

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received 20 1984  
date entered 17 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Baton Rouge Junior High School

~~XXXX~~ common Old Baton Rouge Junior High School; City Court Building

**2. Location**

street & number 1100 Laurel Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish East Baton Rouge code 033

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government (city) <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial court <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Baton Rouge

street & number Mayor's Office, P. O. Box 1471

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 Street P. O. Box 1991

city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70821

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Baton Rouge Junior High School (1922) is a two-story, brick, limestone, concrete, and terra-cotta institutional building in the neo-Gothic style. The school is located in a mixed residential-commercial area near the Baton Rouge central business district. Despite the loss of its historic interiors, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

The Old Baton Rouge Junior High School consists of a central lobby, two lateral classroom wings, and a rear polygonal auditorium. The interior is almost completely modern and of little architectural value. The school's importance rests upon its exterior styling, which is derived from sixteenth century English sources. The design is mainly late Gothic, but it also has two early Renaissance features.

Gothic features include:

1. The central Tudor arched entrance with its decoratively carved stone spandrels.
2. The large oriel window which surmounts the entrance. It features panel bas relief shields and crenelations.
3. The twin polygonal towers which flank the entrance. These are surmounted by ogee molded caps with finials. Beneath each cap is a set of bas relief panels showing tracery patterns.
4. The crenelation work which surmounts the entire entrance pavilion as well as other portions of the building.
5. The two-tier gabled buttresses which divide the building mass into bays.
6. The sets of large casement windows within the bays.

English Renaissance features include:

1. The use of quoining.
2. The three round gables which are surmounted by obelisks.

The building is well-crafted as can be seen in the use of carved stone and English bond brick construction.

### Assessment of Integrity

Despite the loss of the historic interior, the school still retains its full exterior articulation, which is the basis of its significance.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1922 **Builder/Architect** Edward F. Neild (Architect)  
Caldwell Bros. (Contractors)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criterion C

The Old Baton Rouge Junior High School is locally significant in the area of architecture as an outstanding local example of eclectic architecture and as the work of a noteworthy practitioner. The context for evaluation is Baton Rouge.

The school epitomizes one of the leading tendencies in twentieth century eclectic architecture--i.e., the use of historic styles for symbolic purposes. In this case a secondary school was built in the sixteenth century English Gothic style. Because it evoked the academic quadrangles of Oxford and Cambridge, this style became identified with academic institutions. Old Baton Rouge Junior High is a good example because its quiet lines and choice of details evoke this academic style very well. It stays relatively close to the late medieval precedents, which is not the case with most other schools or most other "Gothic" buildings in the Baton Rouge area.

The school is also significant as an example of the work of Edward F. Neild, one of Louisiana's leading architects of the twentieth century. In fact, his stature as an architect later went beyond the boundaries of the state.\*

Neild was born in Shreveport in 1884. He rose to prominence in the 1920's, '30's, and '40's designing many of Shreveport's most important buildings. These include the nine-story Henry C. Beck Building, the Municipal Building, the Caddo Parish Courthouse, the massive exhibit center at the Shreveport fairgrounds, the Veterans Administration Hospital in Shreveport, and many of the Caddo Parish school buildings.

Neild's rise to national prominence began in 1928 when Judge Harry Truman visited Neild's recently completed Caddo Parish Courthouse. Truman was impressed and engaged Neild to design the Jackson County Courthouse in Missouri. This formed a lasting friendship between Truman and Neild which led to other commissions. When Truman was president Neild was the architect for the major structural renovations made to the White House after the famous "piano leg incident." Neild died in 1955 while working on the design for the Truman Memorial Library in Kansas City. He also designed courthouses in Phoenix, Arizona; Ruston, Louisiana; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stylistically Neild was an eclectic architect mainly rooted in the axial Beaux Arts tradition who gradually turned to modernism in the late-1920's. The Old Baton Rouge Junior High School was built in 1922 and represents the early eclectic phase of his work. This is significant because by far the greater portion of his extant buildings represent the later modernist phase of his work.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 3/4ths of an acre

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 674920 3369890  
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C            

D            

E            

F            

G            

H            

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map for description. Justification: Boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the significant resource. They cut closely around the building in order to exclude other buildings in the school complex which are less than fifty years old.

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

name/title	National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation	ASSISTED BY ALLEN BROUSSARD, FEDERAL AID COORDINATOR, CITY OF BATON ROUGE AND PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, P. O. BOX 1471, BATON ROUGE LA 70821 (504) 389-3054
organization	State of Louisiana	date July 1984
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 August 23, 1984

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9-27-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Old Baton Rouge Jr. High Item number 8

Page 2

\*State or national significance is not claimed for the building for two reasons:

1. It is not considered the finest example of Neild's work. In addition, the interiors are modern.
2. Neild achieved national prominence only within the last fifty years.

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Continuation sheet Baton Rouge Jr. High School Item number 9

Page 1

9. Bibliographic References

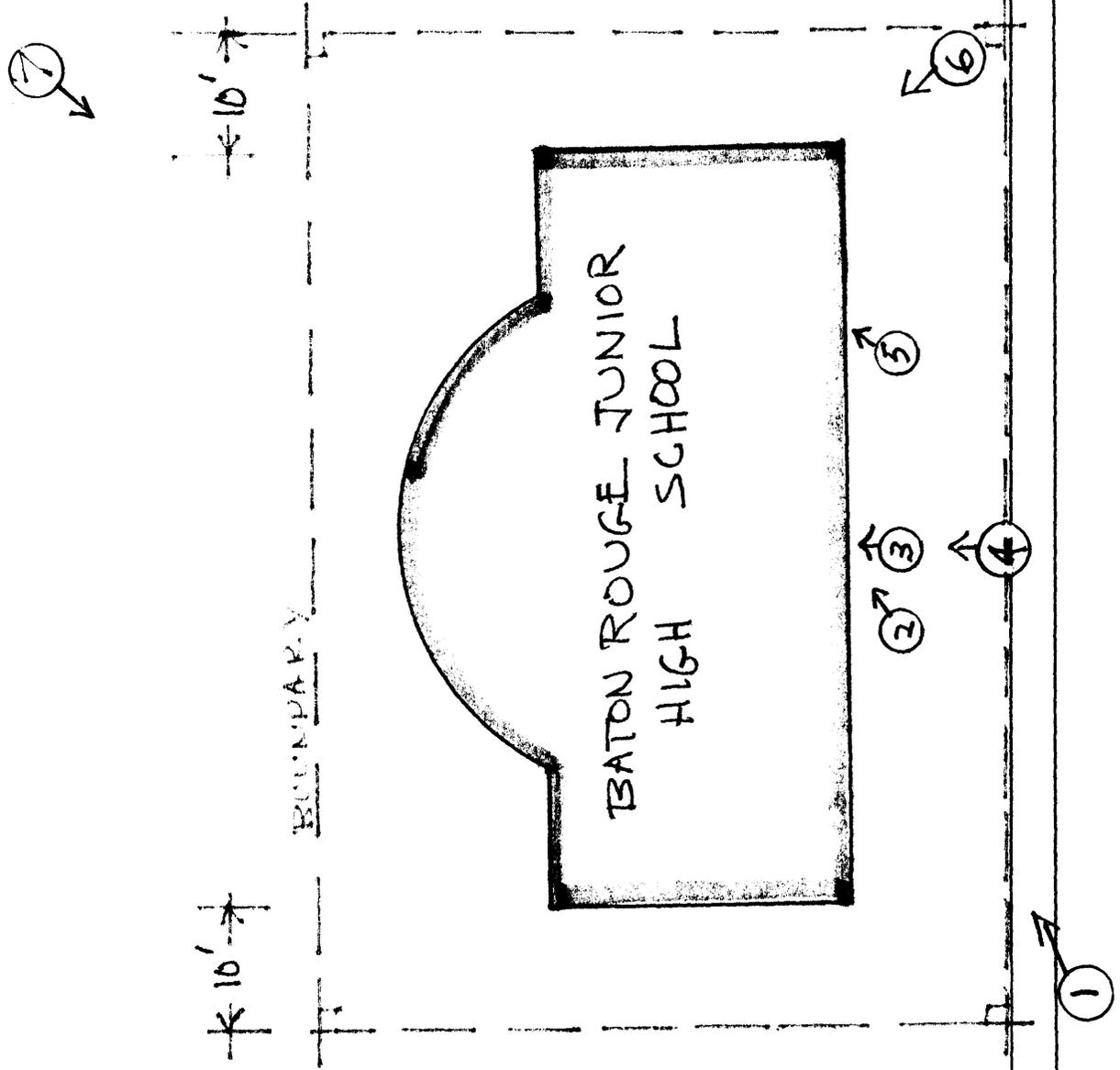
Historical data submitted by Allen Broussard, Federal Aid Coordinator, City of Baton Rouge - Parish of East Baton Rouge, including copies of school board minutes, construction contracts, conveyance records, legislative records, etc.

Information on Edward F. Neild supplied by Scott Smitherman of Sandahl Associates (the lineal descendant of Neild's architectural firm).

Edward F. Neild Obituary. Shreveport Journal, July 7, 1955.



NOT TO  
SCALE



LAUREL ST.