

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 26 1985

date entered JAN 23 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kenner Town Hall

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1903 Short Street ; N/A not for publication

city, town Kenner N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Jefferson code 051
county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Kenner, Office of the Mayor

street & number 1801 Williams Boulevard

city, town Kenner N/A vicinity of state LA 70062

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson Parish Courthouse

street & number No specific street address P. O. Box 10

city, town Gretna state LA 70054

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ N/A _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kenner Town Hall (1925) is a single story stuccoed masonry building located near the Mississippi River in the older section of the City of Kenner. Despite some alterations, the building still easily retains its historical identity.

The three bay facade features a central entrance and a pediment shaped gable. The bays are highlighted by pilaster strips. All fenestration is segmentally arched. The only noteworthy exterior changes have been the replacement of the front door, the installation of bars on the windows, and a tiny lean-to addition at the rear.

The interior has gone through numerous changes over the years. Essentially there is one large room in front and a few smaller rooms in the rear. The rear rooms have on occasion changed their sizes and configuration slightly. At one time there were two jail cells. Presently there is a central corridor, two rest-rooms and a kitchen. The interiors are plain with simple ogee cornices and flat chair rails.

Assessment of Integrity

In our opinion the building easily retains enough of its original appearance to convey its historical associations (see item 8).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925 **Builder/Architect** Builder; Town of Kenner
Contractor; J. E. Louviere

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Kenner Town Hall is locally significant in the area of politics/government because it was the center of local government for the town. It is an important visual reminder of Kenner's transition from a small agricultural community in the 1920's to today's metropolitan center of about 75,000. The town hall takes on added importance in this regard when one considers that only four noteworthy buildings survive from Old Kenner. This is largely because the town has been engulfed by the expanding greater New Orleans metropolitan area and has experienced almost total redevelopment. Except for the four buildings previously mentioned, Kenner's stock of 50+ year old buildings consists entirely of pedestrian shotguns and bungalows and about thirty very plain 1920's-1930's commercial buildings.

The present City of Kenner is located on the site of various Kenner family plantation holdings which were subdivided into streets and lots in the mid-1850's to establish Kennerville. Minor Kenner's succession inventory in 1864 reveals that a number of lots had been purchased, although hundreds remained unsold.

Kennerville developed in the late nineteenth century as a center for the cultivation, processing, packing, and shipping of vegetables. The lumber industry arrived in the 1880's.

Kenner remained a small agricultural community until well into this century. An 1896 map shows a very small village, although by 1915 the town could boast Cristina's Ice Factory and Depot for preparing vegetables for market, a large canning factory, a lumber yard producing railroad ties, a large poultry farm, a fire company, at least four physicians, two drugstores, a grocery store, bakery, and blacksmith and wheel wright shop, and a population of about 2,000. In 1917 an electric plant was constructed. In 1913 the way for suburban development of the town was opened when the New Orleans-Kenner Traction Company was chartered to provide electrical transit service from New Orleans to Kenner.

Kenner was officially incorporated in 1873, but lost its charter in 1886 (due to "political machinations," writes one historian). The charter was returned in 1913. The town hall building under consideration dates from 1925 and served as the town hall, jail and courthouse until 1956. (The building was originally called a town hall because Kenner did not become a city until the 1940's.) It was the focus of local government for the small late 1920's-early 1930's rural community and as such is an important reminder of Kenner's early municipal history.

In 1956 the city hall relocated to larger quarters, but the old town hall building continued to be used as a courthouse and jail until 1970. It is presently the home of Kenner's tourism department.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of Kenner Records,
Swanson, Betsy, Historic Jefferson Parish, Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company,
1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/2 of an acre

Quadrangle name New Orleans West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	6	5	5	4	0	3	3	1	9	0	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary lines follow property lines in order to encompass the acreage owned by the City of Kenner, said property measuring 180 feet along Short Street by 110 feet in depth, encompassing lots 16-21, Square #39, City of Kenner.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY CITY OF KENNER

name/title National Register Staff
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date October 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 922-0358

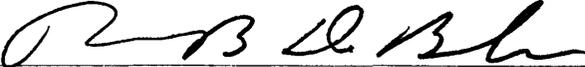
city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

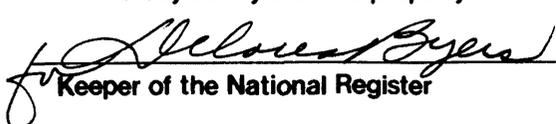
title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 19, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Included in the
National Register

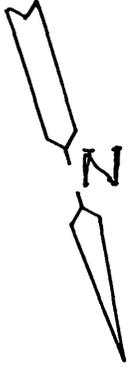
date 1-23-86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

KENNER TOWN HALL
KENNER, JEFFERSON PARISH,
LOUISIANA



(NOT TO SCALE)

SEE ITEM 10 FOR
BOUNDARIES

