

5C 2583

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Other Names/Site Number: Holy Aid and Comfort Church
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 1644 Villere St.
City or town: New Orleans State: LA County: Orleans
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Kristin Sanders 4/30/2018
Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

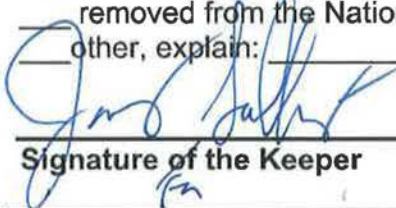
Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: _____


Signature of the Keeper

6-22-2018
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
0		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
0	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): SOCIAL/meeting hall, RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility, HEALTH CARE/ medical business/office, RELIGION/religious facility

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Spanish Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete Block

walls: Wood/Weatherboard

roof: Asphalt

other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall is a one-story meeting hall located in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, LA, in a primarily African American neighborhood. It was built c. 1880 and a few renovations occurred in c. 1927, including the front of the building stretching to the sidewalk, a Spanish Mission Revival parapet stretching the front elevation and a camel back in the rear were added. The front elevation holds the highest degree of integrity with little alteration or change. The rear of the structure, before the historic camelback addition, once was a service hall or half camelback and had a first level kitchen and second floor landing with two small rooms, likely to house traveling musicians. The historic camelback suffered greatly from damages due to Hurricane Katrina and is now demolished. The exterior and interior of the building still hold many contributing historic features from the original construction of the building. It is in good condition and upholds its historic integrity of materials, design, craftsmanship, location, setting, feelings, and association from its period of significance and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Narrative Description

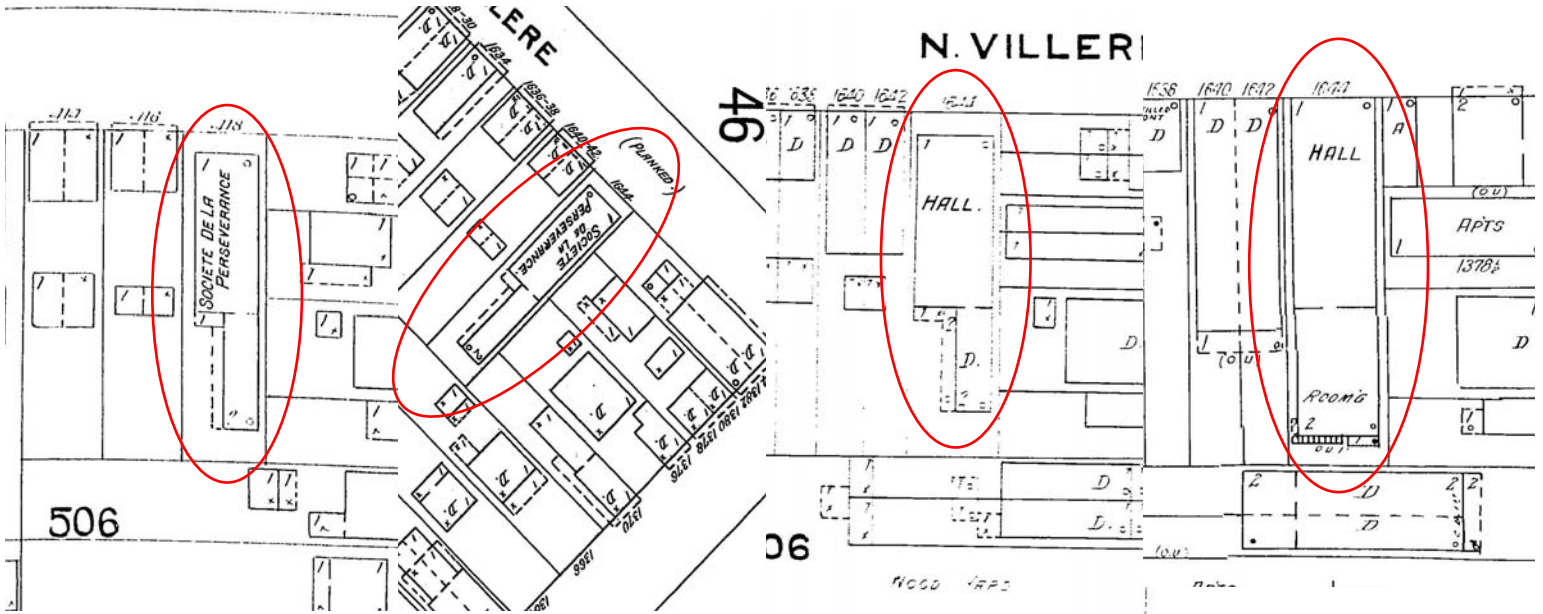
The former Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society building was built circa 1880. It is located in the 7th ward of New Orleans, LA, and sits within the boundaries of the New Marigny National Register Historic District and is considered contributing to the district. However, it also meets additional criterion for individual listing on the National Register for its historic significance under Criterion A (New Marigny is listed only for its architectural significance). This significance is further discussed in Section 8.

