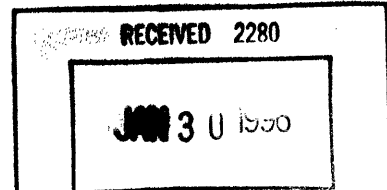


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Beauregard Parish Training School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Corner Martin Luther King Dr. and Alexander Street N/A not for publication

city or town DeRidder N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Beauregard Parish code 011 zip code 70634

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 1/11/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
LA 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): _____

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/1/96
Entered in the National Register

Beauregard Parish Training School
Name of Property

Beauregard Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use
Education/school (gym)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco (main bldg)
Brick (gym/classroom bldg)
roof Asbestos
other

Narrative Description

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

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 heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1929 - 1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: P. Olivier & Sons (main bldg)

Primary location of additional data:

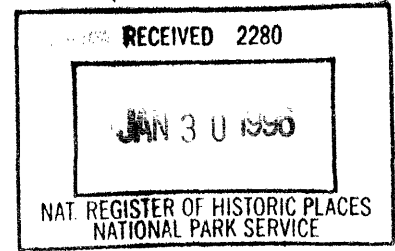
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1



The Beauregard Parish Training School consists of two buildings which stand on a moderately busy street located on the east side of the Beauregard Parish seat of DeRidder. Built in 1929, the older of the two is a one story hollow tile structure with a smooth stucco covering. The other building, constructed in 1938, is also one story in height but is constructed of brick rather than stucco. Because the buildings are very simply articulated, the term "no style" is being used. Although somewhat altered, the two buildings which comprise the school retain their National Register eligibility.

The 1929 building's massing is that of a rectangle beneath a low, slightly overhanging hipped roof. This roof is broken by a low pediment-like gable on the facade, by gablets on each end, and by three tall chimneys. The smooth walls are pierced by bands of windows on the front and rear. These windows have concrete sills but otherwise lack traditional surrounds. The eastern elevation is window-less. The building is encircled by a watertable. The entrance, which features sidelights, is located at the rear of a small vestibule whose door-less opening is distinguished by a bracketed cornice. The vestibule and entrance are located in the center of the facade within a bay which projects from the rest of the building by about four inches. A small wing, which appears to be original, is attached to the northwest corner of the structure. The interior originally consisted of five classrooms organized around an "L" shaped hallway. Each room had a high ceiling, plaster walls, and a door with a six-light transom above.

Alterations to the 1929 building since its construction include the following:

- 1) the subdivision of the rear central classroom to create restrooms and a small office,
- 2) the installation of paneling on the walls of the office and the hallway,
- 3) the covering of several of the windows by plywood, and
- 4) the construction of covered crosswalks connecting the building to the classroom-gymnasium building next door (see below). One of the crosswalk coverings effectively hides the bracketed cornice which ornaments the entrance to the vestibule. However, this decorative feature is intact and can still be viewed by a person standing beneath the crosswalk roof.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 2

The 1938 one story brick building has a T shape footprint. Two large classrooms with a lobby in between take up the front portion of the building, while a gymnasium is provided for in the rear wing. The very plain building features a series of paired windows on both the classroom and gym sections. The gym has an unusual open truss ceiling (see photo). The presence of a curtained stage at the gym's far end allows the gym to double as an auditorium. Alterations to this building include the blocking (on the interior) of the facade windows and the connection of the building to the system of covered walkways mentioned above.

All of alterations to the 1929 and 1938 buildings are minor in nature, and there is no doubt that former students of the school would recognize these buildings if they were to visit DeRidder today. Because it was an important source of secondary education and teacher training for the black youth of the parish (see part 8), the Beauregard Parish Training School is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Beauregard Parish Training School is locally significant in the areas of education and ethnic heritage because it provided very important educational opportunities within Beauregard Parish. Its chief significance lies in it being the only place in the parish where blacks could receive education at the secondary level and, very importantly, teacher training. The period of significance runs from 1929, the year of the oldest building, to 1945, the fifty year cutoff. The Beauregard Parish Training School provided teacher training until the mid-1930s. It remained the large rural parish's only black high school into the post-World War II era.

The concept of the county or parish training school was created in 1911 through the efforts of three philanthropic foundations interested in the education of African-American youth. These foundations--the General Education Board, the John F. Slater Fund, and the Anna T. Jeanes Fund--convinced state education officials throughout the South to work with them to improve educational opportunities for blacks. The training school movement had several goals. The first was to provide each parish with a central public school for blacks. With its good physical facilities and carefully chosen curriculum, this school would serve as a model for other black schools in the area. Another goal was to provide a more thorough education by offering more courses. Thus, students could attend a training school two or three years longer than they could one of their smaller rural cousins. Early in the movement training schools offered at least eight grades; later they offered ten or eleven. A third goal was to provide industrial and manual training for African-American children, "... laying particular emphasis upon subjects pertaining to home and farm." The final goal of the parish training school movement was to prepare teachers who would then serve in the region's rural black elementary schools. The first training school in the nation opened in Louisiana's Tangipahoa Parish in 1911.

One of the reasons the training school concept worked was because the General Education Board placed agents within the state education departments and, in some cases, within the counties and parishes themselves. In order to obtain a training school, counties had to own the property where the building would be erected, recognize the school as part of the public school system, and commit at least \$750 from public funds toward its maintenance each year. Beauregard Parish met the first requirement when the Longbell Lumber Company conveyed a tract of land to the School Board on February 6, 1917. However, the parish did not receive its first "Supervisory Agent for Negroes" until July 3, 1919. This person's primary tasks were to assist teachers in writing lesson plans and to create support for black schools. The Beauregard Parish Training School opened in 1920 with a physical plant consisting of two buildings. A large two-story structure served as a high school while a smaller one-story building held the elementary level classes.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Schools for African-American students had existed in the Beauregard Parish towns of Merryville, Ludington, Bon Ami, Carson, Longville, Center Hill, Bancroft, and DeRidder at least as early as the 1917-1918 term. Although attendance figures for each year are not available, those for the 1923-1924 nine month term suggest that the better physical facilities and more complete curriculum offered by the training school's eight teachers were highly valued by the black citizens of Beauregard Parish. For example, in that year an average of 420 students attended the school, with as many as 450 having attended at one time. Average daily attendance was around 318 children. State Board of Education records indicate that nineteen of the Training School's students boarded within the DeRidder community during that school year. This number substantiates the memories of Maxie Hubbard Blanchard, who attended the school from 1923 to 1929. Mrs. Blanchard states that the school was attended by children from nearby sawmill towns as well as from the immediate DeRidder area. Fifty of the students attending in 1923-1924 were of high school level, and four would graduate at the end of the school year. According to Mrs. Hubbard, the school's curriculum included regular courses such as math, science, and English, as well as instruction in how to teach.

Teacher preparation was an important goal of the Beauregard Parish Training School from its founding until the mid-1930s, when the program was discontinued. According to a 1929-1930 report published by the state Board of Education, teacher training courses were offered during the students' last two years in school. During the first year of education courses the classes emphasized principles of teaching, while the last year focused on school management. It was during this second year that student teaching, or practice teaching, occurred. This took place in the elementary classes which were a part of the school. The school graduated 5 teachers in the 1929-1930 session and three during the 1931-1932 academic year. Ten took teacher training courses during the 1932-1933 year, with nine registered in the courses (but apparently not yet ready to graduate) during the 1933/1934 term. Although each student completing the program was awarded a certificate stating that he or she was qualified to teach at the elementary level in black schools, it was necessary for each to also pass a test given by the State Department of Education before that certification was considered valid. After the teaching program was discontinued in the mid-1930s, students were required to attend one or two years at a normal school in order to obtain a teaching certificate.

The Beauregard Parish Training School's original elementary and high school buildings were destroyed by a fire of unknown origin in 1929. Bids for replacement buildings were opened on July 23, 1929, with the contract awarded to P. Olivier & Son for \$20,300. This amount underwrote the construction of twin, one-story, hollow tile buildings with stuccoed exterior

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 3

surfaces. The State Board of Education annual report for 1930-1931 shows that each of these buildings contained five classrooms. Attendance figures for that school year show a total of 628 children enrolled. Of this number, 55 were of high school age, while 573 were listed as elementary school level. The school taught an average of 157 days. Henri Lee Bryant attended the school both before and after the new buildings were constructed (1927-1937). According to her, the following topics were part of the curriculum at that time: reading, writing, and math (Grades 2-3); history and geography (Grade 4); English, history and literature (Grade 7); and algebra and geometry (the high school grades). Courses in teacher education had been dropped from the curriculum by the time of her 1937 graduation.

Unfortunately, one of the twin classroom buildings constructed in 1929 was destroyed by another fire during the mid-1930s. Instead of replacing it with a similar building, the school board elected to construct a combination classroom building/ gymnasium on the site. It was completed in 1938. Both the 1929 and 1938 buildings continued to be used as educational facilities well into the post-World War II period--as the Beauregard Parish Training School until c. 1941 and as a regular public school after that date. And it should be emphasized that during the historic period (1929-1945), and into the postwar era, the school represented the only opportunity in the parish for blacks to receive a high school education. To place this in context, the large rural parish had a population of 14, 847 in 1940, one-fifth of which was black. The parish seat of DeRidder was the only town of any size. A 1948 government document notes that there were in that year eight high schools and eight elementary schools for whites and one high school and two elementary schools for blacks. There were no private schools in the parish at that time, according to the same document.

A new high school (George Washington Carver High) was built for blacks in 1954, but the gym of the nominated property continued to be used for high school sports and social activities. (A 1959 update to the above referenced government document noted that this "new modern Negro high school serves the entire parish.") A new elementary school was built in 1962. The 1929 Beauregard Parish Training School building apparently stood vacant until 1971, when the Head Start program moved in. Head Start remained in the older structure until 1986, when it moved to the classroom/gymnasium building. The 1929 building is now vacant, while Head Start continues to occupy the 1938 gym/classroom building.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Beauregard Parish Training School, Beauregard Parish, LA

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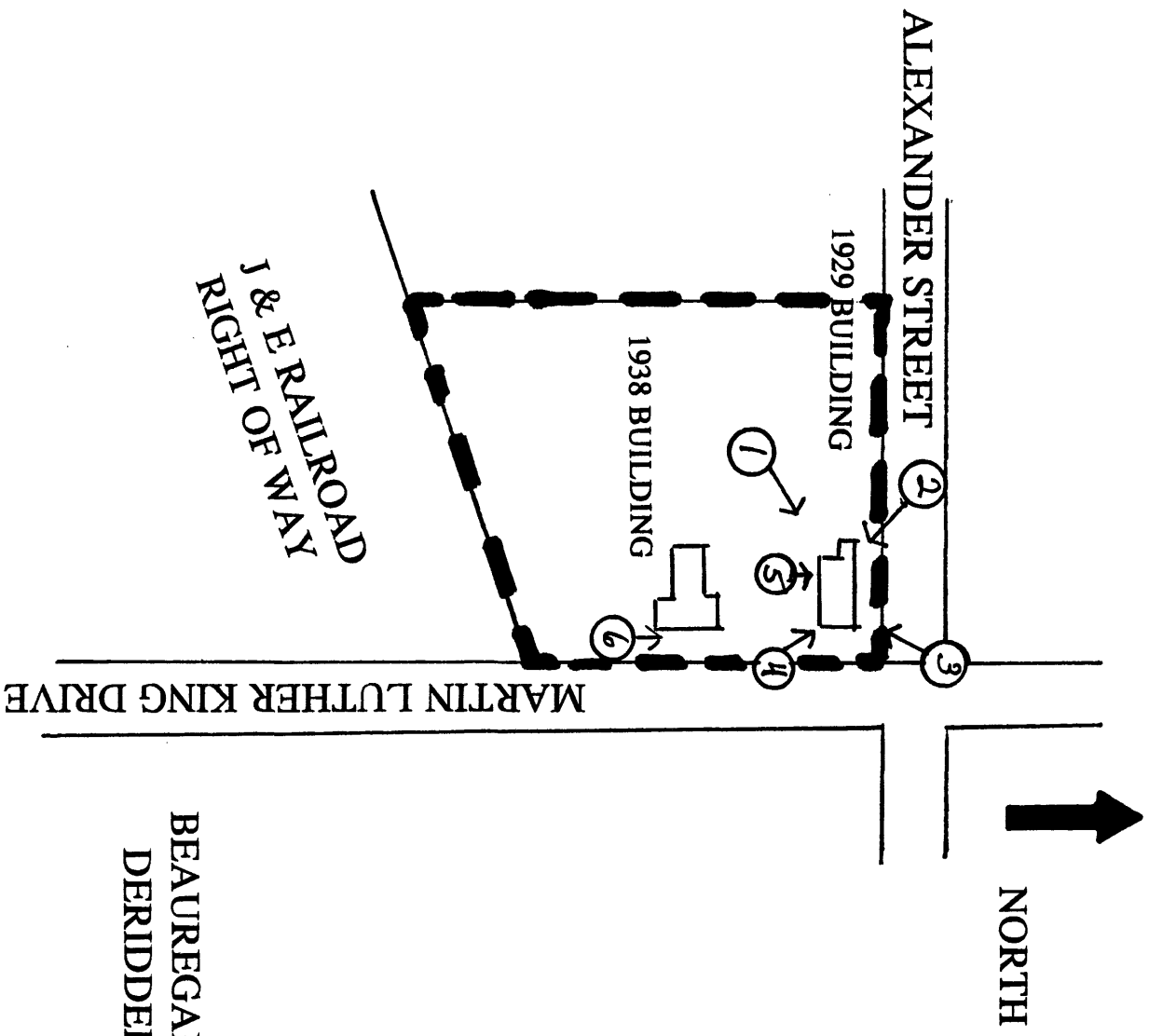
Ibid. *Eighty-Fourth Annual Report for the Session, 1932-1933*.

Ibid. *Eighty-Fifth Annual Report for the Session, 1933-1934*.

Ibid. *Eighty-Eighth Annual Report for the Session, 1936-1937*.

Boundary Description: Please refer to sketch map.

Justification: The boundaries to the north and east follow streets and that to the south follows the railroad right-of-way. The western boundary was chosen to take in the immediate setting while excluding unnecessary extra acreage owned by the school board.



BEAUREGARD PARISH TRAINING SCHOOL
 DERIDDER, BEAUREGARD PARISH, LA

SCALE: 1" = 136'

BOUNDARY: 