

PP-1037-10

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
June 19, 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
New Orleans Tourist Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Bank of Louisiana *use this*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
334 Royal Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
1st

STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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:  
City of New Orleans, Hon. Moon Landrieu, Mayor

STREET AND NUMBER:  
City Hall

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:  
Loyola Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Orleans

STATE:  
Louisiana

CODE:  
22

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Vieux Carre Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Tulane University Library

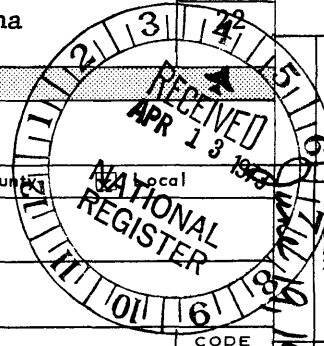
STREET AND NUMBER:  
St. Charles Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Orleans,

STATE:  
Louisiana

CODE:  
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: June 19, 1973

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

The building is of brick masonry construction, two stories in height, its exterior walls coated with smooth, painted, cement stucco. Along the two street facades are a series of engaged columns extending through the full height of the building and supporting a classic cornice. This once supported a balustrade behind which was a hipped roof. Only the pedestals of the balustrade now exist, but it is intended to restore the entire railing with its wood balusters. The present Doric column capitals are "Ionic." Ionic pilasters are found on the interior. Large, double hung windows of thirty-two lights on the first floor and 24 lights on the second floor are centered between the columns. Arched entrances open in the center of each of the two street facades. A similar rear entrance had been closed by a 20th century, one-story structure across the back of the building and has been removed. A one-story entrance porch was added to the Royal Street facade and extensive alterations on the interior were made after serious fire damage occurred in 1863. A large banking room originally extended up through the full two-story height of the building. Four large columns similar to those of the exterior, supported the roof but these were removed when the roof was rebuilt with a clear span after the 1863 fire. Room for the bank's offices were at the Conti Street end of the first floor and at both ends of the second floor; the two vaults were at the rear of the first floor separated by a corridor leading to the stairway. A narrow balcony surrounded the banking room and connected the front and rear rooms of the second story. The second floor was eventually extended over the former banking room, After a second fire in 1931 some further alterations were made by the American Legion which then occupied the building. A fine iron fence and gates encloses the property along Conti and Royal Streets.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. 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) 1827

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input 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 checked="" 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

The Bank of Louisiana was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature approved April 7, 1824. On March 28, 1825, the new financial institution purchased the present site at the corner of Royal and Conti Streets before the notary, Hughes Lavergne from N. N. Desrehan. In April 1826 the bank advertised for proposals to build a banking house for which a plan by an unidentified architect had been adopted. The contract was awarded to Bickle, Hamlet and Fox who completed the building the following year. The iron gates, based on the design of those of Lansdowne House, London, and the fence were made by the Sterling Company of New York and erected in 1827. On February 9, 1863 the building was seriously damaged by fire but was repaired, James Gallier, Jr. being the architect. The bank continued to operate until it became bankrupt about 1868. The building was then used as the State Capitol, the Legislature opening its session there on January 4, 1869. In December 1870 it became the "Royal Street Auctioneer's Exchange". In 1873 it was being used as a concert-beer house, known as Flynn's Varieties, and was sold by order of the bankruptcy court to the city of New Orleans. In 1874 the city remodelled it for the use of the Superior Criminal Court. In 1879 it became the Mortgage Office until that office was moved to the new Courthouse across Conti Street about 1911. In 1912 the building was to be converted to a Juvenile Court, and in 1921 the city leased it to the American Legion. On January 14, 1931 the building was again seriously damaged by fire but was restored in its present form for the American Legion, which continued to occupy it until 1970 when the city was able to terminate the lease and turn the building over to the Tourist Commission which now has restored and remodelled it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

L. Moreau Lislet - Digeste General des Actes de La Legislature de La Louisiana. New Orleans, 1828, pp. 81-104.  
 Gibson - Guide and Director of Louisiana, New Orleans and Lafayette. New Orleans, 1838, p. 340.  
 Gibson - Historical Epitome of the State of Louisiana - New Orleans, 1840, p. 323.  
 B. M. Norman - New Orleans and Environs - New Orleans, 1845, p. 155.  
 New Orleans Crescent, Jan. 5, 1869 = The New State House.  
 New Orleans Republican, Dec. 23, 1870 - Royal Street Exchange.  
 New Orleans Republican, May 21, 1874 - The New Court Building.  
 New Orleans Times-Picayune, Mar. 2, 1921 - New Home Provided for American Legion.

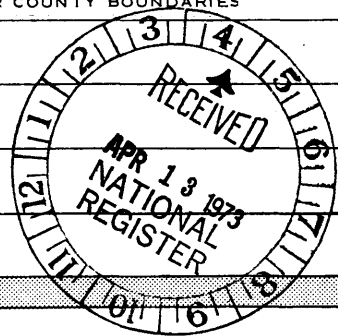
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		29°	57'	18½"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	4'	0½"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
15/783100  
3317340

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1  
 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS CD

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Samuel Wilson, Jr., Architect**

ORGANIZATION: **Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission** DATE: **June 7, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**400 Royal Street - Suite 203**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name: Jay N. Barr  
 Title: Director, Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation

Date: March 9, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Wiley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:  
Wm. J. Neuley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 8 73