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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.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: 1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
Other Names/Site Number: Jack F. Rowley Courthouse
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location


Street & Number: 1101 W. St. Bernard Hwy.
City or town: Chalmette State: LA County: St. Bernard Parish
Not for Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets, 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D


Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date:** 12/7/2018
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
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**

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the 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: _____

James Salter

1.31.2019

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): GOVERNMENT/Courthouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): GOVERNMENT/Courthouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Modern Movement: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation: Granite

Walls: Concrete with limestone veneer

Roof: Other: Tar and gravel

Other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Since its completion in 1939, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse has been an important landmark in the city of Chalmette as the seat of the St. Bernard Parish Courts in southeast Louisiana. This sturdy, linear, four-story reinforced concrete building is a perfect example of Depression-era, restrained Art Deco. It is the only remaining Art Deco building in the Parish of St. Bernard. Built under President Franklin Roosevelt's Public Works Administration (PWA) by a highly respected and prolific architectural firm Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth of New Orleans, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse retains many original features on both the exterior and interior. Overall, it has retained a high degree of architectural integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The property consists of an irregularly shaped city block bounded by the four-lane St Bernard Hwy, Pakenham Dr., Court Square - previously named Calvo Street - and Jackson Blvd. In front of the Courthouse is a large grassy lawn shaded with arbitrarily planted oak trees. Less than a mile east of the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery commemorating the Battle of New Orleans of 1812, the courthouse façade is oriented south, looking to the Mississippi river less than half a mile away. The courthouse is located in a mainly residential (working class) mid twentieth-century-neighborhood. Modest twentieth century homes are found west, north, and east of the courthouse. More recently built private residences in the nearest vicinity of the courthouse have been transformed into offices to accommodate courthouse business needs. Today, the courthouse west, east, and north elevations are flanked by parking lots. Immediately behind the courthouse, to its northwest, is a recently completed contemporary building housing the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's department.

There was an earlier courthouse in the parish built in 1915. In 2005, that courthouse building and the jail building behind it incurred extensive damages due to Hurricane Katrina. The jail building, which had been deemed outdated, was demolished in 2011, and a new building was erected against the older courthouse's northern façade. As for the 1939 courthouse historic building, it was meticulously restored following Hurricane Katrina, with a majority of its original architectural elements salvaged and preserved. The 1939 courthouse still stands today, with the same fortitude and purpose, as the judicial center of St. Bernard parish and has fully preserved its functional integrity. It has been the judicial center of the parish for nearly a century.

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Exterior

Courthouse façade (Southern elevation)

The southern facade has a tripartite composition. Its main pavilion measures an imposing one hundred feet in width¹. It is three stories tall, perfectly symmetrical, and flanked by two slightly recessed lower wings. The wings are recessed six feet² from the central pavilion. The hyphen wings are also three stories high but stand slightly lower than the main pavilion. This artfully crafted composition creates visual contrast and interest to the physical appearance of what would otherwise be a weighty and severe structure. The entire building is clad with a smooth buff colored limestone veneer. The subtle and warm tone contributes to the softening of its imposing architectural composition (photo 1).

A monumental white granite staircase with a blasted finish³ spans the width of the central pavilion and leads to the courthouse lobby. The landing on the fifth step was widened to add stateliness to the courthouse entrance's approach (photo 2). The steps are bounded on each side with wide stone cheek walls (photo 3). The top of each cheek wall has a delicately carved ornamental band (photo 4).

The central façade features massive reeded pilasters, five feet wide⁴ and rising three stories high to a wide entablature (photo 5). These colossal pilasters are flanked on each side by recessed vertical bays measuring nine feet wide⁵ (photo 6). The three central recessed bays are composed of double doors to the first floor lobby with tall opaque reeded glass windows above (photo 7). The two outer recessed sections feature large windows at their bases (photos 8). On the exterior, the tall vertical cast⁶ aluminum windows, with aluminum sash and mullions, sit above the entrance double doors separated by a modestly ornamented cast aluminum spandrel. Each spandrel feature four (4) small stars (photo 9). In 2014 after the passing of District Attorney Jack F. Rowley, the Chalmette Courthouse was renamed in his honor. Jack F. Rowley had served the parish for fifty-one years, first as sheriff then as district attorney for thirty-five years. His name appears above the central entrance double door of the courthouse.⁷

The windows with obscure glass, display ornamental hinged continuous cast aluminum grilles, wire brushed in a satin finish (photo 10). The grilles are highly ornamental, with a stylized representation of Lady Justice alternating with magnolia flowers. Every ornamental choice is deliberately selected; the magnolia flower is the State flower of Louisiana (photos 11, 12, 13). They typify the Art Deco style with their artistic representation and elevate the entire façade by their delicate and feminine composition. As with the choice of limestone color, once again the architects have chosen to offset the masculinity of the structure with the femininity of the grilles' details.

The central pavilion is otherwise sparingly ornamented. A narrow band of hand chiseled foliate and fruit patterned (local Satsuma oranges) stone openwork, measuring 2'-4" wide⁸ runs vertically in the center of the wall between the left and right outer edge and the recessed section of the central building (photo 14,15). This

¹ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, sheet No. 1, First Floor Plan.

² Ibid.

³ SEAA, Specifications for Courthouse and Jail Building, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, Set No. 13, Granite specification: #243, p.63.

⁴ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, sheet No. 4, Exterior Elevations.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ SEAA, Specifications for Courthouse and Jail Building, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, Set No. 13, Grille Specifications: #369, p.78.

⁷ News Staff, "Courthouse Named After Former DA Jack Rowley", *The St. Bernard Voice*, June 24, 2016, www.thestbernardvoice.com; Richard Thompson, "St. Bernard District Attorney Jack Rowley dies at 83, John 'Jack' Rowley, 83, was top prosecutor for 35 years", *The New Orleans Advocate*, Nov. 9, 2014. wwwtheadvocate.com

⁸ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries-SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, Sheet No. 4, Exterior Elevations.

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stone grille garland, by interrupting a large expanse of limestone and by its verticality, casts a feeling of lightness and softness to the overall structure. The architects' deliberate choice to carve fruits abundant in the area express their attention to detail and their focus on creating a building that represents and serves the citizens of St Bernard Parish.

An ornamental belt course creates a transition between the central section's wide entablature and the reeded pilasters and recessed window bays of the pavilion's façade. It is a low relief stone band with lotus and papyrus leaf motifs, popular Egyptian-inspired Art Deco designs (photos 16, 17). Above this, inscribed in metal letters on the tall entablature, is:

ST. BERNARD PARISH COURTHOUSE

On the left and right of the central section of the entablature, perfectly aligned above each of the foliate and fruit openwork garland are two large low relief stone hand carved squares. The bas-relief on the left of the entablature features a fisherman with his catch (photo 18). The bas-relief on the right describes a man collecting his harvest (photo 19). These two bas-reliefs illustrate the great natural and agricultural resources the parish survived on in the 1930s and their iconography typify the Art Deco Style.

The central section's roof is flat with tar and gravel and its short parapet is resting on a simply carved limestone banding (photo 20).

The wings flanking the main pavilion measure thirty-four feet wide and seventy-eight feet deep⁹. The east and west wings of the central pavilion are slightly recessed and lower in height. The height difference between the pavilion and side wings creates the setbacks characteristic of the Art Deco style. Perfectly symmetrical, each wing features nine one over one windows arranged in three vertical bands with three windows per floor (photo 1). On each floor the windows measure four feet wide but differ slightly in height: On the first floor, the windows are 8'-10" tall, on the second floor 6'-4" tall and 6'-10" tall on the third floor¹⁰. While barely noticeable when facing the building, the difference in the window heights reflects the ceiling height differences between floors (photo 3). The steel sash windows are slightly recessed in vertical bays three stories high and one window wide. Devoid of a windowsill, the windows feature delicately carved 4'-2" tall limestone spandrels (photo 21). The double ogee linear carving is centered and runs vertically, adding to the linear visual effect of the façade.

Each wing features a belt course devoid of ornamentation. It is running jointly with the main pavilion's belt course (photo 22).

Each wing is topped with a flat roof and ornamented with a simply carved parapet simulating crenellation. On the western corner of the southern façade a limestone carved plaque reads (photo 23):

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HARLD L. ICKES
ADMINISTRATOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ST. BERNARD PARISH COURT HOUSE

1939

Above it, another plaque was installed in 2013 after the completion of repairs, alterations, and historic

⁹ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, sheet No. 1, First Floor Plan.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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restorations done to the 34th District Courthouse (photo 24).

Courthouse Western and Eastern Elevations

The western and eastern elevations of the courthouse are identical (photos 25, 26). The windows on the southern façade of each wing are duplicated on the western and eastern elevations. On each floor, the windows feature various heights, as did the windows on the wings' southern façade. Whereas the windows on the wings' southern facades were symmetrical, they are stacked differently on the western and eastern elevations. The windows number six per floor with the central four grouped closer together and the two outside windows are located in slightly recessed bands matching those on the facade (photos 25, 26). Because the spandrels are only found under these windows, they give the illusion of a column on each side of the elevation and add verticality to its entirety.

Another building cornerstone is located on the south corner of the southwest wing's façade and reads (photo 27):

LOUIS A. MERAUX M.D.
Sheriff 1924-1938 Died Oct. 6, 1938

POLICE JURY

THOMAS E. DELACROIX
PRESIDENT
LOUIS E. DELACROIX
ROLAND BERGERON
ALBERT STANDER

CHARLES MURPHY
VICE PRESIDENT
VALENTINE RIESS
EDWIN FOUDEIAT
WILLIAM STANDER JR.

CELESTINE F. ROWLEY
SHERIFF
WEISS DREYFOUS & SEIFERTH
ARCHITECTS
R.P. FARNWORTH & CO INC.
CONTRACTORS

Slightly to the left of the building cornerstone, on the southern corner of the western façade, is the 1939 Standpipe fire department connection (photo 28). A similar connection is also located on the southern corner of the east wing.

Alterations Summary

In 2011, the jail building with its attached covered walkways located behind the courthouse (northern elevation) was demolished and a new building complex was erected against the Courthouse northern elevation.¹¹ Built on the jail-building site, the newly added building complex does not protrude from or alter the overall appearance of the original structure from the front. Two stair towers were also added to the original courthouse building to bring the building to code (photo 29). The new addition in its entirety is devoid of decorative elements. The only decorative architectural feature is a plain belt course extending from the one found on the 1939 building. It is a subtle way to express continuity between both old and new. The recently added building is sheathed with white stucco (photo 30). Due to differences in finishes, both buildings stand out from one another while being complementary visually and functionally.

¹¹ Buildings aerial view (obtained from Google earth) "Buildings location" PDF file attached to nomination documentation.

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The new complex is home to the assessor's office, the public defender's office, and various sheriff personnel. Holding cells are also on the premises, where up to thirty-five prisoners can wait for their court appearances.

The 44,000 square foot restored Courthouse, with its 1939 Historic building and the newly constructed dependencies against its northern flank (photos 30, 31, 32) and the recently constructed Sheriff's department building a few feet back (photo 33) are part of a concise Law enforcement triangle for St. Bernard parish.

Interior

Lobby

Today the layout of the 1939 building remains perfectly suited for its use as a courthouse. Some modifications to the original floor plans were made over the years to accommodate for changing needs, but the overall classic design has kept its original functional integrity. When entering the courthouse through the double glass and cast iron doors, one is astounded by the grand scale of the two story lobby (photo 34). This expansive and light filled room is the epicenter of the courthouse building. It is a capacious space, with soaring ceilings and a second floor balcony connected by two sensuously sweeping stairways with stainless steel rails (photo 35).

Its scale conveys an immediate sense of quiet strength and solemnity. The interior architectural ornamentations, typical of the Art Deco architectural style, are sparse but tastefully displayed. The floor consists of large fields of cream-colored terrazzo tiles (3'x3'square), interrupted sparingly with brown and corral colored narrow terrazzo bands creating a pleasing geometrical pattern (photo 36).

These colored bands are strategically place to lead the visitors to the administrative departments of the building such as the Clerk of Court's office (photo 37). This striking geometric floor design has been elevated by the addition of thin 1/8" dividing strips of white metal alloy. This choice of material elevates the design, provides additional visual interest, and is typical of the Art Deco period. New and innovative materials are used ingeniously throughout, joggling masterly in this case between metal and stone, forgiving and inflexible, to create a subtle and innovative floor pattern.

The first floor walls are tastefully adorned with a marble base and clad with a 3'-6" marble wainscoting with bevel edge and high polish finish. The marble features light shades of grey with cream undertones and dark grey veining. Great attention has been given to the matching of the wainscoting marble slabs. Large pieces have been uniformly joined with continuity of pattern in mind. The same care was given to the dark brown marble door surrounds found on the lobby northern façade. Three glass-pane wooden double doors lead to offices and a courtroom (photo 38). On the lobby's western and eastern elevations, the entrances of hallway portals leading to the western and eastern wings of the main building are enhanced by a wide brown marble surrounds. The dark marble color has been judiciously selected to stand out and direct the visitor's to the main arteries of the building (photo 38).

Above the marble wainscoting of the lobby's first floor, the walls are clad with artistically scored horsehair plaster.¹² The same horsehair plaster can be found throughout the courthouse spaces. The plastered walls feature a subdued vertical ornamental ribbed design used at large intervals and running vertically (photos 39, 40). This plaster ornamental detail runs into a plaster crown molding with chevron pattern (photo 39). Throughout, the plaster walls are painted in a soft shade of cream. During the building restoration undertaken in 2011, when plaster repair was necessary, great care with given to replicate the plaster exactly as it had been built originally. The plaster content was tested in a laboratory and duly replicated.¹³ The use of acoustical tiles on the lobby's two-story high ceiling allows for conversations to be carried intimately and reminds us of the building's main function. On the first floor, under the upper balcony, the ceiling is composed of suspended plaster to unify the space.

¹² St. Bernard Parish Courthouse Restoration, St. Bernard Parish, LA, Projects, Historic, Landis Construction Co., www.landisllc.com.

¹³ Ibid.

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The second floor mezzanine is accessible via two stairways. Softly rising following a curvilinear motion, each stairway appears to effortlessly soar as each gray colored marble stringer, tread and riser appears weightless (photo 40). At the base of each stairway is a steel newel post adorned with a multi spiral stainless steel form - quintessentially Art Deco (photo 41). From this ornate newel post, a stainless steel and glass balustrade softly bends upwards to the second floor. The balustrade runs the length of the balcony and softly slopes back down to the other stairway (photo 42). The sinuous, sleek and elegant form, a feat of engineering, with bend glass sheets (glass was added during the 2013 restoration¹⁴) and stainless steels rails, exemplifies the PWA Moderne stripped down version of Art Deco.

The stairs and mezzanine's fascia are sheathed with the same soft gray marble utilized for the first floor wainscoting. It is adorned with two carved fluted bands (photo 43). At its center, a streamlined electrical clock, with simple silver metal bars for numbers and silver metal arms, is mounted directly onto the marble and is an integral part of the mezzanine marble fascia (photo 44).

To create continuity between the first and second floor, marble wainscoting with a beveled edge has been applied to the mezzanine walls. Above, the scored plaster walls display the same decorative ribbing as found on the first floor walls. The plaster ribbing starts on the first floor of the lobby above the marble wainscoting and continues onto the mezzanine second floor, perfectly aligned and thus providing continuity between the two levels.

On the mezzanine, the openings leading to the western and eastern wings of the building are framed with a wide band of dark brown marble surround once again leading the visitor by its strong visual appeal (photo 45). The floor features a combination of large cream-colored terrazzo tiles as found on the first floor. Similarly to the first floor design, a narrow band of coral colored terrazzo surrounded by thin alloy strips runs the length of the mezzanine. A contrasting band of brown and coral runs in the opposite direction, centered with the grand entrance to the main courtroom. Once again the floor pattern design is utilitarian as well as decorative. The contrasting terrazzo bands are subtly showing the way (photo 45).

The two stairways and the mezzanine at their center create a striking uniform ensemble illuminated by tall windows with aluminum sash, two story high. They add to the loftiness of the space and allow light to pour in. Aluminum spandrels are simply adorned with silver painted aluminum small stars (photo 46). Through its ribbed glass panes, one can discern the tall outside ornamental window grilles with Lady Justice and magnolia flower motifs (photo 47). On stormy days or at sunset, the soft light of two (2) monumental Art Deco chandeliers subtly illuminates the mezzanine and lobby. Each chandelier, with its streamline metal and glass construction with cylindrical shape, complement the refined, yet sober, ornamentation of this grand lobby interior (photo 47, 48).

Main Courtroom:

Another main feature of the lobby, accessible from the second floor mezzanine, is the grand entrance to the main courtroom. The tall wooden paneled double doors with marble surround are visible upon entry into the first floor lobby (photos 49, 50). The same smooth faced gray marble found on the stairs' steps, and applied as wainscoting on first floor and the mezzanine, has been selected once again. Featuring setbacks on its outer edges, the gray marble door surround is accentuated with fine vertical and horizontal carvings (photos 51, 52). With little surface ornamentation, the disproportionally top heavy entablature is crowned with a reeded carved banding very similar to the one found on the main pavilion parapet (photo 52, 53). Above the tall wooden double doors, inset within the marble entablature, an inscription in silver metal reads:

JUSTICE THROUGH LAW
GUARDIAN OF OUR LIBERTY

¹⁴ Tulane Jones Hall Louisiana Research Collection, Series I Places, Box 1, Folder 11 Chalmette, Collection 1081 Images, Pre-Katrina exterior and interior photos of St. Bernard Courthouse.

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Above, a large brass seal is similarly inset in the center of the marble entablature (photo 53). The seal features an eagle on the left and a pelican on the right; each standing on the opposite arm of the scales of justice, a sun slowly rising on the horizon in the background.

Inscribed around the seal: E Pluribus – Unum – Union – Justice - Confidence - Parish of St. Bernard. “E Pluribus – Unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, is found on the great seal of the United States and is the country’s motto. Not coincidentally, the eagle is the United States national bird and the pelican is the Louisiana state bird. The seal clearly conveys the St Bernard parish court’s commitment to represent and serve under the auspices and laws of the federal and state governments (photo 54).

The subdued Art Deco Style with its geometric ornamentation is also found inside the main courtroom. When opening the massive recessed paneled double doors, one sets foot into a very spacious room (photo 55, 56). The room measures eighty-nine feet long and forty-two feet wide with soaring ceilings, twenty-four feet high.¹⁵ Clad with rich mahogany paneling, the room is at once grand and somber. The room appears as it did when justice was officiated for the first time in 1940. It has retained much of its historical mahogany millwork and original costumed made furnishings. Because of roof damage sustained during hurricane Katrina, the Philippines mahogany veneered wall panels were replicated to historic specifications.¹⁶ The striking vertical hardwood mahogany carvings between panels are the original carvings.

The courtroom flooring is comprised of an intricate pattern of colored rubber tiles (photo 57). Several colors are used strategically to define specific areas and to differentiate from traffic areas. Traffic areas are defined with cream, rust and tan colored tiles whereas solid, dark burgundy rubber tiles define other areas. The tiles were also replicated according to original specifications.

A gray marble baseboard runs the entire circumference of the room. The baseboard follows the sinuous curves of each jury box on the southern and northern elevations as well as the base of the judge’s bench and the bailiff and clerk’s desks (photo 58). The same marble is used as flooring on the judge’s rostrum and in the jury boxes (photo 59).

Above the marble base is an elegant mahogany wainscoting with straight-grained reddish-brown wood grain. The wainscoting wraps around the entire room. A darker stained wood molding is used as visual transition between the wood wainscoting and the large expanse of mahogany riddled panels above. The veneered mahogany panels are interrupted at regular intervals by darker stained wood ribbing that emulates the plaster ribbing of the lobby and mezzanine plaster walls (photo 60). Stretching to the ceiling, a plaster dentil molding serves as transition between the mahogany panel-clad walls and ceiling. The ceiling is dressed with acoustic tiles and adorned by two grand chandeliers that softly lighten the spacious courtroom (photo 61). The two period chandeliers typify the Art Deco style. They were commissioned to adorn this courtroom as indicated by their delicate brass pelican ornamentation, an accolade to the State of Louisiana.

One door opening interrupts the long southern elevation (photo 62). The wooden double paneled doors open to the mezzanine and feature a beautiful wood surround similar in style to the marble surround on the other side. A wooden carved molding crowns the top of a large wooden entablature with a streamlined electrical clock at its center. The clock features simple silver metal bars for numbers with silver metal arms directly mounted onto the wood.

On the western elevation of the courtroom stands the judge’s bench, elevated on a rostrum. The judge’s rostrum is flanked on one side by the witness stand. On the other, a couple steps, with marble treads and

¹⁵ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, sheet No. 24, Revision to Lobby and Courtroom.

