plain folk bungalows, nondescript cottages, Colonial Revival cottages or plain commercial buildings. There are also a handful of generic Queen Anne Revival cottages.

As confirmed in fieldwork for this nomination, easily the most notable exceptions to the foregoing generally modest patrimony are six major examples of the Classical Revival taste, dating from the 1920s through the post-World War II years. Five boast grand pedimented porticos: the candidate, the parish courthouse (National Register), the First Baptist Church, the First Methodist Church, and the Tallulah Men's Club Building (National Register). The sixth, the former post office, features a handsome columnar façade.

All of the six are of roughly comparable architectural quality and deserve to be considered for the National Register. Two are already listed individually under Criterion C, and the candidate, the post office, and the First Baptist Church appear to be individually eligible under Criterion C. (The First Methodist Church is of comparable architectural quality, but some would argue that it is not eligible due to an integrity issue. The present steeple appears to be an addition, and it is not in proportion to the original pedimented portico, being much slighter in visual weight.)

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These landmarks might have been called in their day “Southern Colonial” – i.e., the white columned look of some of the old plantation houses still extant in the region. Clearly this was the style of choice for major institutional buildings in the community (per above). The tenacity of this beloved architectural icon can be seen in the Madison Parish Courthouse, built in 1939, when the modern Art Deco look was the vogue for government buildings in the state, and in the 1950 First Baptist Church, built when modernism was indeed triumphant for commercial and institutional buildings.

The former Tallulah High school is an important local architectural landmark because it is a well-executed example of the Classical Revival style, with a correctly proportioned and well-detailed pedimented portico, two entrance doors with pediments, and an encircling modillion cornice. Additionally, it is a particularly grand architectural landmark in the community due to its five-part articulation, climaxing in a monumental portico.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Maps, Tallulah, 1938, 1944.

Tallulah High School cornerstone.

Windshield surveys of Tallulah, Louisiana by consultants and National Register staff.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- Not applicable – no previous documentation on file

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ NA _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.3 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	15	670000	3586660	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Boundary appears as a broken line on the attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource and its front lawn (part of its historic setting) while excluding non-contributing buildings on the former school campus.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jonathan and Donna Fricker

organization Fricker Historic Preservation Services, LLC date February 2013

street & number 6016 North Shore Dr. telephone 225-246-7901

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70817

e-mail jonathanfricker@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Tallulah High School

City or Vicinity: Tallulah

County: Madison Parish **State:** LA

Photographer: Donna Fricker

Date Photographed: 5/31/2012

Location of Digital Images: LA SHPO

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 8
Camera facing north
Façade

Photo 2 of 8
Camera facing west, northwest
Façade portico

Photo 3 of 8
Camera facing west
Side elevation entrance

Photo 4 of 8
Camera facing south, southeast
Rear view

Photo 5 of 8
Camera facing east
Rear view

Photo 6 of 8
Camera facing north, northwest
Side elevation

Photo 7 of 8
Sample interior

Photo 8 of 8
Sample interior

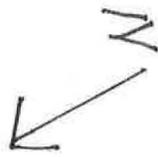
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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 18 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.

