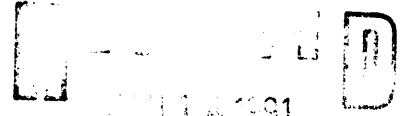


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Cushman House  
other names/site number Slaughter House; Baker Heritage Museum

### 2. Location

street & number 1606 Main St. N/A not for publication  
city, town Baker N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county East Baton Rouge code 033 zip code 70704

### 3. Classification

|  |   |  |                        |
|--|---|--|------------------------|
| <b>Ownership of Property</b>                     | <b>Category of Property</b>                     | <b>Number of Resources within Property</b> |                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <b>Contributing</b>                        | <b>Noncontributing</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                                   | <u>1</u> buildings     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State            | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>    </u>                                | <u>    </u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal          | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>    </u>                                | <u>    </u> structures |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>    </u>                                | <u>    </u> objects    |
|  |   | <u>1</u>                                   | <u>1</u> Total         |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

LP Jan January 10, 1991  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, SHPO, Louisiana Date  
Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 2/20/91

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

---

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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---

---

RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

---

Queen Anne Revival

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---

Colonial Revival

---

---

foundation brickwalls weatherboardroof asphaltother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cushman House (1906) is a one-and-one-half story, frame transitional residence showing strong influences from both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. It stands on its original site facing west toward Louisiana Highway 19 in what is now a modern commercial area of Baker. The house serves as the Baker Heritage Museum, and a small number of additional historic structures have been moved onto its large lot. However, only the house itself is being nominated to the National Register. Because it has experienced only insignificant alterations and underwent restoration in 1975, its historic character and National Register eligibility remain intact.

The Queen Anne features which distinguish the Cushman home include:

- 1) a roofline enlivened by cross gables, dormers, and two corbelled chimneys,
- 2) the use of textured surfaces. Gable and dormer peaks employ three shapes of decorative shingles, and several windows feature diamond shaped panes in their transoms.
- 3) three polygonal bays,
- 4) a wraparound gallery, and
- 5) an asymmetrical floorplan which is progressive for its time and place. The front door opens from the gallery into a room which is more living hall than entryway. To the side of this space is a large room with a semi-hexagonal bay. A dining room with its own semi-hexagonal bay is located behind the living hall. Opposite the dining room is another large space, this one with a rectangular bay. It once served as a doctor's office and has its own private entrance. These two rooms are separated by a hallway which connects the living hall to the rear door. The home also has spaces which once served as a butler's pantry and attached kitchen as well as a bathroom and closet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Cushman House, Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The home's Colonial Revival motifs are found largely on the facade. These include 1) fluted Ionic columns, 2) the pedimented entrance gable, 3) gable end returns, and 4) modillion cornices highlighting the front gable and dormer.

Other noteworthy elements on or in the home include a round arch window in the front gable, an unusual and original exterior staircase leading from the rear porch to the attic, an Eastlake screen surmounting an interior doorway, and four manufactured golden oak mantels typical of the period.

The house appears much as it did upon completion in 1906. The only notable changes include the following:

1. the damaged column capitals have been replicated (1975 restoration).
2. the doors to the dining room and doctor's office have been widened in order to create one large room for meeting and display purposes. Decorative molding has been salvaged from elsewhere in the home to form surrounds for these enlarged openings.
3. the original bathroom has been reduced in size and the extra space used to enlarge the closet for use as a storeroom.
4. the previously unfinished attic has been converted into an office and additional storeroom, and
5. the attached kitchen is now used as an office, while a small kitchen has been installed in the butler's pantry.

All of these changes are minor in nature. The home's overall massing and transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival facade remain unchanged. Its floorplan is clearly recognizable despite minor changes, all of which occur at the rear and are within the original footprint of the home. Although the addition of non-original buildings has changed the appearance of the site, the home's relationship to the road remains intact and unobstructed except for a flag pole. Thus, the house appears almost exactly as it did in 1906 and is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

**Non-Contributing Element**

A modern gazebo to the rear of the house was too close to be excluded from the boundaries easily. Of course, it is listed as a non-contributing element.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    n/a

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance

1906

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cushman House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a visual landmark within the East Baton Rouge Parish community of Baker. The transitionally styled house is one of only a handful of historic buildings left in the community and is the only residence with high style features.

Although Baker was founded in 1884 in conjunction with the arrival of the railroad, the majority of the community's architecture is that of a mid-twentieth century suburb. Business needs are met by strip shopping centers typical of commercial development between the 1950s and 1980s. Most of the city's public buildings and churches also date from this period. Baker's housing is equally undistinguished. With very few exceptions, the dwellings date no earlier than the 1940s. Most of the city's homes are modern slab on grade ranch houses which resemble those found in any other city.

Against this background, the Cushman House is a conspicuous landmark. Of the approximately eight buildings left from the first decade of this century (no earlier buildings appear to survive), the house is one of only two which display rich architectural styling. It is the only building in Baker displaying Queen Anne massing and is one of only two buildings displaying textured shingled surfaces. Furthermore, its asymmetrical floorplan with living hall is unusual for Baker. It also has the only set of fluted Ionic columns in the city. Finally, it has an unusual exterior stairway on its rear porch. In summary, the Cushman House is an architectural landmark within a community which has lost most of the symbols of its heritage. As such, it is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Historical Note

The home was built in 1906 for Dr. Willard S. Cushman, who was the only doctor in northern East Baton Rouge Parish. In 1917 Cushman was elected parish coroner and moved to Baton Rouge. At that time he sold the house to Miss Carrie Slaughter, who lived there until her death in 1960. The Baker Shriners and a local construction company owned the property between  See continuation sheet 1960 and 1974, when it was purchased by the city. The city restored the house in 1975 with Bill Brockway serving as project architect.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Site visit by National Register staff.

Windshield survey of Baker, Louisiana, by National Register staff.

Caillouet, Linda, ed. Baker: The First 200 Years, 1776-1976. Baton Rouge: Moran Industries, Inc., 1976.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 675740 3385560  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines on the north and west. They cut close to the house on the east and south in order to exclude unrelated historic buildings which have been moved to the site.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