¹⁶ Mr. Albert Moliere, architect with ABM - Architects Beazley Moliere - Lafayette, LA. Restoration and addition to the courthouse in 2013. Phone interview; Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970, sheet No. 24, Revision to Lobby and Courtroom.

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risers, lead to an access landing with a door for the judge to exit the courtroom and retire to his or her chambers. In front of the judge's bench are the original built-in bailiff, clerk, and court reporters desks (photo 63). Directly behind the judge's rostrum, on the western wall is a sizeable woodcarving of an aspirational Lady Justice, with her finger pointing at the Book of Law. Scales are carved above Lady Justice's right shoulder, representing steadiness, law, and justice (photo 64). This woodcarving is attributed to the artist Enrique Alferez (1901-1999) who was commissioned to execute two carvings for the newly constructed courthouse.¹⁷ Born in Mexico, Enrique Alferez arrived in New Orleans in 1929. His work with the Tulane University's Middle America Research Institute led him to become a permanent member of the New Orleans Art Community. He acquired numerous public art commissions and directed the Work Progress Administration's sculpture program.¹⁸ He continued to work on many of the WPA funded projects with the Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth Architectural firm.

The western elevation features a total of four doors, all but one opening to a vestibule (photo 63). One door is not functional but was necessary so that perfect symmetry could be achieved. Each of the solid wooden doors feature at its center the same ridded vertical carving found on the plaster walls of the lobby, mezzanine and paneled walls of the Courtroom. A fluted carving is found at the top left and right corners of each tall door entablature. The door surrounds are original to the building. The overall door design exemplifies the Streamline Moderne style. The ornamentation is kept to a minimum but the beautiful variations in wood tones found within each door surround create a striking effect. At the center of each of the four entablatures is a different woodcarving, each a different iconic representation of justice. One carving represents a hand holding a Roman oil lamp (photo 65), symbolizing justice being delivered under the hospices of God, lighting the way. Another carving features a chain circle of freedom lost (photo 66). Another is showing an eye surrounded by rays of light and enclosed by a triangle, the eye of God watching over mankind, the eye of providence (photo 67). Lastly, carved laurels symbolizing the victory of justice (photo 68).

To the left and right of the judge's rostrum, on the southern and northern elevation, are the jury boxes. Elevated on two levels each jury box contains the original twelve chairs on square steel bases bolted to the marble floor (photos 59).¹⁹ Each jury box, features vertical wood paneling with a grey marble base. Visual interest is found in the subtle sinuous rounded corner of each jury box and in its rounded top wooden rail, which celebrate the Art Deco style (photo 58, 69).

Similarly designed is the mahogany bar rail which separates the well and attorney's tables from the many rows of benches which offer ample seating for court attendees. The architects commissioned the two attorney's tables and the courtroom benches at the time of construction (photo 70, 71).²⁰ There are twenty-three rows of benches on the northern elevation. At the center of the room, there are twenty-one rows interrupted by an aisle. On the southern elevation, there are a total of nineteen rows, interrupted by the entrance to the courtroom.

Five tall windows flank the northern elevation; each rises from the wall wainscoting to the ceiling plaster dentil molding (photo 72). Two of the windows feature beautiful stained glass portraying parish related events. Inspired by the panoramic drawing of the artist Jean Hyacinthe de Laclotte one stained glass vividly depicts the battle of New Orleans of 1812 and the clash between British soldiers and Americans under the command of General Andrew Jackson (photo 73).²¹ The other large stained glass reveals the journey from the Canary Islands and daily life scenes of the parish first inhabitants, Los Islenos (photo 74). While the stained glass windows were

¹⁷ Mr. William Hyland, historian and Museum Curator Los Islenos Museum, St Bernard, Louisiana, interview October 22, 2016.

¹⁸ E. John Bullard, "Enrique Alferez, His Life", His Work, www.enriquealferez.com

¹⁹ SEAA, Specifications for Furnishings and Equipment for Courthouse and Jail Building (Contract No. 3), Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Plan No. 970-E, Set No. 23, Section I, Wood Work and Furniture for Courtroom, 26.

²⁰ Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth Architects, Court Room Furniture, Plan No. 970, sheet F-2.

²¹ Mr. William Hyland, historian and Museum Curator Los Islenos Museum, St Bernard, Louisiana, interview October 22, 2016.

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installed in 1990, received as gifts from the Bar Association to the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, they complement this historical space beautifully.

The eastern elevation features the rich mahogany panels with carved mahogany wood banding seen on the other walls of the courtroom. At its center, right above the wooden wainscoting, a large framed wood carving of King Solomon is presiding over the room (photos 75, 76). The imposing mahogany carving is the second of two executed by the PWA artist Enrique Alferez for the St. Bernard Courthouse. The choice of subject matter in King Solomon is fitting for a courtroom as it embodies impartiality and wisdom through time. This large carving was installed in the courtroom of the newly completed St Bernard Courthouse, but later was reported to have disappeared. In 1993, the artist created a second carving of King Solomon for the courthouse as a replacement.²²

Assessment of Integrity:

While the 1939 building has undergone restoration due to damage incurred by Hurricane Katrina, the building's architectural integrity has been fully preserved. Because the courthouse restoration was done following the National Park Service's Secretary of the Interior's Standards, the Art Deco style interiors remain as designed in 1939.²³ Great care was taken to preserve as many period architectural elements as possible. The courthouse bathrooms still have the original marble stalls installed in 1939 (photo 77). The original fire hoses, while no longer in use, have been kept in their glass cases, historic witnesses of the past (photo 78). While the courthouse was brought up to current building codes, all systems were installed so as not to change the interior original style interpretation. Period fixtures have been subtly combined with modern electrical, plumbing and ventilation systems. Many of the building's original doors were restored with their original hardware intact. Some of the rooms on the second and third floors have been changed to meet the parish's current needs for a judicial center. For example, the Deputy Chief Justice utilizes a small courtroom in what was once a library on the second floor (photo 79). The interiors have been updated keeping true to the original style. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is a uniquely well-preserved time capsule allowing us to step back into a significant period of American history.

Non-Contributing Resource:

Located in the rear of the courthouse is a freestanding building. This new structure was erected in 2013 along with the courthouse's addition. It houses the sheriff department. The building rests at the northwestern corner of the courthouse property and is a non-contributing building (photo 33).

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.)

X	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.
X	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.

²² "IPSO FACTO...Artist Leaves Legacy at Courthouse", Court Colum, A Newsletter of the Judiciary of the State of Louisiana, Volume 3, No.1, Summer 2000, 8.

²³ St. Bernard Parish Courthouse Restoration, St. Bernard Parish, LA, Projects, Historic, Landis Construction Co., www.landisllc.com

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	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history
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Criteria Considerations:

	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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Architecture, Politics/Government

Period of Significance: Criterion C: 1939; Criterion A: 1939-1968

Significant Dates: 1939

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth

Period of Significance (justification): Under Criterion C, the period of significance is 1939, the year the courthouse was built. Under Criterion A, the period of significance is 1939-1968, encompassing the year the courthouse was built and ending with the 50 year cutoff. The building has continued to be used as a courthouse through the present day.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is significant under Criterion A at the local level under politics/government as it has served as the seat of government for the parish for 90 years. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse was funded by the Public Work Administration (PWA) agency, created in 1933 by President Roosevelt's Administration as part of the New Deal, to provide jobs and stimulate a dismal national economy annihilated by the Great Depression of 1929. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse represents the herculean task of a federal government faced with dire economic challenges in the 1930s. Its construction symbolizes the hopes of a generation struggling immensely but it also speaks of the unity between local and federal governments working in tandem to pull out of a national economic collapse and looking towards a bountiful future. Its relevance as a public and local government building is also notable as it personifies the dedication and resilience of the St. Bernard Parish residents who, while struggling to put food on the table, still had the foresight to embrace the construction of a civic building for the betterment of their parish. Such construction projects had been highly encouraged and supported by the Louisiana Governor Huey P. Long.²⁴ The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is

²⁴ Elected Governor in 1928, Huey P. Long's focus had been on education, economic opportunity, and infrastructure development. Initially Huey P. Long was a staunch supporter of the New Deal program and was a proponent of a massive

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also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding example of Art Deco style within the city of Chalmette and the parish of St. Bernard. It is the only surviving Art Deco structure in the Parish²⁵. The building streamlined appearance and overall subdued design typifies the later Art Deco Style of the 1930s. This architectural style has also been referred to as Streamline Moderne, and PWA Moderne.²⁶

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

St. Bernard Parish Historical Context:

An Act of territorial legislature incorporated St. Bernard Parish in 1807, but its history dates back to 1718. In the late 17th Century as part of French and French Canadian expeditions, a contingent of men were sent to the Americas by the French crown to establish new settlements. From the outset, the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast region were recognized as great communication and transportation routes between the vast territories that spanned from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada and Europe. The city of New Orleans was founded in 1718 and became the seat of government by 1722.

Also in 1718, St. Bernard parish, only a few miles to the east of New Orleans, began its history with the arrival of its first pioneers. Comprised of alluvial lands, ridges, arable lands, swamp lands, and prairie lands, the St. Bernard Parish soil was fertile and offered great opportunities to provide sustenance to farmers and their families. In 1762, the French crown conceded Louisiana to the Spanish crown. Under Spanish rule, the Spanish government awarded land grants to Spanish colonists from the Canary Islands in order to populate Louisiana, increase food production, and defend the region against the British.²⁷ By 1778, the parish experienced the beginning of a large increase in population.

The St. Bernard Parish prairie lands offered cattle grazing fields, the swamplands were a generous source of game and fur bearing animals, and the waters of the gulf provided an abundance of fish and shellfish. The varied landscape of St. Bernard was sprinkled with thriving small farms offering bountiful crops of vegetables. Their harvests were brought to New Orleans: *"the islenos farmers of San Bernardo provided the New Orleans market with the majority of garlic, onions, beans, potatoes, and poultry consumed in the city in the late 18th and early 19th centuries."*²⁸

These newly arrived settlers, known as Los Islenos, participated in the last battle of the war of 1812. They fought alongside Andrew Jackson, farmers and trappers, American Indians, and free men of color. United, they valiantly fought against the British troops who were repelled and defeated on January 8, 1815. The battle was fought on the Chalmette battlefield, less than a mile from where the St. Bernard Courthouse stands today. Following the Civil War, wealthy landowners purchased many of the small farm acreages that flourished into large sugar plantations.

building program in Louisiana. Long was also a close friend of the two most influential St. Bernard community leaders: Dr. Meraux, the sheriff of St. Bernard Parish, and District Attorney Leander Perez. While the Louisiana Governor was assassinated in 1935, his influence on Louisiana was long lasting. Huey P. Long's plan to modernize Louisiana came to fruition and today he is recognized as having championed many of the major construction projects in the state of Louisiana of the time.

²⁵ Mr. William Hyland, historian and Museum Curator Los Islenos Museum, St Bernard, Louisiana, interview October 22, 2016.

²⁶ David Gebhard, "Art Deco and Streamline Moderne Architecture in the United States 1920 to 1949, Modern or Moderne?" in *The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.) 1996.

²⁷ Mrs. A. P. Perrin, "St Bernard Parish, An Historical Sketch" in *New St. Bernard Courthouse Directory*, August 1, 1939. Los Islenos Museum Archives. St. Bernard, Louisiana.

²⁸ Los Islenos, History/ Historia, St. Bernard Islenos, Louisiana Spanish Treasure. www.losislenos.org.history.html

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Trapping and fur trading became a sizeable source of revenue for the St. Bernard parish residents who supplied the clothing industry.²⁹ The close vicinity of New Orleans provided an eager buying clientele. Along with trapping, fishing was a lucrative business that provided seafood to New Orleans during the 1800s and 1900s.³⁰ The hunting spoils were also sold on the New Orleans commercial market providing a large source of income to the St. Bernard parish residents. At the turn of the twentieth century farming was still practiced extensively in the rural areas of the parish. With a newly improved infrastructure, the once remote eastern part of the parish became more accessible to commerce with farther reaching markets.³¹ St. Bernard Parish became the home of the slaughterhouse industry, housing the largest abattoirs in the south. It was also the home of one of the largest sugar refineries in the world. The parish economy was thriving on lucrative industries such as oil, lumber, fishing, fur trapping, and gambling.³²

It is within this historical context that, in October 1929, the Great Depression swept through the country affecting all communities, large and small. The Parish of St. Bernard participated in the Public Works Program (PWA) to promote economic development within the struggling parish. The construction of a new courthouse created needed jobs for the St Bernard Parish resident labor of any trade. Parish residents were to be given preference.³³

In January 1938 the local newspaper, *The St. Bernard Voice*, published the results of an unemployment census taken in St. Bernard parish reflecting the state of the country: "...more unemployed and partly unemployed than expected".³⁴ While stimulating the local economy, the parish was looking forward to a future with an improved judicial center that would benefit the entire community of St. Bernard Parish. Parish officials recognized the need for a better-suited courthouse. In another article, in April 1938, *The St. Bernard Voice* reported that a Grand Jury investigation found the buildings of the existing courthouse unsatisfactory and the jail unsuited for prisoners. Hence, the Grand Jury recommendations were to erect a new parish courthouse and jail.³⁵ The judicial parish seat would move from St. Bernard Village to the city of Chalmette where all branches of judicial government would be under one roof. The new courthouse would be home to the police jury, the school board, and to social security and all government offices.

St. Bernard Parish Courthouses and the 1939 Courthouse

Since its incorporation in 1807, the St. Bernard Parish seat of justice has been held in several locations. From 1807 to 1848, court sessions were held in the tiny community of Violet, southwest of Chalmette. In 1869, the parish seat moved further west, along Bayou Terre aux Boeufs (present day St Bernard). In 1889, under public pressure, the seat was moved once again to the east bank of the Mississippi River. A parcel of land was selected for the erection of a new courthouse. However, lacking the necessary funds the Parish elected to rent buildings but later moved back to the courthouse along Bayou Terre aux Boeufs. A new courthouse was finally erected in 1880 but soon after, in 1884, was destroyed by a fire. The parish judicial seat was returned to its previous location and, in 1915, the parish residents approved a bond issue to build a new courthouse in the

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Mrs. A. P. Perrin, "Plaquemines Parish abounds in richest natural resources", *New St. Bernard Courthouse Directory*, August 1, 1939.
Los Islenos Museum Archives. St. Bernard, Louisiana.

³² Edward John Jr. Appel, "The Free State of New Orleans: Local Law Enforcement and Illegal Gambling in the 1920s" (2010), University of New Orleans Theses and Dissertations, Paper 1242, www.ScholarWorks@UNO

³³ Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, "WPA Collections. Historical Records Survey transcriptions of Louisiana police jury records. St. Bernard parish, 1870-1940" Official Proceedings # 413, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel # 403, August 2nd, 1938.

³⁴ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, "Results of Unemployment census taken in St. Bernard Parish are announced", *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No.2, Saturday January 22, 1938.

³⁵ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, "New Parish Courthouse and Jail, Grand Jury Reports", *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No.14, Saturday April 16, 1938.

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village of St. Bernard. In 1938, the building was deemed unsuited for parochial government business and unanimously the proposition for a new courthouse and jail was accepted.

A resolution was presented and a special election was held in June 1938. A vote was to be put forth to create an ordinance that would allow for the parish *"to incur debt and issue bonds to run forty years with interest at the maximum rate of four per centum per annum in the amount of \$ 445,000.00 to construct a new courthouse, jail together with necessary equipment and furnishings"*.³⁶ A few days later, the local newspaper contained the following headline: *"Bond issue of \$500,000 for Courthouse and Jail – The most important meeting of the Police Jury in a lime was held last Tuesday..."*.³⁷

Bonds were advertised for sale soon after and on July 26, 1938, a contract was entered into with White, Dunbar & Company in New Orleans for the bonds purchase.³⁸ Along with a grant received by the parish from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works in the sum of \$200,454.00, the parish was well on its way to establish a new parish seat in the city of Chalmette.³⁹ The financial commitment by the parish and the taxpayers is worth noting. By voting for a bond issue, the taxpayers agreed to be taxed for many years to pay back the bonds with interest. In the case of the new courthouse with its jail and necessary equipment and furnishings, bonds were to run for 40 years with a four percent interest rate.⁴⁰ St. Bernard Parish property owners were taxed again in 1938, and in 1939, as stated in the records of the minutes of the Police Jury: *"Special Tax of one and half mill, on the dollar, ad valorem, levied for the year 1938, on all property situated within the limits of the parish of St. Bernard to provide for the payment of interest and sinking fund of the bond issue for the construction of courthouse and jail"*.⁴¹

While job creation was a great motivator, it is reasonable to believe that a strong sense of civic duty and community must have also prevailed among parish residents. Influential parish officials also played a part. Residents accepted the extra financial burden in economically challenging times because they depended on the parish courthouse for many local services. The parish courthouse was very much the center of local administration and politics. At the turn of the twentieth century, a courthouse typically housed a district judge, a parish assessor, a clerk of court, the parish coroner, the district attorney, the police jury, and the sheriff department.⁴²

The general anticipation over the new courthouse construction was reflected in articles and ads in the local newspaper during the year of construction and upon its completion. In a full-page ad taken in *The St. Bernard Voice* on December 17, 1938, by the St Bernard Police Jury, the Courthouse is highly celebrated as *"A magnificent Courthouse, which will be the finest in Louisiana, and a modern jail are being erected and will be completed in July."*⁴³ The ad is a call to investors, homebuilders, and business developers with the new courthouse listed among many major infrastructure improvements to attract investment to the parish. One year later, a similar ad by the St Bernard Parish Police Jury announces *"St. Bernard Parish is Anonymous with Improvement"* Once again, the courthouse is listed as a major asset to the Parish: *"The beautiful and*

³⁶ LLMVC, "WPA Collections. Historical Records Survey transcriptions of Louisiana police jury records. St. Bernard parish, 1870-1940" Official Proceedings, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel # 403, May 3rd, 1938.

³⁷ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, "Bond Issue of \$500,000 for Courthouse and Jail", *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No.17, Saturday May 7, 1938.

³⁸ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, "Courthouse bonds are sold by the Police Jury", *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No.29, Saturday July 30, 1938.

³⁹ LLMVC, "WPA Collections. Historical Records Survey transcriptions of Louisiana police jury records. St. Bernard parish, 1870-1940" Official Proceedings 393, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel # 403, July 6, 1938.

⁴⁰ Ibid. Official Proceedings, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel # 403, May 3rd, 1938.

⁴¹ Ibid. Official Proceedings, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel # 403, November 3rd, 1938.

⁴² Carl A. Brasseaux, Glenn R. Conrad and Warren R. Robinson. *The Courthouses of Louisiana* (Lafayette, LA: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1977).

⁴³ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, Full page ad by Police Jury of St. Bernard "yuletide Greetings", *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No. 49, Saturday December 17, 1938.

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commodious new courthouse – a masterpiece in architecture and modern appointments – is a monument to enterprising and progressive spirit.⁴⁴

On March 2, 1940, *The St. Bernard Voice* front page headline read: “New St. Bernard Courthouse now occupied, St. Bernard’s Beautiful and Commodious New Courthouse”. The editorial went on to describe the Courthouse as “*one of the finest and most modern structure of its kind in the United States, which would do justice to a large city*”.⁴⁵

Undoubtedly, the construction of the new courthouse was beneficial to local residents seeking employment. In an advertisement in *the New Orleans Item* newspaper dated October 21, 1939, the St. Bernard Police Jury was soliciting bids for landscape work for the courthouse grounds.⁴⁶ A similar ad ran in the *St Bernard Voice* newspaper on Nov 8, 1939. Bids for furnishings and for Jail equipment also appear in the local newspaper in 1939. The erection of a new courthouse was also a moral lift for residents and a rallying call from local officials to stimulate interest in the parish local economy. One ad invited potential investors to “*come and locate in St. Bernard Parish, the garden spot of Louisiana*”.⁴⁷

After the St. Bernard Courthouse completion in 1939, these complimentary words could be read in the St. Bernard Courthouse Directory on a full ad page taken by the Editor and owner of the local newspaper *The St. Bernard Voice*:

*“The new Courthouse is a beautiful structure, modern and complete in appointments, and a monument to the progressive and constructive spirit of the Parish Administration. It will perpetuate the memory of its sponsor, the late and lamented Dr. Louis A. Meraux. Our hearty congratulations to the Police Jury of the Parish of the St. Bernard.”*⁴⁸

The Art Deco Style

The Art Deco style arose during the first half of the twentieth century. This style was part of a larger group of newly emerging architectural styles called Modern Architecture or Modernist architecture, which became dominant after World War I. These new styles were based on new technologies and scientific progress that were affecting all industries. The Modernist architecture embodied a new era of construction experimentation with a focus on abstract geometric shapes.

The Art Deco movement found its origin in Europe and it derived its name from the Exposition des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. This architectural style was first introduced during the exposition and was the first forward-looking style as it looked to the future for inspiration. The Art Deco style was indeed part of a new architectural movement, which reflected a strong wish to pull away from historical architectural styles that had been highly celebrated during the nineteenth century. Architects wished to celebrate a new era where speed, motion, and entirely new sources of inspirations were contemplated and put to the test with great enthusiasm.

New materials were being utilized in construction such as reinforced concrete, steel, aluminum, glass, and new surface applications were experimented with. Not limited to exterior architectural expression, the Art Deco style

⁴⁴ Ibid. “Season’s Greetings to All, St Bernard Parish is synonymous with improvement”, *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 50 – No. 50, Saturday December 23, 1939.

⁴⁵ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, “New St. Bernard Courthouse Now Occupied”, *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 51 - No. 8, Saturday December 2, 1940.

⁴⁶ The New Orleans Item Newspaper, “Advertisement for Bids P.W.A. Project, LA 1060-F Architects’ Project 970”, October 21, 1939.

⁴⁷ LLMVC, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, Full page ad by Police Jury of St. Bernard “yuletide Greetings”, *St. Bernard Voice*, Vol. 49 - No. 49, Saturday December 17, 1938.

⁴⁸ Mrs. A. P. Perrin, “St Bernard Parish, An Historical Sketch”, *New St. Bernard Courthouse Directory*, August 1, 1939. Los Islenos Museum Archives. St. Bernard, Louisiana.

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was also expressed through the use of materials such as terra cotta, mosaic, lacquer, and inlaid wood. The style offered new options to ornate lavishly the interiors of newly constructed buildings.

The Art Deco Style of the Great Depression

Art Deco designs were very recognizable. Triangular patterns with zigzag motifs, ample application of motifs derived from native flora and fauna or inspired from motifs and symbols found in Native American, pre-Columbian worlds of the Aztecs and Mayans, Egyptian and Babylonian art and architecture typify the Art Deco style.⁴⁹ However, a decade after the advent of this new architectural style, economic changes dramatically affected the society as a whole. These drastic changes trickled down and permeated every layer of society and every industry. The construction industry was certainly not spared and the Art Deco style architecture, which ensued, was very reflective of the arduous times faced by all. The new emerging version of the Art Deco style was referred to as Streamline Moderne, or Art Moderne and was typically seen in the 1930s. In architecture, it manifested itself as an abridged version of the Art Deco style - characterized by the sparse use of architectural ornaments with continued emphasis on abstract geometric shapes and linearity of the architectural ensemble. This version of the Art Deco style of the 1930s was also referred to as PWA Moderne.

The Public Works Administration (PWA)

While PWA Moderne was not an architectural style per se, the architects hired under the PWA work program embraced this stripped down version of the Art Deco style. The Public Works Administration (PWA) was one of several programs devised under the New Deal to bring back jobs and boost local economies. The Great Depression affected many countries around the world. In the United States, it had destroyed the fabric of an industrious nation. By 1933, the unemployment rate was at 25% in the United States and the newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office with a daunting task to find a way to remedy the economical disarray the country was in.⁵⁰ The new administration created public work programs in an attempt to curb the unemployment rate and ease the suffering of millions of people. It was believed that by subsidizing the construction of needed infrastructure and public facilities, local communities throughout the country, large and small, would receive an economic boost. Community development flourished during the 1930s through the construction of a new cultural infrastructure providing long lasting community assets. *"Each dollar spent will not only return many times its value in immediate benefits through the lessening of underemployment and the supply of some community need; it will continue to pay incalculable social dividends to generations of Americans still unborn".*⁵¹

The effects of the PWA on Louisiana courthouses

In all regions of the country, local architects and construction workers as well as local artisans and artists were hired to work on PWA projects. In the state of Louisiana alone, the PWA approved 245 projects, and many of these proposals involved more than one building.⁵² The PWA was especially beneficial to southern communities that, even before the Great Depression, trailed the rest of the country in cultural infrastructure. The cultural infrastructure of the American South was lacking schools, courthouses, and universities. While education in Louisiana was most impacted by the effects of the PWA projects with the construction of many schools and university buildings, new courthouses and jails were the second most popular cultural infrastructures. Within a span of three years, the state of Louisiana built eleven new courthouses and jail buildings.⁵³ The style embraced by the local architects was one of strength and modern aesthetic. Because budgets were limited, they chose new materials but elected a minimalist approach to ornamentation. They

⁴⁹ Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, "Modernism from Europe, Art Deco" in *American Architecture 1607-1976* (Cambridge Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1981), 326.

⁵⁰ Robert D. Leighninger Jr., "How to Respond To a great Depression" in *Building Louisiana: The Legacy of the Public Works Administration* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007), xvii.

⁵¹ Ibid. 11.

⁵² Ibid. xxv.

⁵³ Ibid.109.

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thought it better suited to buildings dedicated to the administration of justice. The streamline version of Art Deco was selected for ten out of the eleven Louisiana courthouses built under the Public Works program.⁵⁴ The Madison Parish Courthouse, built in a Colonial Revival style, looked back to the past for architectural style inspiration.

The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is among the eleven courthouses built under the PWA program to display a simplified form of Art Deco style. With its symmetrical form, simplified pilaster forms without capitals, tall window bays with metal grilles featuring sophisticated art Deco designs, sparse bas reliefs sculptures with a regional flair, and its heavy entablature, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse embodies the Louisiana PWA Moderne architectural style found throughout Louisiana on cultural infrastructure born of the Great Depression.

All of the Louisiana courthouses built under the auspices of the PWA still remain standing today and continue to serve as centers of parish judicial life.⁵⁵ They are valuable testaments to a trying time in American history. They represent the creative efforts of an administration faced with nearly impossible odds and the long lasting success of the PWA program. Created to fight the Great Depression, the construction of the St. Bernard Courthouse has served as the parish judicial center for nearly a century and continues to serve its community today.

The Architects

The New Orleans architectural firm of Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth was commissioned to design the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse. Leon Weiss established the firm in 1912. In 1920, Felix Julius Dreyfous joined the firm, soon to be followed in 1923 by a third partner Solis Seiferth. The firm had a very diverse portfolio, designing private as well as public architecture, small and grand in scale. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse was the only courthouse the architectural firm designed.⁵⁶ The firm was commissioned on multiple occasions by Governor Huey P. Long to design projects such the Baton Rouge State Capitol Building, the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge, Charity Hospital in New Orleans, the Shushan Airport (renamed Lakefront airport) in New Orleans and several buildings on the Louisiana State University Campus.

These buildings were funded by the Public Works Administration agency and the firm developed a beneficial working relationship with the administrators of the New Deal. Ultimately during the first quarter of the twentieth century, Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth were running the leading architectural firm in the state of Louisiana.⁵⁷ While not bound by any specific architectural style, the firm adopted the Art Deco style for most of the cultural infrastructure they were commissioned to design. The streamlined Art Deco style chosen for the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse reflects the forward thinking of its architects as well as the intention of the PWA to revive a collapsed local economy and provide a better future for its residents.

The architectural impact left by the firm of Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth is undeniable. Through the wealth of buildings they designed, considered today as Louisiana landmarks, the incredible talent of these three architects lives on. These buildings, among them the St. Bernard Courthouse, are reflective of an extremely significant period in American and Louisiana history and their significance is enhanced by the men who so splendidly designed them.

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⁵⁴ Leighninger Jr. Robert D. "Building Louisiana, The Legacy of the Public Works Administration", Chapter 8 Courthouses, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, 2007, page 110.

⁵⁵ Leighninger Jr. Robert D. "Building Louisiana, The Legacy of the Public Works Administration", Chapter 8 Courthouses, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, 2007, page 109.

⁵⁶ Carl A. Brasseaux, Glenn R. Conrad and Warren R. Robinson. *The Courthouses of Louisiana* (Lafayette, Louisiana: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana) 1977, 195.

⁵⁷ Robert Leighninger. "Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth" KnowLA Encyclopedia of Louisiana, Ed. David Johnson, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 2010 - Article published January 18, 2011. <http://www.knowla.org/entry/502/>

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- Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library, LSU Libraries, Louisiana Newspaper Project Parish Indexes, compiled by Linda Schneider and Sheila Lee, St. Bernard Voice, Reel numbers: 19, 20 and 21. LLMVC-MICROFILM 293
- Los Islenos, History/ Historia, St. Bernard Islenos, Louisiana Spanish Treasure. www.Losilsenos.org/
- Louisiana Historical Association, Huey Pierce Long, www.Lahistory.org/

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA
County and State

LLMVC, Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library, LSU Libraries, W.P.A. collection, Historical Records Survey Transcriptions of Louisiana Police Jury Records. St. Bernard Parish, 1870-1940, Vol. 5, Vol. 6, Reel number 403 (dates: 1922 -1940). LLMVC-MSS.MF: WPA-PJ

Miller Mark K. and Von D. Hatley, *The Louisiana Courthouse Directory* (Second Edition) 1999.

News Staff, "Courthouse Named After Former DA Jack Rowley", *The St. Bernard Voice*, June 24, 2016, www.thestbernardvoice.com

"New St. Bernard Courthouse Directory", August 1, 1939, By Mrs. Gertie Perez Guerra, Archival documents, Los Islenos Museum, St. Bernard, La.

Property Deed: Sale of property belonging to Ernest J. Ricaud and Meraux & Nunez, Inc. To Parish of St. Bernard, Recorded in C.O.B 43, Folio 399 Parish of St. Bernard on the twenty-first day of September 1938.

Property Deed: Sale of property by Police Jury of Parish of St Bernard to Shirley Johnson on the fifteenth day of 1962.

Richard Thompson, "St. Bernard District Attorney Jack Rowley dies at 83, John 'Jack' Rowley, 83, was top prosecutor for 35 years", *The New Orleans Advocate*, Nov. 9, 2014. www.theadvocate.com

St. Bernard Parish/ US courts, www.courthouses.co/us-states/h-l/louisiana/st-bernard-parish/

Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries- SEAA, Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth Office records: St. Bernard Parish, LA, St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, Building. 1938-1940, Plan No. 970, 53 sheets. Collection 53 Box 5, Job 970 – St. Bernard Parish, LA Courthouse and Jail building.

The Encyclopedia of Louisiana History, Culture and Community, Public Works Administration Architecture, PWA projects, Weis, Dreyfous and Seiferth, St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, www.KnowLA.org/

Whiffen Marcus and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture 1607-1976* (Cambridge Massachusetts: The MIT Press), 1981.