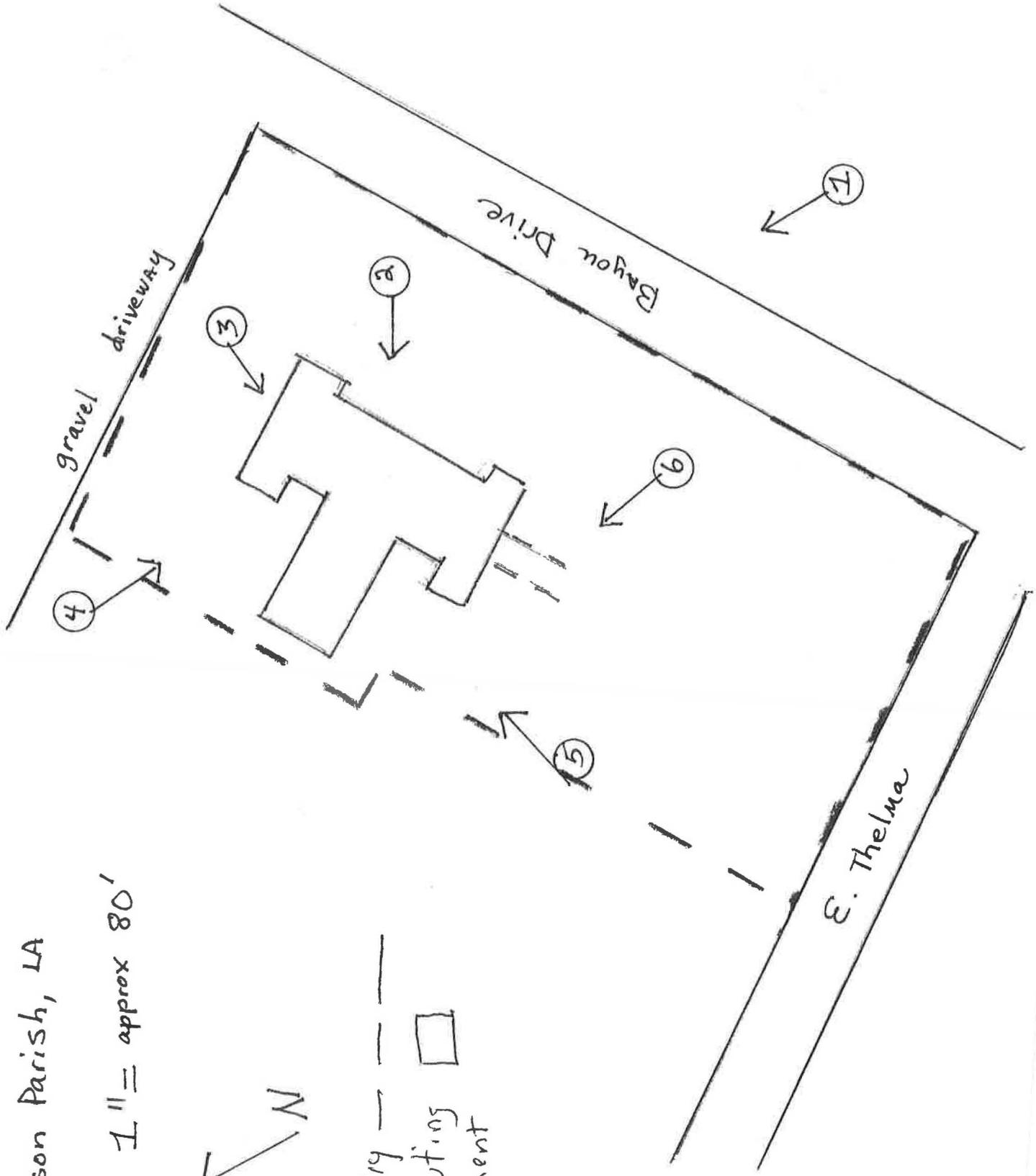
Tallulah High School

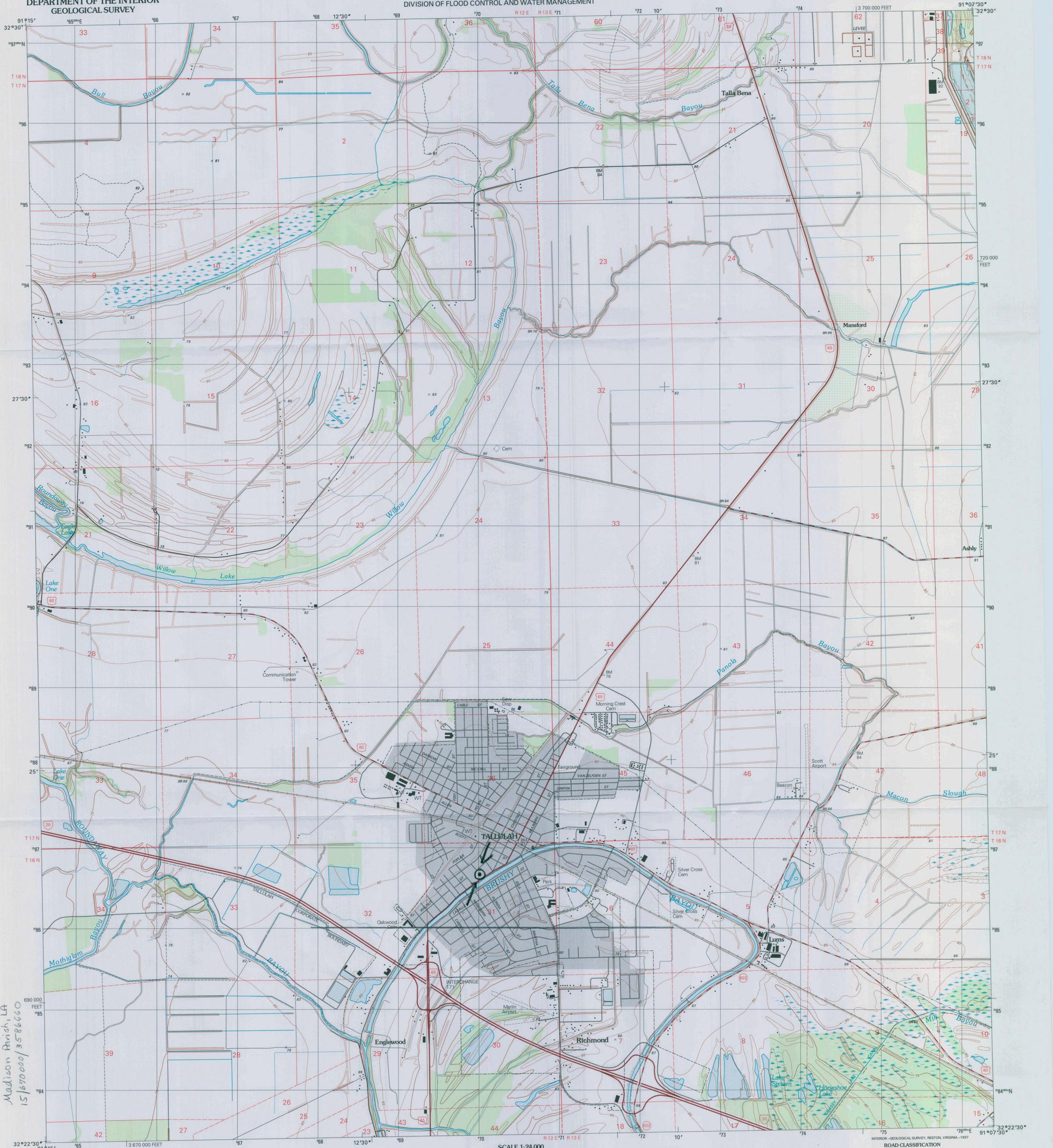
Madison Parish, LA

Scale 1" = approx 80'



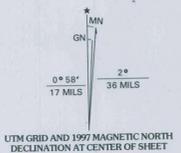
Boundary — — — — —
Contributing Element □





Tallulah High School
Madison Parish, LA
15/670000/35-86660

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Louisiana agencies
Topography compiled 1962. Planimetry derived from imagery
taken 1954-56. Public Land Survey System and survey control
current as of 1963. Contours that conflict with updated major
features are dashed.
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and
1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
10 000-foot ticks: Louisiana Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
Survey NADCON software.



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



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

1	2	3	1 Panther Lake
4	5	6	2 Soundelmer
7	8	9	3 Eagle Bend
			4 Tensel
			5 Ashly
			6 Waverly SE
			7 Fortune Park
			8 Mound

TALLULAH, LA
1994

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



DMA 77481 NW-SERIES V885



HTS













111

STOP
NO ENTRY
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tallulah High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Madison

DATE RECEIVED: 7/26/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/16/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/03/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/11/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000693

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



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

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 25, 2013

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

FROM: Patricia Duncan, Architectural Historian, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation *Pat Duncan*

RE: Tallulah High School, Madison Parish, LA

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

PD/pld

Enclosures:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- NA Multiple Property Nomination form
- 1 CD with electronic images and digital copy of nomination
- CD with digital copy of nomination
- 8 Photograph(s)
- 1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s)
- 0 Location/Latitude-Longitude Maps
- 1 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- 0 Piece(s) of correspondence
- 0 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: