

STATE: <b>Louisiana</b>
COUNTY: <b>Orleans</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Gallier Hall**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**New Orleans City Hall**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**545 St. Charles Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**2**

STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **071** COUNTY: **Orleans** CODE: **071**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**The City of New Orleans**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1300 Perdido**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE:  
**Louisiana**

CODE:  
**22**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Conveyance Office, Civil Courts Building, Orleans Parish**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**421 Loyola Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE:  
**Louisiana**

CODE:  
**22**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Division of Prints and Photographs**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Library of Congress**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**11**

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COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

James Gallier, Sr., before coming to America, was employed for 2 years by Sir William Wilkins and, before coming to New Orleans, was associated briefly with Minard Lafever. He was thoroughly familiar with Greek Revival composition and detail and inventive enough to use those forms in original ways. In designing the headquarters for the Second Municipality (which before its completion and dedication in 1853 had become the New Orleans City Hall), he had ample resources to support his talent; construction costs totaled \$342,000. Even so, only the portico and its facade were built of marble and granite; contrary to the original intent, it is predominantly brick, plastered and scored to resemble stone.

The dipteral hexastyle portico was designed to omit the two central columns in the inner row. Its Ionic order and the great entrance portal are modeled after the Erechtheum but the long flight of granite steps and tall column bases are Roman in inspiration. The cyma of the pediment cornice has an anthemion band and the acroteria are crisply molded. Robert A. Launitz was the sculptor of the tympanum figures representing Liberty, Justice and Commerce. Stelai ornament the parapet on the long sides of the building.

A central hall runs the length of each of the three floors; a central cross hall is entered at the basement level from Lafayette Street and is the location of the interior stairs. Much of the interior elegance was a casualty of overcrowding when the municipal bureaucracy had outgrown the space; the third-story lyceum was subdivided more than 100 years ago. However, the present ceremonial and exhibition use of the building is permitting restoration of the grand interiors. Unfortunately, Gallier's intent is not necessarily considered in the selection of colors and fittings. It is appropriate that the removal of city government to new quarters has permitted the renaming of the building as Gallier Hall.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1845-50**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Among the major achievements of the Greek Revival in America, Gallier Hall is the finest remaining work from the architectural career of James Gallier, Sr., (1798-1866). It was constructed by builder Robert Seaton between 1845 and 1850. Built when dissension had created a tripartite government for New Orleans, it was designed as headquarters for the Second Municipality or American sector. The city's government was reunified in 1852, before the building was finally dedicated as the City Hall, on May 10, 1853. Since the completion of a new City Hall, the building, now used for ceremonial events, exhibitions, and a few municipal offices, has been named Gallier Hall to honor its architect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	29°	56'	47"	90°	04'	17"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.5 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Paul Goeldner, architect, Historic Sites Survey**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys,  
National Park Service**      DATE: **1/7/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street NW.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **District of Columbia**      CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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