Interviews:

Interview on October 17 and October 22, 2016 with Mr. William Hyland, Historian and Curator of Los Islenos Museum in St. Bernard, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

Phone conversation with Mr. Albert Moliere with ABM - Architects Beazley Moliere - Lafayette, LA. AMB was in charge of restoration and addition to courthouse from 2011 to 2013.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA
County and State

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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 6.4 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1. Latitude: 29.940057 Longitude: -89.973553
- 2. Latitude: 29.940414 Longitude: -89.974453
- 3. Latitude: 29.941625 Longitude: -89.973834
- 4. Latitude: 29.941327 Longitude: -89.973136
- 5. Latitude: 29.940766 Longitude: -89.973157

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

ONE CERTAIN SQUARE OF GROUND, together with all improvements, rights, ways, privileges, servitudes and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, designated as SQUARE NUMBER TWO (2) OF JACKSON TERRACE SUBDIVISION, bounded by St. Bernard Highway, Pakenham Drive, Jackson Boulevard and Calvo Street and consisting of Lots Numbered One (1) to Thirty-eight (38) inclusive; which square of ground measures two hundred thirty (230') feet front on the St. Bernard Highway, four hundred seventy-five and twenty-two hundredths (475.22') feet on Pakenham Drive, four hundred seventy-two and fourteen hundredths (472.14') feet on Jackson Boulevard and two hundred thirty (230') feet on Calvo Street, as Victor Hawkins, Surveyor, dated December 15, 1927, annexed to an act of dedication of roadways and streets by Meraux & Nunez Inc., passed before Raoul Sere, Jr., Notary Public in and for the Parish of Orleans, on July 30, 1928; and

THIRTEEN LOTS OF GROUND, together with all improvements, rights, ways, privileges, servitudes and pertaining, situated in the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, in SQUARE NUMBER THREE (3) of JACKSON TERRACE SUBDIVISION, bounded by St. Bernard Highway, Jackson Boulevard, Lot "B" and Lot 46 as shown on the aforesaid plan of Hawkins and Stephens, and according to which map said lots are designated by the numbers four to eight inclusive, eleven to eighteen inclusive and measure as follows:

- Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14 measure each twenty-five (25') feet front on Jackson Boulevard, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred fifteen (115') feet between equal and parallel lines.
- Lots No. 15 measures thirty one (31') feet front on St. Bernard Highway, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred twenty-one and fifty-four hundredths (121.54') feet, and a depth of one hundred twenty and ninety-nine hundredths (120.99') feet on the division line of Lot No. 16.
- Lots No. 16 measures twenty eight (28') feet front on St. Bernard Highway, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred twenty and ninety-nine hundredths (120.99') feet on the division line of

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA
County and State

Lot 15 and a depth of one hundred twenty and seventy-five hundredths (120759') feet, on the division line of Lot 17.
Lots No. 17 measures twenty eight (28') feet front on St. Bernard Highway, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred twenty and seventy-five hundredths (120.75') feet on the division line of Lot 16 and a depth of one hundred twenty and twenty-four hundredths (120.24') feet, on the division line of Lot 18.
Lots No. 18 measures twenty nine (29') feet front on St. Bernard Highway, the same in width in the rear, by a depth of one hundred twenty and twenty-four hundredths (120.24') feet on the division line of Lot 17 and one hundred twenty (120') feet on the other side line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are listed as found in the property deed drafted on the 21th day of October 1938 and are the historic boundaries of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Isabelle Dissard-Cooper
organization: MPS Program, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
street & number: 3824 Lake Lynn Drive
city or town: Gretna state: LA zip code: 70056
e-mail: idissard@tulane.edu
telephone: 504-319-3630
date: December 8, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
City or Vicinity: Chalmette
County: St. Bernard
State: Louisiana
Name of Photographer: Isabelle Dissard-Cooper
Date of Photographs: October 13-14, 2016

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

- Photo 1 of 79: Courthouse Southern façade with main entrance, Camera facing northeast
Photo 2 of 79: Courthouse Front façade, monumental staircase. Camera facing northwest
Photo 3 of 79: Courthouse Front façade, staircase cheek wall. Camera facing northwest
Photo 4 of 79: Courthouse Front façade, staircase cheek wall detail. Camera facing northwest
Photo 5 of 79: Courthouse Front façade, central pavilion reeded piers. Camera facing northeast
Photo 6 of 79: Courthouse Front façade, central pavilion, recessed bay between piers detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 7 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade, central pavilion, left outer bays with entrance double doors. Camera facing northeast
Photo 8 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade, central pavilion, left outer bay with window at base. Camera facing northeast
Photo 9 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, window spandrel detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 10 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, upper window obscure glass and grilles detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 11 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, outer bays lower window details. Camera facing northeast
Photo 12 of 79: Courthouse Front Facade, central pavilion, window details, Lady Justice. Camera facing northeast
Photo 13 of 79: Courthouse Front Facade, central pavilion, window details, magnolia flower. Camera facing northeast
Photo 14 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, stone grill Satsuma oranges garland. Camera facing northeast
Photo 15 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, stone grill garland detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 16 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, metal letters on tall entablature. Camera facing northeast
Photo 17 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, low relief stone band with lotus and papyrus leaf motifs. Camera facing northeast
Photo 18 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, entablature western bas-relief. Camera facing northeast
Photo 19 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, entablature eastern bas-relief. Camera facing northeast
Photo 20 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; central pavilion, carved stone band and parapet; Camera facing northeast
Photo 21 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; west wing, window spandrel detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 22 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; west wing, windows detail and bell course. Camera facing north
Photo 23 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; west wing, commemorative plaque 1. Camera facing northeast
Photo 24 of 79: Courthouse Front Façade; west wing, commemorative plaque 2. Camera facing northeast
Photo 25 of 79: Courthouse Western Elevation; west wing, windows layout. Camera facing southeast
Photo 26 of 79: Courthouse Eastern Elevation; east wing, windows layout. Camera facing northwest
Photo 27 of 79: Courthouse Western Elevation; west wing, Keystone detail. Camera facing southeast
Photo 28 of 79: Courthouse Eastern Elevation; east wing, standpipe fire dept. Connection. Camera facing southeast
Photo 29 of 79: Courthouse Eastern Elevation; newly added stair tower. Camera facing west
Photo 30 of 79: Courthouse with new addition; Eastern elevation. Camera facing northwest
Photo 31 of 79: New addition; northern elevation. Camera facing southwest
Photo 32 of 79: New addition; western elevation. Camera facing south
Photo 33 of 79: Western elevation of 1939 Courthouse with new addition and newly built Sheriff Department (detached building). Camera facing northeast
Photo 34 of 79: Lobby. Camera facing east
Photo 35 of 79: Lobby, stairs to 2nd floor mezzanine. Camera facing west
Photo 36 of 79: Lobby, First floor, flooring detail. View from above
Photo 37 of 79: Lobby, First floor. Camera facing northwest

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse

St. Bernard Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

- Photo 38 of 79: Lobby, First Floor. Camera east
Photo 39 of 79: Lobby, wall, and ceiling detail. View of ceiling (Photo is not on above photo key)
Photo 40 of 79: Lobby, Stairs. Camera facing southeast
Photo 41 of 79: Lobby, Stairs detail. Camera facing west
Photo 42 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, balustrade detail. Camera facing west
Photo 43 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, fascia detail, camera facing east.
Photo 44 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, clock detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 45 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, floor detail. Camera facing southeast
Photo 46 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, spandrel detail. Camera facing southeast (detail of photo 47)
Photo 47 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, windows detail. Camera facing southeast
Photo 48 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, chandelier detail.
Photo 49 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom. Camera facing east
Photo 50 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom, Door detail. Camera facing north
Photo 51 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom, Door surround detail. Camera facing northwest
Photo 52 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom, Door entablature detail. Camera facing north
Photo 53 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom, Door entablature detail. Camera facing north
Photo 54 of 79: Lobby mezzanine, entrance to main courtroom, Door seal detail. Camera facing north
Photo 55 of 79: Main Courtroom. Camera facing east
Photo 56 of 79: Main Courtroom. Camera facing northwest
Photo 57 of 79: Main Courtroom, floor detail
Photo 58 of 79: Main Courtroom, Jury Box. Camera facing west
Photo 59 of 79: Main Courtroom, Jury Box. Floor and chair base detail. Camera facing southwest
Photo 60 of 79: Main Courtroom, Wall finish detail. Camera facing southeast
Photo 61 of 79: Main Courtroom, Chandelier
Photo 62 of 79: Main Courtroom, Entrance door detail, Camera facing southwest
Photo 63 of 79: Main Courtroom, western elevation door surrounds. Camera facing northwest
Photo 64 of 79: Main Courtroom, carving detail behind Judge's Bench. Camera facing west
Photo 65 of 79: Main Courtroom, door entablature carving detail, door 1 of 4. Camera facing northwest
Photo 66 of 79: Main Courtroom, door entablature carving detail, door 2 of 4. Camera facing southwest
Photo 67 of 79: Main Courtroom, door entablature carving detail, door 3 of 4. Camera facing northwest
Photo 68 of 79: Main Courtroom, door entablature carving detail, door 4 of 4. Camera facing northwest
Photo 69 of 79: Main Courtroom. Jury box. Camera facing north
Photo 70 of 79: Main Courtroom, Attorneys' tables and Jury's box. Camera facing north
Photo 71 of 79: Main Courtroom, bench detail. Camera facing north
Photo 72 of 79: Main Courtroom, northern elevation with windows. Camera facing east
Photo 73 of 79: Main Courtroom, window detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 74 of 79: Main Courtroom, window detail. Camera facing northeast
Photo 75 of 79: Main Courtroom, eastern elevation. Camera facing southeast
Photo 76 of 79: Main Courtroom, eastern elevation wood carving detail. Camera facing southeast
Photo 77 of 79: 2nd Floor, ladies restrooms, marble stalls detail. Camera facing south (Photo is not on photo key)
Photo 78 of 79: 2nd Floor, 1939, historic fire extinguisher. (Photo is not on photo key)
Photo 79 of 79: 2nd Floor, small courtroom. Camera facing north. (Photo is not on photo key)

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 100 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.

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, St. Bernard Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.940697 Longitude: -89.973752

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse

St. Bernard Parish, LA
Lat/Long, Boundary, and Resource Map

Boundary

2013 New Construction
Non-Contributing

2013 New Construction
Addition (Site of
prior 1939 jail
building)

1939 Historic
Building

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 29.940057 | Longitude: -89.973553 |
| 2. Latitude: 29.940414 | Longitude: -89.974453 |
| 3. Latitude: 29.941625 | Longitude: -89.973834 |
| 4. Latitude: 29.941327 | Longitude: -89.973136 |
| 5. Latitude: 29.940766 | Longitude: -89.973157 |



1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse
St. Bernard Parish, LA
Exterior Photo Key

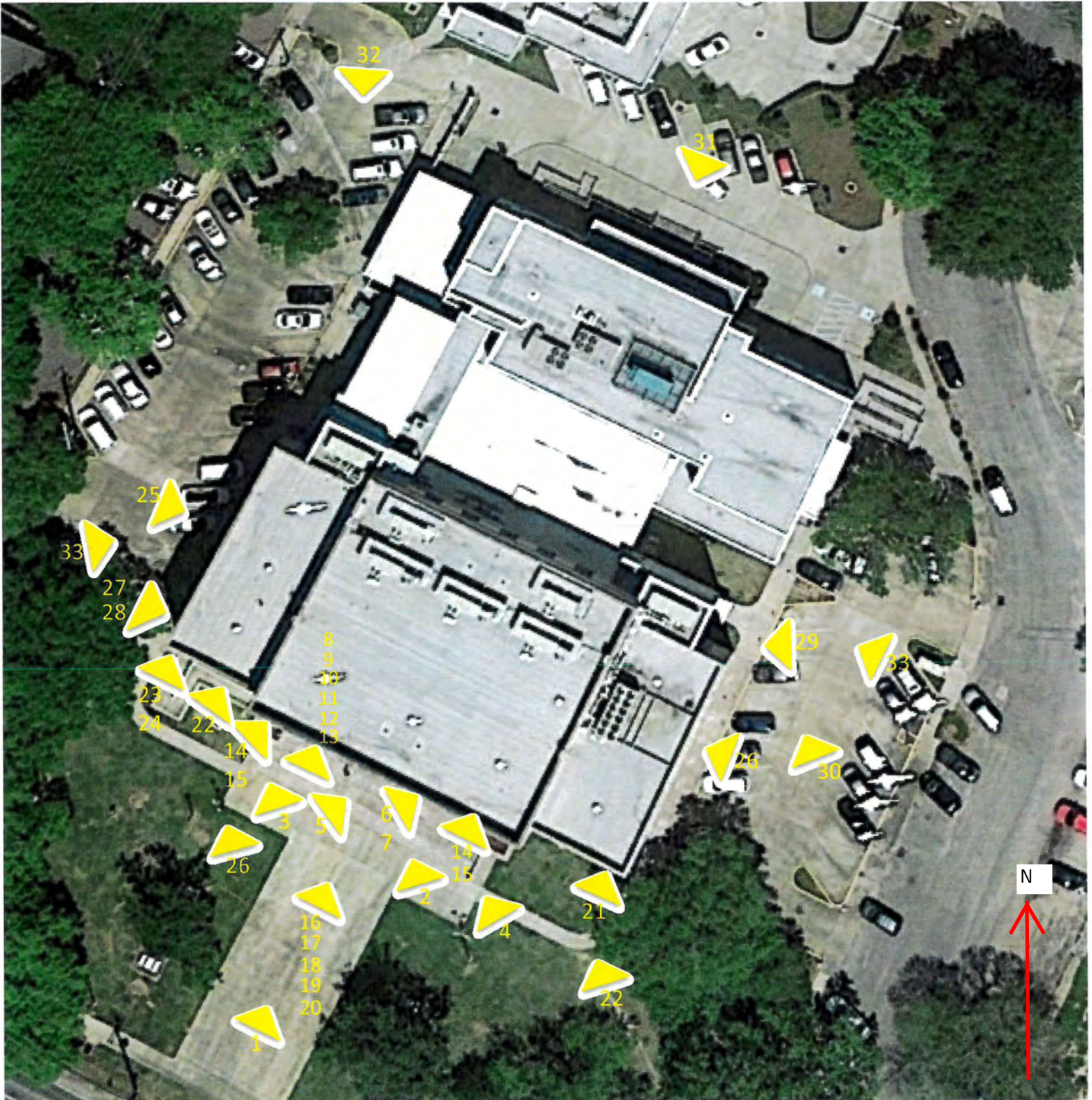
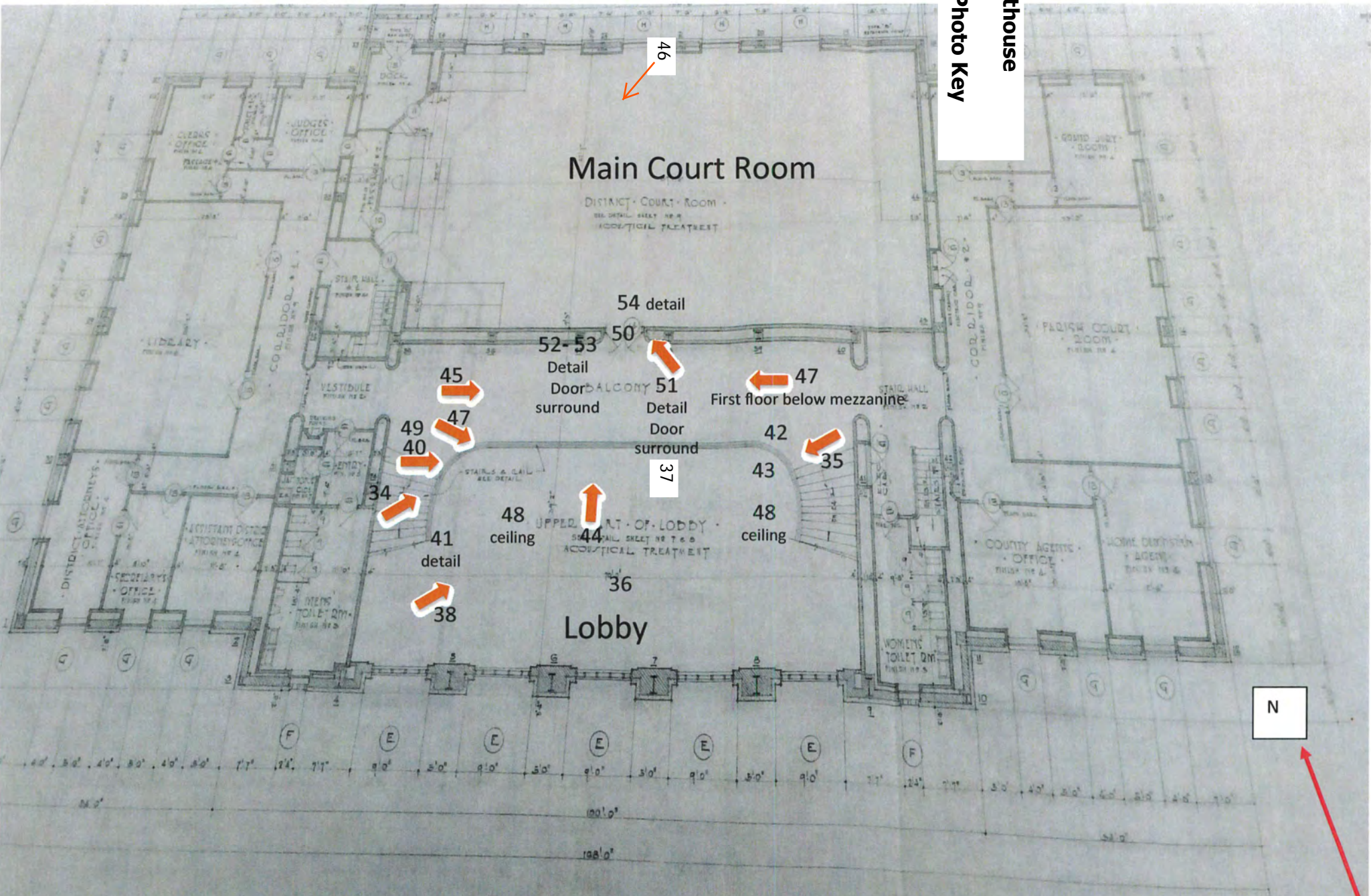


Photo Key



Main Court Room

Lobby

46



54 detail

52-53 Detail Door surround

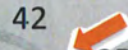
50

51 Detail Door surround

37

First floor below mezzanine

47



42

43

48 ceiling

35

48 ceiling

45

47

49

40

34

41 detail

38

48 ceiling

36

Lobby

44

N



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

SEAA, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries



SAINT BERNARD PARISH COURT HOUSE

JACK T. BOWLEY
COURTHOUSE



SANT BERNARD PARISH CO

JACK F. ROWLE
COURTHOUSE



NO
SMOKING
ON STEPS



NO
SMOKING
ON STEPS



SAINT BERNARD PARISH COURT HOUSE

JACK F. ROWLEY
COURTHOUSE







COURT HOUSE

JACK F. ROWLEY
COURTHOUSE

SAINT BERNARD

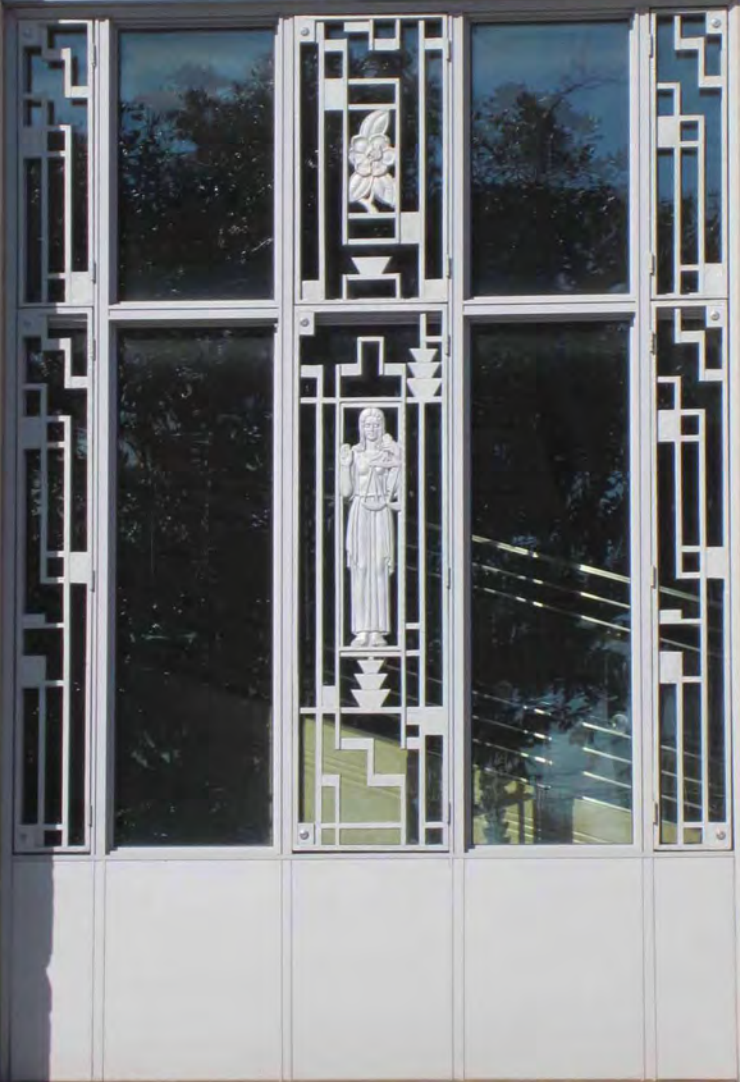
NO
SMOKING
ON STEPS





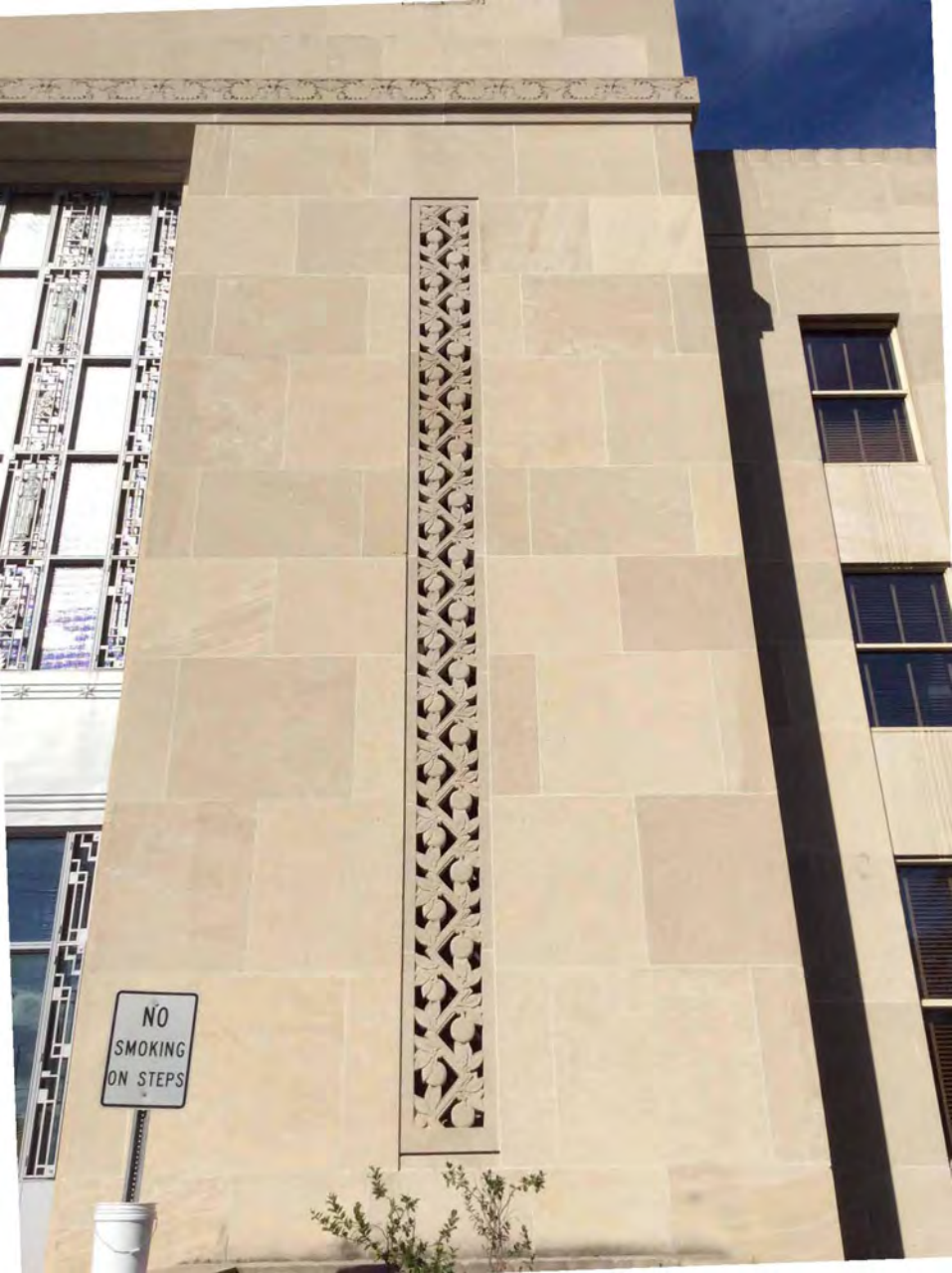
SALT LAKE TEMPLE











NO
SMOKING
ON STEPS



SAINT BERNARD PARISH COURTHOUSE

JACK F. ROWLEY
COURTHOUSE











SA COURT HOUSE





ARCHITECTS BEARLEY MOLIÈRE
ARCHITECT
LANDIS CONSTRUCTION CO.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HAROLD L. ICKES
ADMINISTRATOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ST. BERNARD PARISH COURT HOUSE
1939

ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT
REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS AND HISTORIC RESTORATIONS
TO THE 34TH DISTRICT COURTHOUSE

DAVID E. PERALTA
PARISH PRESIDENT

JERRY GRAVES, JR.
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DONALD R. BOURGEOIS, JR.
RECOVERY MANAGER

DOUGLAS D. LANDRY
SR. RECOVERY ADMINISTRATOR

HILLARY J. NUNEZ
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



ST. BERNARD PARISH COUNCIL

GUY MCINNIS
GEORGE CAVIGNAC
RAY LAUGA, JR.

NATHAN GORBATY
RICHARD J. LEWIS
CASEY HUNNICUTT

MANUEL "MONTY" MONTELONGO

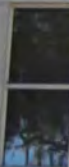
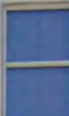
COUNCIL AT LARGE-EAST
COUNCIL AT LARGE-WEST
DISTRICT A
DISTRICT B
DISTRICT C
DISTRICT D
DISTRICT E

COMPLETION: MARCH 2013

ARCHITECTS BEAZLEY MOLIERE
ARCHITECT

LANDIS CONSTRUCTION CO.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR





LOUIS A. MERAUX M. D.
SHERIFF 1924-1938 DIED OCT. 6, 1938

POLICE JURY

THOMAS W SERPAS
PRESIDENT

CHARLES MUMPHREY
VICE PRESIDENT

LOUIS E. DELACROIX

VALENTINE RIESS

ROLAND BERGERON

EDWIN FOU DRIAT

ALBERT STANDER

WILLIAM STANDER JR

DIED OCT. 6, 1938

CELESTINE F. ROWLEY
SHERIFF

WEISS DREYFOUS & SEIFERTH
ARCHITECTS

R. P. FARNSWORTH & CO. INC.
CONTRACTORS



STANDPIPE

FIRE DEPT CONNECTION

ECKHART & SONS MFG. CO.









DO NOT
ENTER





FERRY M. DUCOSIA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY







COURTROOM

RECEPTION
CLERK

Clerk
Reception
Court
District
Admission
A
B
C
D
E

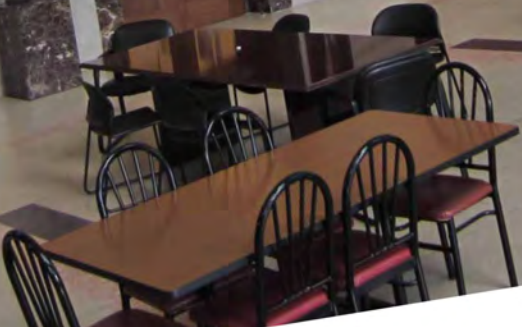
EXIT



PERRY M. NICOSIA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RANDY S. NÚÑEZ

CLERK OF COURT















STATE OF NEW YORK
CLERK OF COURT

RANDY S. NÚÑEZ

CLERK OF COURT

COURTROOM

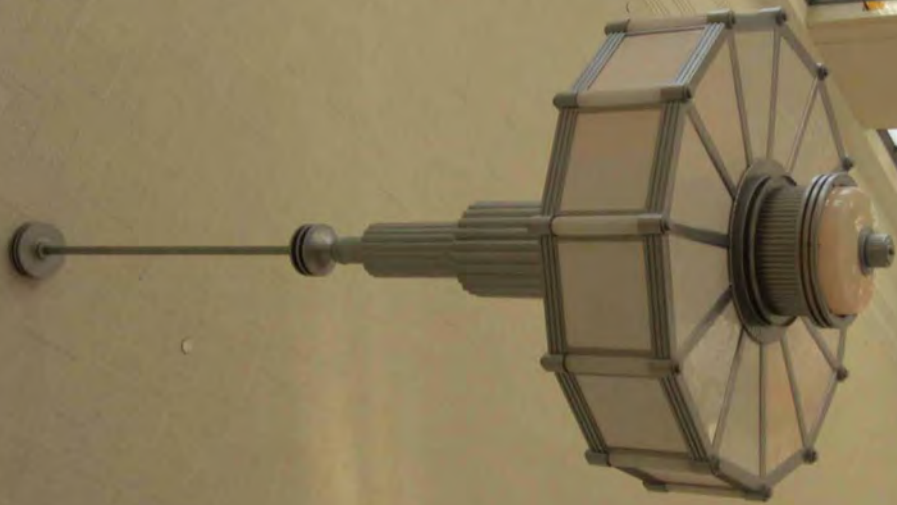




PERRY & NICHOLS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY









GUARDIA



NO FEED OF OTHER RUMORS

233

WILSON
KING





JUSTICE THROUGH LAW
GUARDIAN OF OUR LIBERTY





E PLURIBUS UNUM UNION JUSTICE CONFIDENCE

PARISH OF ST. BERNARD

















































**NOT
FUNCTIONAL**
Fire Hose System is for
Historic Display Only



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: 1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: LOUISIANA, St. Bernard

Date Received: 12/17/2018 Date of Pending List: _____ Date of 16th Day: _____ Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003376

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: An excellent example of New Deal-era civic construction, funded by the PWA, utilizing the stripped classicism that is typical of such projects. There is a large addition on the rear, but this does not detract from the integrity of the 1939 courthouse.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: December 13, 2018

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: 1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, St. Bernard Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register Documentation for the 1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact Nicole Hobson-Morris at nmorris@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- _____ 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. (Publicly owned property)
- _____ Other: