

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Scott Street School

other names/site number Scott Street Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 900 North 19th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county East Baton Rouge code 033 zip code 70802

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy

June 3, 1994

Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, LA Date
SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for
Edson B. Beall

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the Date of Action
National Register 7.7.94

Scott Street School
Name of Property

East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation concrete
walls brick

roof other: tar and gravel

other concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Scott Street School
Name of Property

East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

education

ethnic history

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edward F. Neild, Architect

Burkes & Haley, Contractors

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Scott Street School
Name of Property

East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	6 7 5 7 8 0	3 3 7 0 6 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1994
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Bernard J. Weiss, Superintendent, East Baton Rouge Parish School System
street & number P. O. Box 2950 telephone (504) 922-5400
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70821

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Scott St. School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The Scott Street School (1922) is a two story masonry structure which stands on a corner overlooking one of Baton Rouge's busy interstate highways. A restrained example of the Neo-Classical style, the East Baton Rouge Parish building has undergone little alteration since its construction. Thus, its National Register eligibility remains uncompromised.

The school stands on a raised basement and is constructed of red brick with concrete decorative elements. Its Classical features include:

- 1) rectangular massing. Although the building's footprint contains several slightly projecting elements, the overall appearance of the structure is that of a rectangular mass. The projections include the central and end elements of the facade and the central element of the side elevations.
- 2) the treatment of the facade's central projection, which is ornamented as an entrance pavilion. Its decorative features include:
 - a) four colossal brick pilasters with molded concrete bases and concrete capitals featuring stylized acanthus leaves. These pilasters support an entablature consisting of a molded architrave, a brick frieze with roundels located above the pilaster's capitals, and a molded cornice. A segmentally arched parapet with its own molded and curved cornice surmounts the entablature. A plain cartouche is centered within the face of this parapet.
 - b) a door surround whose flanking concrete pilasters match the above mentioned colossal pilasters. The pilasters support an entablature featuring a roundel on each end. Surmounting this entablature is a broken pediment with a raking cornice. Within the pediment is a concrete block supporting an urn which rises through the open space in the broken pediment.
- 3) the continuation of the central projection's entablature around most of the building. It is absent only from the central portion of the rear elevation, where a large chimney is located. Except for the absence of roundels within the frieze, this entablature is identical to that found beneath the central projection's segmentally arched parapet.

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Scott Street School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- 4) an encircling plain parapet with coping,
- 5) an encircling watertable, and
- 6) two rear entrances recessed within arches whose brick-filled tympanums appear to be original.

Other features which distinguish the building include bands of windows with concrete lintels, a fourteen light transom above the front entrance's recessed double doors, nine light transoms above classroom doors, a pressed metal ceiling found throughout the interior, and a simple chair rail in the hallways. The school's floorplan is quite straightforward and consists of classrooms and cloakrooms opening off hallways on each floor.

Alterations to the building include the installation of linoleum over the school's original floors and the subdivision of one lower story classroom into offices for the Head Start program which currently uses the structure. A covered walkway now connects the main building to two nearby modern auxiliary structures. This walkway joins the main building over one of the arched rear entrances and, thus, essentially hides the arch's brick-filled tympanum. These changes are so minor that any former student of the Scott Street School would easily recognize the building if he or she should return to visit the structure today. As a symbol of the coming of age of education for Baton Rouge's African-American community (see part 8), the Scott Street School is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Scott St. School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Scott Street School is locally significant in the areas of education and ethnic history because it represents the "coming of age" of the effort to provide public-funded education for the African-American children of Baton Rouge.

