

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic N/A
~~and/or~~ common Lafayette Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 1301 West University Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of
state LA code 22 ^{parish}~~county~~ Lafayette code 055

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Lafayette Parish School Board (318) 232-2630
street & number P. O. Drawer 2158
city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state LA 70502

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lafayette Parish Courthouse
street & number 221 West Main Street P. O. Box 2009
city, town Lafayette state LA 70502

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1984 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lafayette Elementary School (1926) is a two story, brick and concrete, mainly neo-Gothic institutional building located in a residential area near downtown Lafayette. Despite some alterations and an enlargement, the school retains its National Register eligibility.

The building has an "E" shaped plan with a long frontal main block and three rear wings. The middle wing contains an auditorium and was originally longer than the other two. The plan features a central corridor in each part of the building, except, of course, for the auditorium.

Most of the building's architectural pretention is on the facade. There is a central entrance pavilion and two end pavilions which are connected by hyphen wings. Each of the pavilions is articulated with sets of Gothic pylons which have inscribed tracery patterns. At the bottom of each pylon is a large, molded quatrefoil. The pavilions also feature windows surmounted by decorative Tudor arch panels, quatrefoil panels, shaped parapets, and cartouches. Most of the building is surmounted by a modillion cornice. The parapets which surmount the hyphen wings are treated with rectangular cuts which resemble crenelations. Windows are of the multipane sash type and are set in groups.

In 1982 the interior of the school was almost completely modernized. The only remaining historic interior is the auditorium with its pilasters, panels, and pointed arch proscenium.

In addition to the above, there have been two noteworthy exterior changes in the school since construction. The rear wing on the north side has been extended in a manner designed to duplicate the style of the original building. In addition, the front entrance has received a fixed awning.

Assessment of Integrity

The above changes have not compromised the school's architectural integrity. The building still retains the features which contribute to its architectural significance (see Item 8). Moreover, neither of the above exterior additions has had a significant visual impact upon the building.

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 1926 **Builder/Architect** Architect: William T. Nolan (New Orleans)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Lafayette Elementary School is locally significant in the area of architecture because of its artistic value and landmark status within the City of Lafayette.

Of the two or three hundred 50+ year old buildings in Lafayette, the Lafayette Elementary School is clearly one of the most impressive. It is one of only two buildings which feature palatial articulation consisting of a central pavilion, end pavilions, and hyphen wings. It also features a striking interplay of pylons, parapets, and Gothic details which produces a rich and visually energetic facade. In addition, the school undoubtedly has the longest facade of any 50+ year old building in the city.

Much of the school's visual interest comes from the staccato placement of the pylons across the facade pavilions. These are not strictly speaking Gothic features, but their use with Gothic decoration was a bold and original stroke. The pylons distinguish the Lafayette Elementary School from the city's other older school buildings which feature a more orthodox, low key stylistic treatment.

The school is also locally important because it is a rare example of the Gothic style in Lafayette. Gothic styling can be seen not only in its exterior detailing, but in its auditorium detailing as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch prepared by Lafayette Parish School Board, Copy in Register file,
LA State Historic Preservation Office,

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately two-and-one-half acres

Quadrangle name Lafayette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed plat map and Item 10 continuation sheet.

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 ASSISTED BY CITY OF LAFAYETTE
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date April 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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 10, 1984

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

for Allorist Byers Entered in the National Register date 6-14-84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration _____

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Continuation sheet Lafayette Elementary School Item number 10

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10. Boundary Description and Justification:

The precise boundaries of the nominated area are shown on the enclosed scale plat map of the school grounds. They cut closely around most of the building in order to exclude adjacent modern buildings and a modern parking lot. The front lawn was included in order to recognize the monumental frontal view of the school.