Suited to the long plots of land in the city, the narrow hall is a one story structure and stretches the length of the lot, as a 19th century banquet-hall-type meeting place. There was once a second story

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

feature with the service building/camelback that had been attached in the rear.¹ It has a wooden clapboard exterior that is painted a light, bright blue. The width of each clad board is approximately 4.5 inches and has an aged appearance. The continuous foundation is made of concrete blocks stacked three high and each block measuring to approximately 14"x 7". The roof, barely visible behind the parapet, is gabled with an architectural type asphalt shingle. There is also a small, open, grassy area to the left of the building.



From left to right: 1893 Sanborn, 1895-96 Sanborn, 1908-09 Sanborn, and 1937-51 Sanborn.

The front elevation is distinguished by its Spanish Mission Revival parapet. It was added c. 1927.² The parapet arches in the middle with a white painted frame that lines the outer edge of the parapet. In the center is now a louvered vent, but in old photos can be seen a round stained glass window.³ Likely at the time of the 1927 renovation the front of the building was extended to the sidewalk with two additional rooms and a slightly recessed entrance.⁴ The twenty-six foot, three-bay facade has five stairs leading to a double leaf entrance with two windows on either side, each with four vertical glass panes in the Craftsman mode. On the right window, the first, third and fourth panes are painted red. Above the front windows is an empty molded frame that stretches the length of the building, for past signage. On the left side of the front door is a now empty announcement box and on right side of the door there is a stone plaque, situated at eye level close to the edge of the building, signifying the establishment of the Holy Aid and Comfort Church who bought and have been operating out of the building since 1949. The plaque reads:

HOLY AID AND COMFORT SPIRITUAL MISSION
OF ETERNAL LIFE CORP.
INC. MAY 9, 1950
REV. A CONRAD, PRES.-REV. R. HERBERT, VICE PRESIDENT
BRO. WM. BROWN REC SEC BRO. A JOSEPH FIN SEC

¹ Ann Woodruff, "Society Halls in New Orleans: A Survey of Jazz Landmarks, Part 1" *The Jazz Archivist* Vol. 20 New Orleans: Tulane University, 2007, p. 19.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid, 18.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

SIS. L. MORNAY TREA SIS L. MURPHEY, VICE CHR. LADY
BOARD OF TRUSTEE
BRO. EP. ANDRE, CHR. REV. A. HYDE
"G. JOHNSON REV. S. GIBERT
"L. JACOB SIS. L. MORRISON
"L. MANCHESTER " N. BROWN
REV V. WILKENSON " H. WILLIAMS
REV A. CONRAD PASTOR
STONE (Circle Mason symbol DEC. 17 1950
LAID with center "G") BY THE
SUPREME COUNCIL OF LA.
A. A. S. R. M.
GEORGE LONGE M. P. S. G. C.

Going counterclockwise, the west elevation is 71' 5" long with six distinct windows going from left to right. These windows appear as the following:

- 1 - four paned window like the front elevation, unpainted glass
- 2 - four-over-four paned windows,
- 1 - five sectioned molded paneled door, and
- 2 - four-over-four paned window.

The six openings are the only distinguishing feature of this elevation.

The rear of the building has gone through some changes through the years. Originally there was a service building attached, but a camel-back was added in the 1920s. After Hurricane Katrina, the camel-back addition suffered major damage and it was remedied by demolition. Still attached but inaccessible from the rest of the building are the remains of the once elevated band stand that are currently in a devastated state due to being left in the elements. The rear of the building has recently been closed of all openings.

The east side elevation abuts against neighboring yards with some vegetation growing on it. The number of windows, doors, and their styles mirror the opposing side except for that the far left side window (closest to the rear, four-over-four paned window) is boarded up.

When first entering the building, the double entry doors swing inward to a small welcoming entryway before opening another set of double doors inward to the main hall of the building. There are two closets on either side at the entrance. Then the room opens up into the main hall where there are currently pews leading up to a front stage, separate from the original band stand. There is an arched ceiling divider visually distinguishing the current front stage area. Renovations since the building was sold to Holy Aid and Comfort Spiritual Church have been the addition of the pews, and renovations to the windows and floor and a wall separating what is now the back of the church with the once elevated bandstand. After the demolition of the camelback this part of the church was not cared for as the main hall. This has the least integrity of the interior parts of the building.

The hall had two additions c. 1927 to the front and back of the building, with only the front additions remaining. The front addition included the Spanish Mission style parapet and the extension of the front hall to the sidewalk (as seen in the above Sanborn maps and historic photographs at the end of the nomination taken sometime between 1927 - 1949) which added two small rooms to either side of

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

the entrance, and a rear addition, which suffered extreme structural damage due to Hurricane Katrina and was demolished.

Overall, the building has experienced some deterioration, but would be easily recognizable to former society members and guests. The material existing in the building is still mostly original and displays its original 1880s form with 1920s renovated facade. Laura Blokker’s historic context, “The African American Experience in Louisiana,” states:

“While most benevolent societies did play significant roles in their communities, the significant historic associations of any given society must be able to be discussed and explained in detail for a candidate to have National Register eligibility...To be eligible for the National Register, benevolent society halls must retain an easily recognizable historic appearance.”⁵

This is the case with the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall. The building’s historic associations are discussed more fully in Section 8. It does retain an easily recognizable historic appearance as well including integrity of location, setting, material, craftsmanship, design, feeling, and association. Members of the Society would recognize their former meeting hall if they were to come back to the neighborhood today.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying to the property for National Register listing.)

X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations:

X	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	B	Removed from its original location
	C	A birthplace or grave
	D	A cemetery
	E	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	F	A commemorative property
	G	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Social History, Ethnic Heritage: Black

⁵ Laura E. Blokker. “The African American Experience in Louisiana.” Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. N.d. Web. 4 September 2014, pg. 98.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Period of Significance: 1880-1949

Significant Dates: 1880, 1927, 1949

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): unknown

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance begins with the year the building was constructed, 1880, and extends to 1949, the year that the society sold the building.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): Although the building is presently owned by a religious institution and is being used for religious purposes, it is being nominated for its significance in relation to social history and ethnic heritage.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society building is locally significant under criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black, for its role as the location for an active benevolent society during the period of significance from 1880-1949. While benevolent societies played a nationwide role in the growth of America, the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society had a larger impact to the city of New Orleans and the African American community. Not only did the society provide health insurance to its members, but it also cultivated jazz music and African American comradery. These organizations were of great importance for the African American community in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th century.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Social History, Ethnic Heritage: Black

Brief History of Benevolent Societies and Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society

The Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society, originally La Persévérance Société de Bienfaisance et D'Assistance Mutuelle, was organized by free well-off creole, people of color, both men and women, possibly as early as 1783.⁶ As quoted in the earliest notarial archive record found in English in 1853, its purpose was to "cure the sick and bury the dead." Notarial achieve records indicate the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society was incorporated dates in 1853 and reincorporated in 1907.⁷ The society can be found in city directories around this location beginning in 1868.⁸

⁶ John Earnest, *A Nation Within a Nation*. Lanham: Rousma and Littlefield Publishing group, 2011, p. 32.

⁷ Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association by Gus McKay, "Reincorporation Letter" 7 October 1907, New Orleans Notarial Achieves, New Orleans.

⁸ Woodruff, p. 13.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Before the time of commercial insurance and welfare, people still maintained a safety net of health insurance through benevolent societies. Originating from an idea of Freemason fraternities who promoted health and prosperity for its members, benevolent societies were incorporated into American society by the British and French. The Oddfellows were one of the first groups established here in America in New England⁹ and as early as 1770, a letter published in an excerpt from a newspaper was an encouragement letter to a ladies benevolent club in Boston.¹⁰ Members would pay usually a monthly fee for urgent medical assistance, funeral costs to take the burden from the family, and care for widows and orphans in the community. Alongside, pleasurable activities like music, picnics, and gatherings were organized creating a tight knit community. All races and genders took part of benevolent societies.¹¹

In 1888, a survey documented four out of five people were a part of such organizations.¹² While there could be found an organization for anyone, there were criteria that had to be adhered to for most every group. Immigrants from different parts of Europe would band together and separations between men's and women's groups were common. African American groups were also not only separated by race, but often also by social class, darkness of skin, and education.¹³

These societies spread throughout Louisiana, but the most societies were in New Orleans.¹⁴ From the records found in St. Louis Cemetery and Girod St. Cemetery alone, there were over 200 societies.¹⁵ In New Orleans, there were societies for people of all races and ethnicities, but African American fraternal societies were particularly prevalent as a way for people of color in general to band together and be in community as they were excluded from other social groups and support amid growing tension of racism post reconstruction. Recently freed slaves overall also saw an increased mortality rate after losing the little health protection they had during enslavement.¹⁶ While the health insurance benefits may have initially attracted people towards the group, music and dancing were also prevalent due to segregation laws being applied at dance halls.¹⁷ The jazz funeral parade procession tradition came from the music played in the halls, leading to what is known today as traditional jazz.¹⁸ In the early 19th century the jazz funeral tradition intimidated fearful white people who might see it as a kind of slave rebellion. Restrictions of size and time of day were often put on these parades by those who feared potential opposition.¹⁹ Another practical means of the organizations were the skills learned by often uneducated recently freed slaves. Things needed for the society such as writing constitutions, keeping minutes and bookkeeping were learned and were useful skills for jobs being sought.²⁰ These societies were particularly important in the African American community in New Orleans around the turn of the 20th century.

⁹ Woodruff, p. 12.

¹⁰ "Letter to Ladies Benevolent Society," Boston-Gazette Supplement, August 6, 1770.

¹¹ Earnest, p. 32

¹² Woodruff, p. 11.

¹³ Earnest, p. 38.

¹⁴ Dr. Tim Lockley, "Louisiana Societies (93 societies)." Southern Charities Project. September 6, 2012. Accessed November 24, 2017. <https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/southerncharitiesproject/database/state/louisiana/>.

¹⁵ Claude F. Jacobs, "Benevolent Societies of New Orleans Blacks During the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries," In *The African American Experience in Louisiana*. Vol XI, Part C. Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 2002, p. 8.

¹⁶ Ibid, p.7.

¹⁷ Woodruff, p. 13.

¹⁸ John W. Blassingame, *Black New Orleans: 1860-1880*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1973, p. 170.

¹⁹ Earnest, p. 32.

²⁰ Jacobs, p. 15.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

In addition, the membership included social gatherings with live music and other events at the organization's hall. Some of the societies, including the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society, had their own buildings with stages for performances. These venues helped to spur the growth of jazz music and some historians have argued that society halls are significant for helping jazz music to grow and spread. Additionally, the frequent banquets and funerals provided opportunities for the brass bands.²¹ The nominated society hall here has been remembered through many oral histories as the site of many lively jazz concerts by famous jazz musicians.²²

These organizations remained popular until the middle of the 20th century when government subsidies made health insurance more obtainable, creating a lesser need for these societies. Popular social aid and pleasure organizations today evolved from such organizations once health related necessities were less needed.²³

The Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society is important as one of the first of these societies that developed in New Orleans, but also for its largely intact original building. In accordance to usual hall settings it contained a banquet, social meeting hall, with an elevated bandstand in the front to raise musicians above the crowd of dancers, along with a kitchen, lounge area, office, and lodging.²⁴ Originally a half width size, two-story service hall accommodated the Perseverance Society with an addition of a larger full size camelback to better serve it that the community added on. Unfortunately, the rear addition is no longer standing and the bandstand is in a devastated state, but the main original building is intact and retains its integrity.

Up until the 1940s the building remained as an event hall where many jazz musicians performed, including "Wooden" Joe Nicholas, Buddy Petit, Isadore Barbarin (father of Paul Barbarin), Joe "King" Oliver, Sidney Bechet, Big Eye Louis Nelson, Chris Kelley, and Sam Morgan.²⁵ The community today still remembers music played there and tells stories of family members who use to perform with the bands.

In 1949, with decreased need of community insurance, the building was sold to the Holy Aid and Comfort Spiritual Church of Eternal Life. It is listed in a 1954 newspaper as a spiritual church with Reverend M.A. Conrad.²⁶ While the historical function of the building changed, many similar functions continued there, replacing jazz musicians with gospel choirs²⁷ and partnering with still existing benevolent societies and clubs to perform funerals.²⁸

From fraternal building archivist, Ann Woodruff, she speaks of thirteen benevolent societies between her two articles on society halls in New Orleans, Volumes 20 and 21. Of those thirteen societies documented six were documented primarily as People of Color (one had a separate wing for their black chapter and is in each count) and eight as European decedent based. Of the People of Color based societies, three have buildings still standing with facades severely altered, one had the African American wing demolished, one never had a permanent location, and one was the Perseverance

²¹ Blokker, pg. 40

²² Ibid, pg. 98.

²³ Woodruff, p. 13-18.

²⁴ Ibid, p. 13.

²⁵ Ibid, p. 18.

²⁶ "Attend the Church of Your Choice Sunday," *New Orleans Item*, July 4, 1954, p. 12.

²⁷ "Orleans Negro Church Notes," *New Orleans States*, June 14, 1952, p. 18.

²⁸ "Deaths," *The Times Picayune*, July 24, 1952, p. 2.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society. Of the European, white based societies, six have exteriors that remain recognizable, one in a dilapidated state and one demolished.

The Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society contributed to the neighborhood of the 7th ward as well as to the city of New Orleans, providing health, welfare, communal support, and entertainment for its members, primarily People of Color. It was a part of the larger benevolent movement in the city and played its part encouraging the growth of jazz and African American fraternal unity. Its integrity of authenticity holds it apart from other halls of the sort with its lack of modern improvements, making it an excellent example of a benevolent society hall in the city of New Orleans.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1942 Photograph of Perseverance Benevolent Society, June 1942, Folder 130, William Russell Photographic Collection, William Russell Jazz Collection, MSS 520, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

1942 Photograph of Perseverance Benevolent Society, June 1942, Folder 151, William Russell Photographic Collection, William Russell Jazz Collection, MSS 520, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

"Attend the Church of Your Choice Sunday," *New Orleans Item*, July 4, 1954.

Blassingame, John W. *Black New Orleans: 1860-1880*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1973.

Blokker, Laura E. "The African American Experience in Louisiana." Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. N.d. Web. 4 September 2014.

"Deaths," *The Times Picayune*, July 24, 1952.

Dr. Tim Lockley. "Louisiana Societies (93 societies)." Southern Charities Project. September 6, 2012. Accessed November 24, 2017.
<https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/southerncharitiesproject/database/state/louisiana/>.

Earnest, John, *A Nation Within a Nation*. Lanham: Rousma and Littlefield Publishing group, 2011.

Jacobs, Claude F., "Benevolent Societies Of New Orleans Blacks During The Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries," In *The African American experience in Louisiana*. Vol XI, Part C. Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 2002, p. 7-17.

"Letter to Ladies Benevolent Society," *Boston-Gazette Supplement*, August 6, 1770.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

“Orleans Negro Church Notes,” *New Orleans States*, June 14, 1952.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Association by Gus McKay, “Reincorporation Letter” 7 October 1907, New Orleans Notarial Achieves, New Orleans.

Woodruff, Ann, “Society Halls in New Orleans: A Survey of Jazz Landmarks, Part 1” *The Jazz Archivist* Vol. 20 New Orleans: Tulane University, 2007, p. 11-28.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 29.970696

Longitude: -90.063377

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Squares 505 and 506, Lot 13 on N. Villere measuring 30’x128’. See submitted boundary map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the property reflect the historic boundaries of the property.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Emily Z. Knollenberg, Student
organization: Tulane Preservation Master Program
street & number: 6217 Laurel St.
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70118
e-mail: eknollenberg@tulane.edu
telephone: (804) 398-0339
date: November 25, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Holy Aid and Comfort Church
City or Vicinity: New Orleans
County: Orleans Parish
State: Louisiana
Name of Photographer: Emily Z. Knollenberg
Date of Photographs: October – November 2017

Photo 1 of 11: Camera facing south and showing front (north) facade
Photo 2 of 11: Camera facing northeast and showing front of west elevation
Photo 3 of 11: Camera facing southeast and showing back of west elevation
Photo 4 of 11: Camera facing east and showing west elevation of deteriorated camelback
Photo 5 of 11: Camera facing northeast and showing rear (south) elevation
Photo 6 of 11: Camera facing southwest and showing east elevation
Photo 7 of 11: Camera facing northeast showing collective rear (south) and west elevation
Photo 8 of 11: Camera facing southeast showing collective front (north) and west elevation
Photo 9 of 11: Camera facing south showing plaque on front (north) facade
Photo 10 of 11: Interior view of hall and bandstand facing the rear (south)
Photo 11 of 11: Interior view of the main hall facing south

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

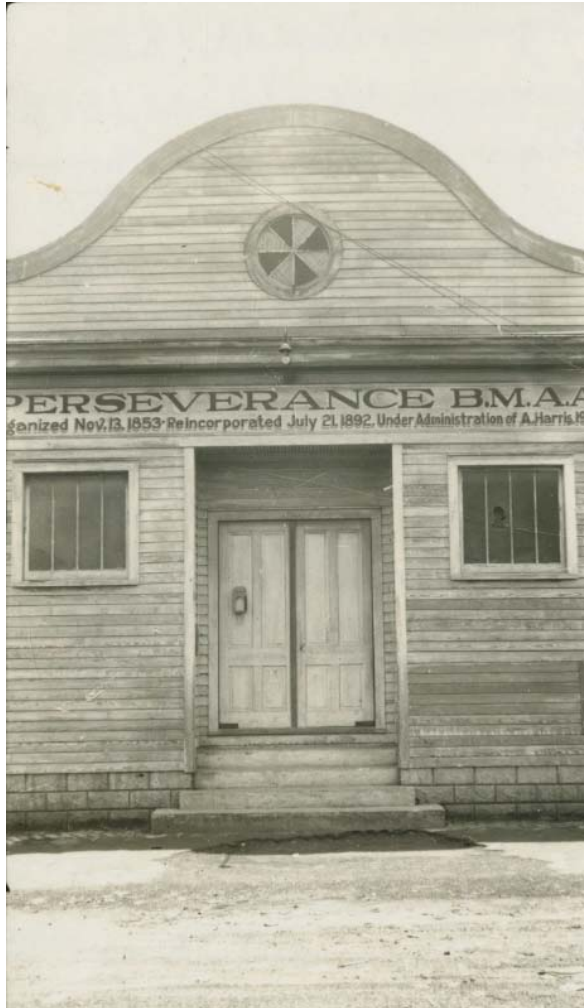


Figure 1 (left): Camera facing south capturing north elevation. Signage and stained glass window still intact.²⁹

Figure 2 (right): Camera facing southeast capturing north elevation. Signage and stained glass window still intact. Also shows flagpole, light, and cornerstone plaque.³⁰

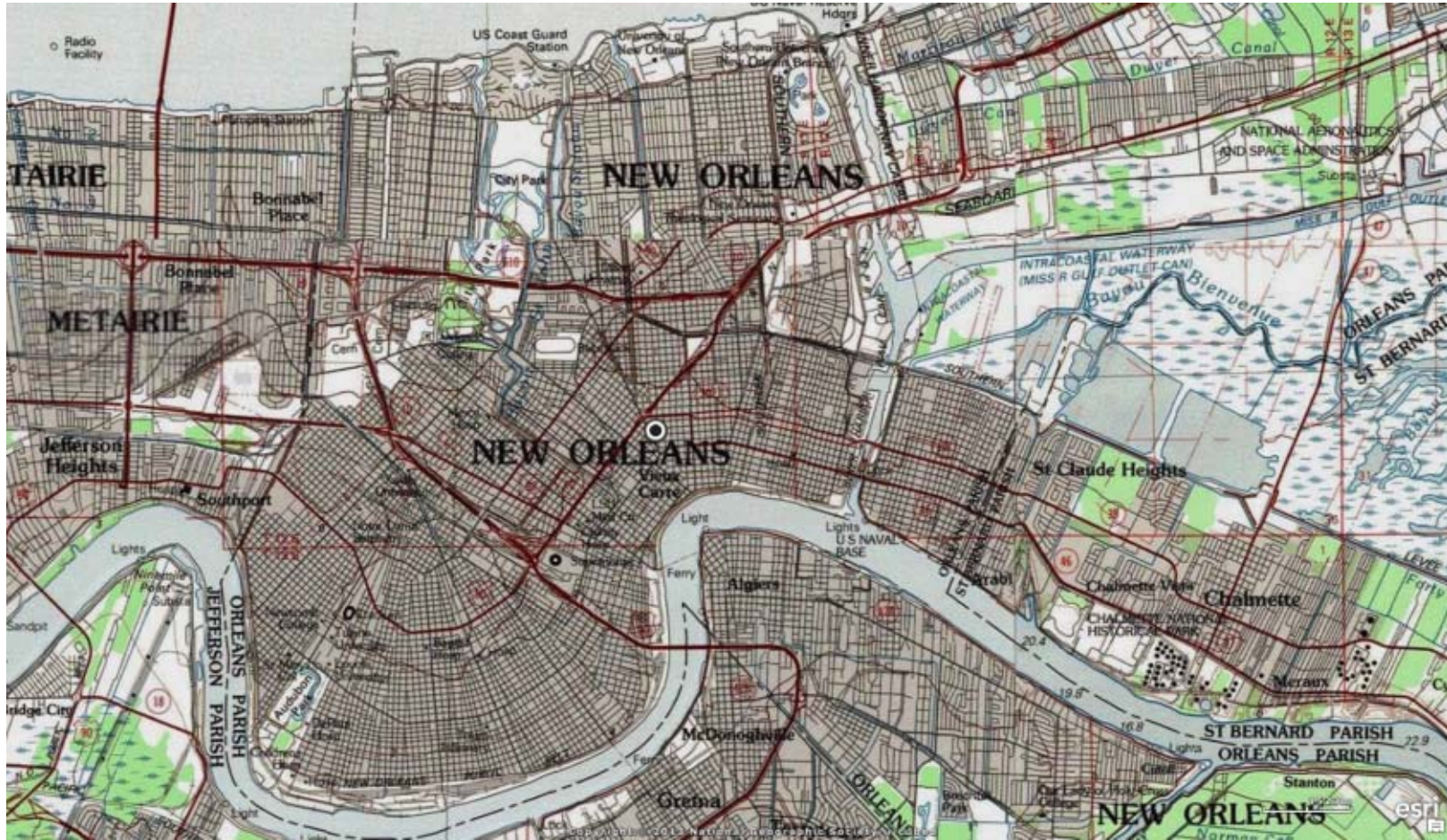
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

²⁹ 1942 Photograph of Perseverance Benevolent Society, June 1942, Folder 130, William Russell Photographic Collection, William Russell Jazz Collection, MSS 520, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

³⁰ 1942 Photograph of Perseverance Benevolent Society, June 1942, Folder 151, William Russell Photographic Collection, William Russell Jazz Collection, MSS 520, Williams Research Center, The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall, Orleans Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.970696 Longitude: -90.063377

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall, Orleans Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.970696 Longitude: -90.063377

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Orleans Parish, LA
Plat and Boundary Map

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Orleans Parish makes every effort to produce the most accurate information possible. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data herein, its use or interpretation. The assessment information is from the last certified taxroll. All data is subject to change before the next certified taxroll.

Date printed: 04/27/18 : 10:38:08

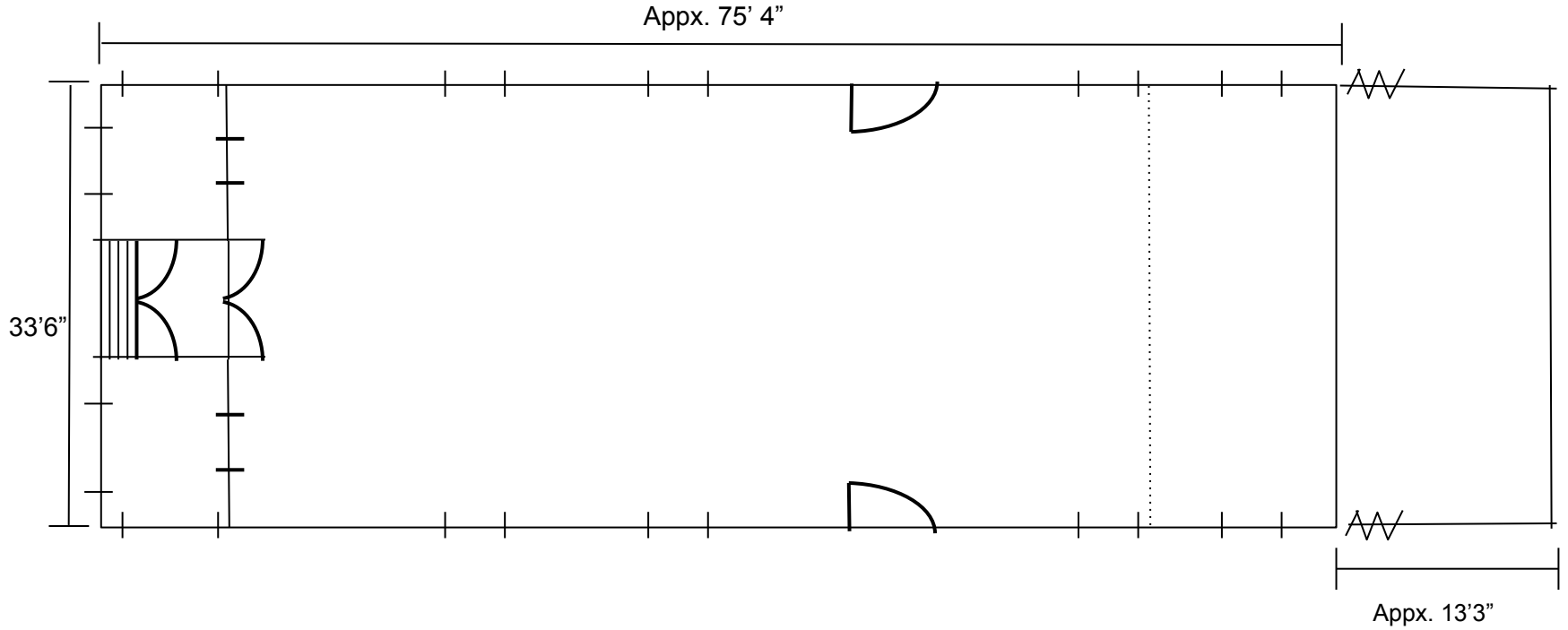


Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Orleans Parish, LA
Imagery Map