Like the rest of the South, Louisiana was slow to make free public education available to African-American children after the Civil War. In Baton Rouge, the first serious efforts to educate these children were made by local churches. The two black Methodist congregations cooperated to establish a school known as the Hamilton Academy. The Baptists consolidated classes previously offered in their churches into a private secondary school known as the Baton Rouge Academy. The latter facility operated between 1875 and 1916 and provided elementary and secondary education. In addition, it offered the only teacher training course for blacks outside of New Orleans. Both of these private schools seem to have had adequate facilities and equipment, and both were strongly supported by the black community. A third institution, known as the Live Oak School, was also founded during the Reconstruction period. It was operated by a white missionary from New York state and eventually became an orphanage for black children.

Public records for the Reconstruction era are sparse, and the few early records which survive do not differentiate between the races. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the availability or quality of public education available to African-American children in Baton Rouge before 1877. In that year the parish school board identified several possible locations for black schools, but it appears that only two were actually placed in service. Both schools apparently made use of already existing structures such as residences, churches or lodge halls, for no special buildings were constructed to house them. By 1891 these two schools had combined and were holding classes in a small, two-story building on Hickory Street. A future black educator who saw the building in 1908 described it as "... a very unattractive, unpainted, [unceiled and unpartitioned frame] building ... with space enough for the small number of children in attendance, but ill adapted in every way to the purpose intended." According to this witness, for many years the parish school board failed to approve any expenditure of public funds to provide the black children of the city with such bare necessities as pure drinking water, sanitary toilets, and proper heating and ventilating facilities. Nevertheless, for twenty-three years this inadequate building served as the only public institution of learning for black children in the city.

Educational opportunities for black children began to improve with the appointment of H. M. Strickland as parish school superintendent in 1905. Strickland soon raised the salaries

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Scott St. School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
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of black teachers and fixed the length of the school term at nine months for city children and four months for rural residents. In 1908 he hired an entirely new and better trained teaching staff for the Hickory Street School, and hired an experienced principal as well. However, these improvements made no real impression upon the black community, which continued to send its children to the church-sponsored private schools.

Recognizing that black parents would not send their children to the public school until its physical condition was improved, Strickland and the principal persuaded the school board to appropriate \$300 for improvements in 1908. This sum funded exterior painting and the construction of partitions to form separate classrooms. A short time later, a friend of the school collected \$50 and hired a plumber to connect the building with the city's water supply. Thereafter, attendance at the Hickory Street School increased so much that both the building and the teaching staff had to be expanded the next year.

Further progress in black education was made in 1913, when Baton Rouge Mayor Jules Roux promised to expand and improve the African-American school in return for the black community's support in an upcoming bond election. Eventually a request for \$25,000 for a new black school building was placed on the ballot. The proposal carried easily and marked a significant change on the part of both the white and African-American communities with regard to supporting black education. With the money thus raised, the city built its first modern brick school for black children. In fact, the building was the first modern school to be erected for black children at public expense in the State of Louisiana. The black community's acceptance of the new school was overwhelming, and within three years' time an additional facility was needed. Baton Rouge voters approved funds for a second African-American school (the Reddy Street School) in 1916 and a third (the Scott Street School) in 1920. The latter, built in 1922, had fourteen classrooms, a library, principal's office, restroom and other modern conveniences. These three modern schools represented a "coming of age" for black education in Baton Rouge because, in addition to providing better physical facilities and space for more students, they allowed teachers to separate students by age and grade. Unfortunately, the first two modern schools do not survive. Thus, the Scott Street School is the only surviving symbol of this important "coming of age" and is an outstanding candidate for National Register listing.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Scott St. School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Frazier, James Monroe. "The History of Negro Education in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana." M.A. thesis, State University of Iowa, 1937.

Site visit by National Register staff.

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National Park Service**

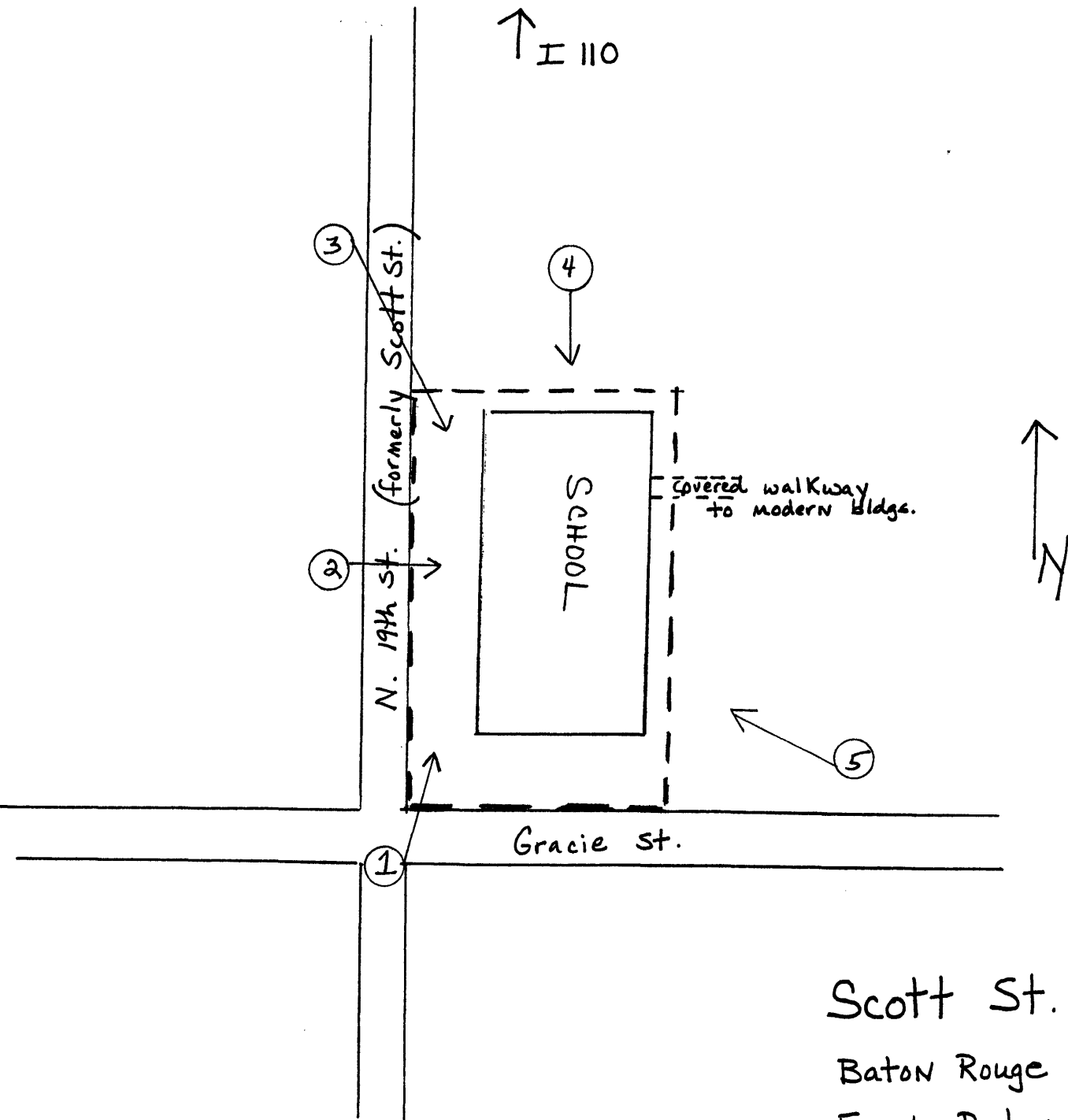
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Scott Street School, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

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Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow curblines to the west and south. They cut close to the nominated resource to the north and east in order to exclude the nearby modern auxiliary buildings mentioned in Part 7. As shown on the sketch map, the eastern boundary (rear) cuts through a covered walkway.



Scott St. School
 Baton Rouge
 East Baton Rouge Parish
 Louisiana

Scale 1" = 50'

--- BOUNDARY