

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Leland College

and/or common same

2. Location

W of Baker off 1917

street & number off Groom Road, @ 1 mile west of Highway 19 N/A not for publication

city, town Baker *vic* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 county East Baton Rouge Parish code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant
			<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

4. Owner of Property

name Leland College Board of Trustees, Rev. E. D. Billups, Chairman

street & number P. O. Box 1252

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of state LA 70821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

street & number 222 St. Louis St. P. O. Box 1991

city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70821

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(loss of some of the original buildings, as explained below)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The remaining five buildings of Leland College are located on open, relatively flat land west of the town of Baker in northern East Baton Rouge Parish. Despite the presence of a number of tract houses in the vicinity, the setting remains essentially rural. The campus is traversed by an east-west paved road which is lined intermittently with large trees. All of the remaining buildings are set along this road. They are relatively widely spaced, making it difficult to take in several in one view. Four of the buildings date from sometime between 1923, when the school opened at the present location, and 1929-30, when pictures of them appear in a college bulletin. The fifth dates from c.1940 and hence is a non-contributing element. The site has been abandoned since the college closed in 1960, and, consequently, the buildings are in a deteriorated condition. Despite considerable loss of original architectural fabric, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office believes the campus is eligible for the Register because its buildings are the only remaining visual reminders of the history of an important black educational institution.

Leland College was incorporated in 1870, and the campus was originally located in New Orleans on St. Charles Avenue between Audubon Place and Audubon Street. However, none of the buildings are extant. The school moved to its present location in 1923, and by 1930 the campus consisted of a brick administration building, two brick dormitories, a frame classroom building, the President's House, a professors' cottage, two farm houses, a power plant, a dairy barn, and a laundry. Four of these structures are extant, namely the two dormitories, the frame classroom building, and the President's House. The two dormitories are common bond brick, hip roof structures, nine bays wide, with central corridors running from end to end on each floor. The entrances are at the ends, as are the staircases. The remaining two pre-1930 structures are a "T" shaped, one story, frame classroom building and the President's House, a two story frame dwelling built along bungalow lines. The fifth structure on the site is a concrete classroom building which is only forty-two years old. It is considered a non-contributing element.

Although the campus has lost many of its original buildings (as listed above), it should be noted that the four pre-1930 structures that do remain were important buildings rather than auxiliary ones such as the dairy barn, farm houses, or laundry. Actually the only pre-1930 "main" buildings that have not survived are the administration building and the teacher's cottage. Obviously someone who was familiar with the Leland College of c.1930 would notice changes in the old campus. However, it would still be easily recognizable. The campus still basically retains its rural setting and configuration, and the individual buildings that remain look almost exactly as they did over fifty years ago, though somewhat deteriorated and overgrown.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (black history)

Specific dates 1923-1930 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Leland College Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The extant buildings on the Leland College campus are historically significant on the state level in the areas of education and black history because they are the only remaining visual reminders of a black educational institution of statewide importance. Although the school operated for forty-five years in New Orleans, there are no extant structures there associated with it. The nominated buildings on the Baker campus are the only structures left to represent the history of the institution.

Leland College (originally Leland University) had a far-reaching impact upon the education of Louisiana blacks. It was one of four institutions of higher learning for blacks chartered in the state either during or shortly after Reconstruction. The other three were Southern University (1880), Straight University (1869), and New Orleans University (1873). Southern began in New Orleans and moved to Baton Rouge in 1914, while the latter two were in New Orleans for their entire existence. In 1935 they merged to form Dillard University. It should be noted that although all of these institutions were called universities and are thought of as such, none of them during the period under consideration (1870-1930) had more than a small percentage of students enrolled in what could be considered college level courses. The vast majority of their enrollees were elementary and secondary students.

In addition to these four schools, there were two black institutions of higher learning which have their roots in the early twentieth century. Xavier University began at the old Southern campus in New Orleans and purchased its present site in June of 1929. Present-day Grambling University began as a private industrial school on the elementary and secondary levels. It did not begin to award college degrees until 1944.

During the course of its history Leland College educated thousands of black Louisianians. Its main efforts were directed toward training educators and ministers. Leland alumni took jobs as teachers, principals, and pastors throughout the state, thereby extending the institution's influence even further. Some of these individuals rose to positions of leadership within their profession and the black community. For example, Southern University owes much to Leland graduate Joseph Samuel Clark, its president during the crucial period following its relocation in Baton Rouge. (Clark was president from 1914-38.)

Finally, Leland had increased statewide impact because of its system of preparatory "feeder" schools. It exercised an influence on various upper elementary and secondary schools by allowing them to become Leland auxiliaries. Faculty and curricula selection at these affiliates was supervised by Leland. In fact, faculty members at auxiliaries were considered to be part of the Leland faculty, and their salaries were paid by the parent institution. The affiliates had to pay Leland tuition for each enrollee. Graduates of these schools were accepted into Leland without examination and good students were awarded small scholarships. The 1909-1910 Leland bulletin lists ten such schools in locations throughout the state.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 20.9 acres

Quadrangle name Zachary, LA

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A	1 1 5	6 7 4	1 9 1 0	3 3	8 5	8 1 0 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B	1 1 5	6 7 4	6 1 1 0	3 3	8 5	7 1 5 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C	1 1 5	6 7 4	5 5 1 0	3 3	8 5	5 7 1 5
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D	1 1 5	6 7 4	2 0 0 0	3 3	8 5	6 2 5
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E						
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F						
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G						
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H						
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map. Site boundaries encompass the main portion of the original campus, with its rural setting and configuration.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff, Division of Historic Preservation

organization see above

date October 1981

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

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 September 17, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/10/82

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date 11/8/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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8. Significance (cont'd)

It is important to note that although a total of six black "colleges" or "universities" operated in Louisiana from c. 1870 to c. 1930, there is very little left as a visual reminder of these institutions. There is nothing left of the old Leland campus in New Orleans. Nor is there anything left of the New Orleans campuses of Southern University, Straight University or New Orleans University. As far as can be determined, the oldest structure on the Xavier campus is the administration building, which dates from 1930 or 1931. The oldest buildings at Grambling appear to date from the 1930's and the overall impression is that of a modern campus. Only Southern University in Baton Rouge and Leland College in Baker have significant collections of pre-1930 educational structures. Thus the Leland campus constitutes one of two extant collections of buildings which to a large extent represent the whole of black higher education during the period under consideration (1870-1930).

NB: The year 1930 (or 1931) is used because it is the required federal cut-off (i.e., fifty years old or older).

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Continuation sheet Leland College Item number 9 Page 2

9. Bibliography (cont'd)

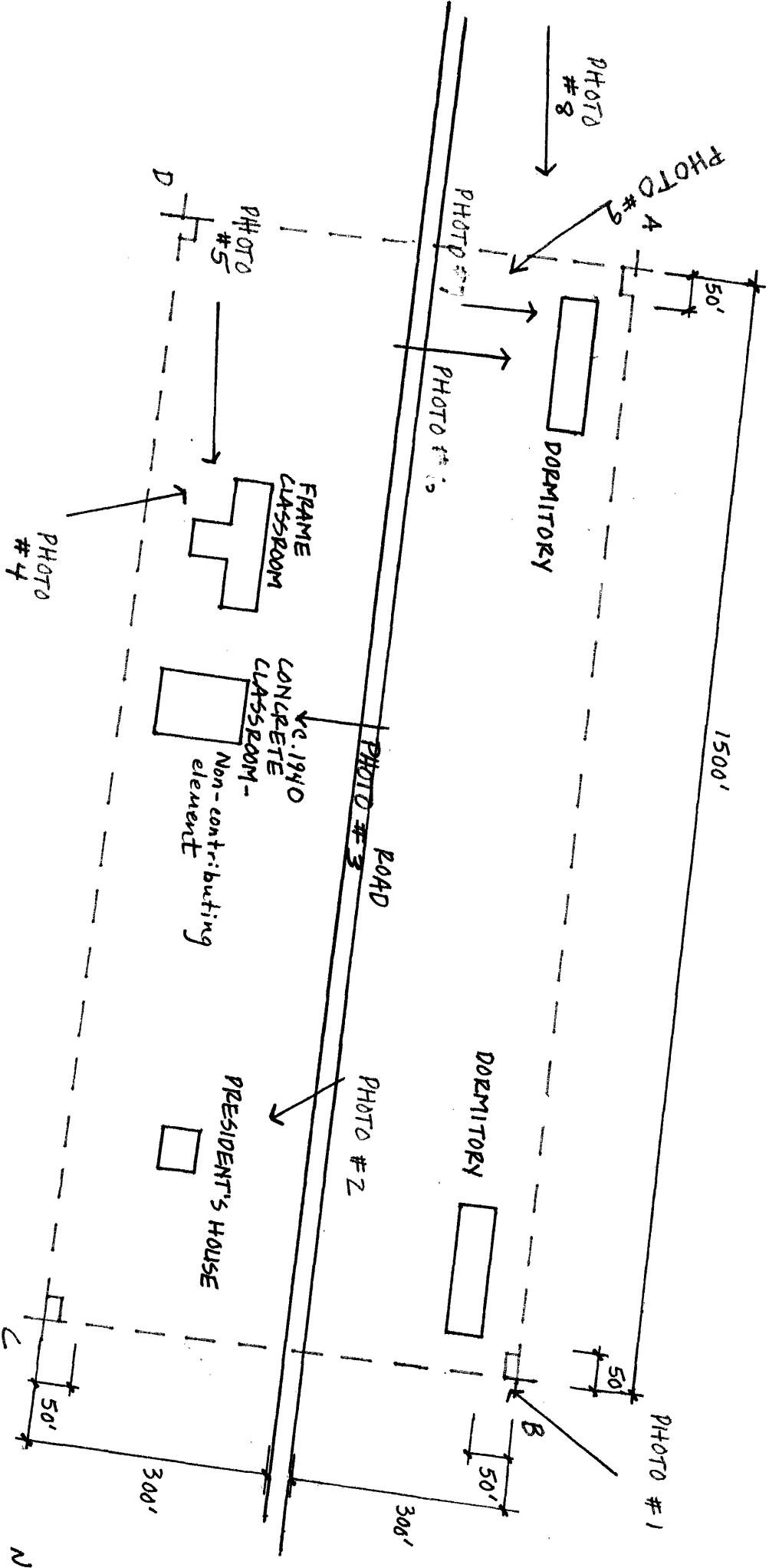
Marshall, David Coughlin. "A History of the Higher Education of Negroes in the State of Louisiana." Doctoral dissertation, 1956, LSU - Baton Rouge.

Lee, Lionel. "The Rise and Fall of Leland College." Masters thesis, 1974, Southern University, Baton Rouge.

Eakin, Myrtle Sue. "The Black Struggle for Education in Louisiana, 1877-1930's" Doctoral dissertation, 1980, University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Leland University Catalogues. 1909-1910, 1912-1913, 1923-1924, 1929-1930.

LELAND COLLEGE
BAKER, LOUISIANA



SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES AT DISTANCES SHOWN. THESE BOUNDARIES INCLUDE THE MAIN PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL CAMPUS, WITH ITS RURAL SETTING AND CONFIGURATION.

NB: USGS MAP DOES NOT ACCURATELY SHOW BLDG. LAYOUT.

SCALE 1" = 200' APPROX.