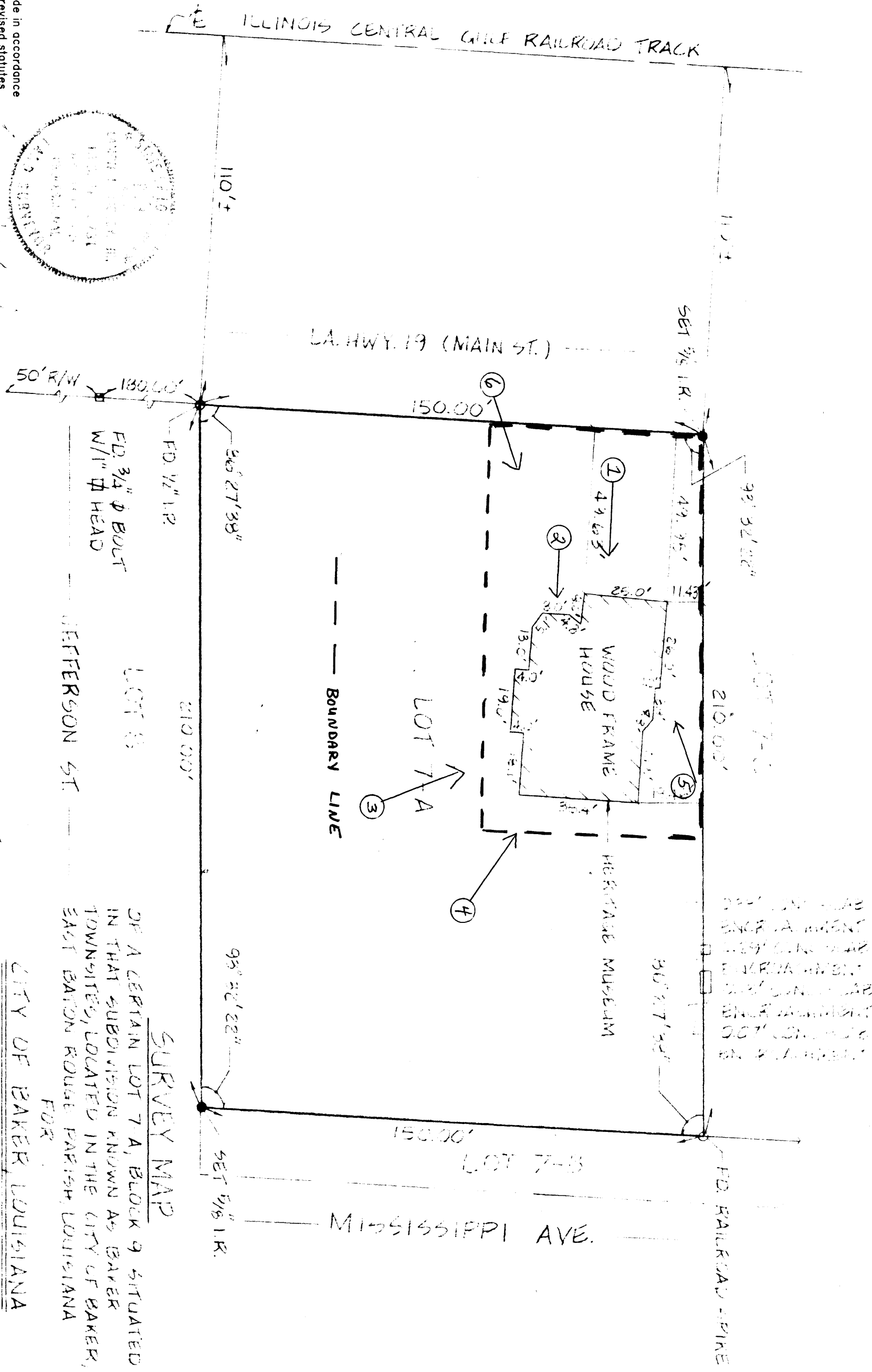
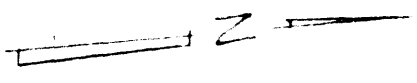
name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1990

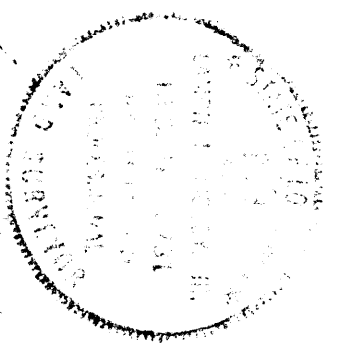
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Baker  
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA



This plot is made in accordance with Louisiana revised statutes 33:5051 et seq.



MUNICIPAL NO. 1006 MAIN STREET

**DYER & MOODY, INC.** Consulting Engineers  
P. O. BOX 700  
BAKER, LOUISIANA

APPROVAL STATUS

OWNER: CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA  
PROJECT: SURVEY OF HERITAGE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

**SURVEY MAP**  
OF A CERTAIN LOT 7 A, BLOCK 9 SITUATED IN THAT SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS BAKER TOWNSITES, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BAKER, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA FOR  
**CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA**

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN FEET AND INCHES UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.  
ALL CORNERS ARE TO BE MARKED WITH IRON PIPES OR CONCRETE MONUMENTS.  
ALL DISTANCES ARE TO BE MEASURED ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THE TRACKS.  
ALL DISTANCES ARE TO BE MEASURED ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THE TRACKS.

|  |      |  |    |  |       |   |
|--|------|--|----|--|-------|---|
| N.   | DATE | REVISION   | BY | CHK'D  | APP'D | This drawing is the property of Dyer & Moody, Inc. and is not to be copied, reproduced or used in any manner without written permission of Dyer & Moody, Inc. |
|  |      |  |    |  |       |   |
| SCALE 1"=25'<br>DWN J.M.M. 9/19/00<br>CHK'D J.M. |      | PROJECT NO. 110-591<br>DRAWING NO. 110-591-110-1 |    | PROJECT NO. 110-591<br>DRAWING NO. 110-591-110-1 |       | REV 0   |