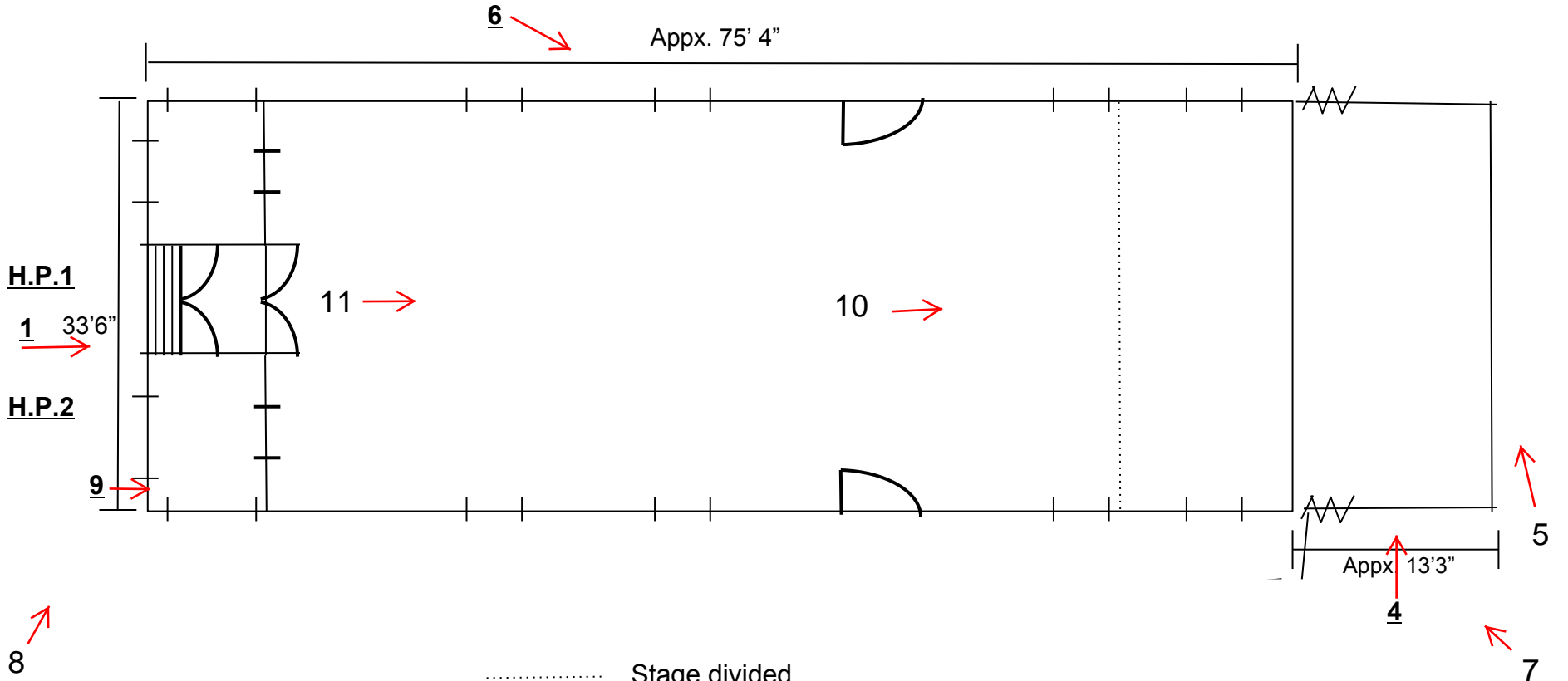


Latitude: 29.970696 Longitude: -90.063377

Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
Orleans Parish, LA
Floor Plan



Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall
 Orleans Parish, LA
 Photo Key



..... Stage divided

—|—|— Window **2, 3**

⌋ Door

H.P. = Historic Photo

N ←

















HOLY AID & COMFORT SPIRITUAL MISSIONS
OF ETERNAL LIFE CORP.
INC. MAY 9, 1950

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LAID



DEC. 17, 1950
BY THE

SUPREME COUNCIL OF LA.

A. A. S. R. M.
GEORGE LONGE, M. P. S. G. C.





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SEPT 2017

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/10/2018 Date of Pending List: 5/30/2018 Date of 16th Day: 6/14/2018 Date of 45th Day: 6/25/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 6/22/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BILL CODY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 5, 2018

Eleanor Burke
1300 Perdido St, 2nd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Ms. Burke:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic property listed below will be considered by the State National Register Review Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

**Perseverance Benevolent Mutual Aid Association Hall (1644 N. Villere)
Orleans Parish, LA**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed on the National Register, tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. Listing in the National Register does not place limitations on the property by the federal or state government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The government will not attach restrictive covenants to the property or seek to acquire them. A draft copy of the nomination and attachment is included with this letter.

One of your responsibilities as a Certified Local Government (CLG) is to review pending National Register nominations of properties within your community. This is required, in part, to detect any errors in fact, but also to provide local insight or knowledge concerning the property. I hope that you will consider the nomination for this property at your next meeting. After providing a reasonable opportunity for public comment, the New Orleans Historic District Commission shall fill out the attached CLG review form as to whether or not, in their opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Within 60 calendar days of notice from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the chief elected official shall transmit their report to the SHPO. If the SHPO does not receive the report and recommendation within 60 calendar days, the nomination process will continue. All comments received will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the National Register Review Committee for consideration along with the nomination.

We have scheduled the nomination for presentation to the National Register Review Committee on **Thursday, April 12, 2018**, and would like to receive your comments by that time in fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period.

Eleanor Burke
February 5, 2018
Page 2

You are invited to attend the National Register Review Committee meeting at which the nomination will be officially considered. The location and time have not been confirmed yet, but will be found on our website. Should you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Jessica Richardson at 225-219-4595 or at jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,



Kristin Sanders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**NEW ORLEANS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT FOR:
PERSEVERANCE BENEVOLENT MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION HALL
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG: _____

PROPERTY NAME: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

DATE SENT: _____

DATE OF NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING: _____

Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

Yes _____ No _____ Criterion: A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

Has public comment been included? Yes _____ No _____ Explain:

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination (use additional sheets if necessary): _____

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons:

Historic District Commission Chair (Print Name)

Signature

Date

Chief Elected Official (Print Name)

Signature

Date

This report and recommendation should be mailed to:

National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Questions about this form may be directed to the National Register Coordinator – Jessica Richardson at 225-215-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

NEW ORLEANS HISTORIC DISTRICT LANDMARKS COMMISSION
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT HISTORIC DISTRICT LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Mitchell J. Landrieu
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. Elliott Perkins
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Jessica Richardson
Office of Cultural Development
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247

Re: 1644 N. Villere Street National Register Nomination

At their meeting of March 15, 2018, the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission voted unanimously in favor of recommending 1644 N. Villere Street as a National Register Landmark.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Burke



Deputy Director





BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: May 9, 2018

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall, Orleans Parish, LA



Jim,

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register Documentation for the Perseverance Benevolent and Mutual Aid Society Hall to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595, or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- _____ Other:

Comments:

- _____ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- _____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- _____ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____
- _____ constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property)
- _____ Other: