SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 13000730 Date Listed: 9/17/2013

Property Name: Petroleum Tower

County: Caddo State: LA

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper 9/17/2013 Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: Level of Significance

The Level of Significance is hereby changed to **Local**

The nomination as written does not support the Statewide level of significance. Relative scarcity is not necessarily the basis for significance. In Shreveport, this building was preceded by another example, one whose pioneering design using the economies of the steel/concrete frame and glass curtain wall most likely led to the construction of this building s the demand for office space continued to increase.

Section 8: Area of Significance

The Area of Significance under Criterion A is hereby changed to **COMMERCE**

While the building was built for and did hold the offices of industrial firms, it had no direct association with the manufacturing or processing of oil and/or gas. It served as a base for the financial, marketing, and administrative arms of these companies, a function more related to the commercial importance of the industry.

The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED 2280
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

730

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Petroleum Tower

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 425 Edwards St. NA not for publication

city or town Shreveport NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** **X** **statewide** **X** **local**

Pam Breaux — 7-23-13

Signature of certifying official: Pam Breaux — Date

State Historic Preservation Officer — Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Title — 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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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 — 9/17/2013 — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**Total**

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business/office building

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement: International Style/Miesian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete
walls: Glass; metal (panels)
roof: Other: tar and gravel
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Petroleum Tower (1958) is a sixteen story steel, glass and aluminum Mid-century Modern skyscraper located at the corner of Texas and Edwards streets in downtown Shreveport (Caddo Parish). (The location is within the downtown National Register district, but the building is coded as non-contributing in a 1996 update to the original documentation. It was a dozen years shy of the 50 year cutoff at that time.) While the interior has been completely lost, the exterior is intact, enabling the building to convey its significance under Criteria A and C.

Narrative Description

Overview:

The Petroleum Tower, on floors two through fourteen, features curtain walls of glass and aluminum panels on the southeast, southwest and northwest elevations. These walls appear to float above the building's granite and glass base (the shopfront level described below). Floors fifteen and sixteen contained the building's mechanical equipment and are articulated differently. The northeast elevation is a sheer brick wall.

Southeast, Southwest and Northwest Elevations:

The Petroleum Tower is articulated using the modular grid approach synonymous with Mies Van der Rohe (see Part 8). The three elevations noted above have the same architectural character and will be described collectively. The southwest elevation (along Edwards Street, where the main entrance was located) is the longer of the three. The southeast and northwest elevations are the two parallel (to each other) shorter elevations.

The building's structure consists of reinforced concrete internal columns that support a series of reinforced concrete slabs that form the floor and ceiling of each story. These connect with the outer curtain walls on the above three elevations with cantilever support. True to the building's International Style roots, the Edwards Street elevation and the shorter side

elevations (southeast and northwest) feature continuous ribbon windows. These are separated into individual window units by discrete brushed aluminum glazing bars.

Just as important, the ribbon windows are set off by porcelain covered aluminum panels in charcoal gray and white. The charcoal gray panels above each window conform to the width of the window. The white panels below are two windows wide. The panels together with the windows are given poise, a certain sense of balance, by the modular grid system that orders them. This modular grid approach, subtly rendered here, is generally thought to have been a device to adapt the essential horizontality of the International Style with the geometry of tall buildings – to order its parts and give it unity.

At the front (Edwards Street) corners of the building the curtain walls project slightly beyond the edges. This creates a pair of very slender vertical fins, set at right angles, that span the second through the sixteenth stories. This device places a little more emphasis upon the building's corners than on the expanse of its curtain walls. This is in line with the International Style's time-honored practice of using abstract geometrical forms and shapes to add visual interest and substitute for traditional ornamentation.

As noted above, the building's top two stories housed the mechanical equipment. They are clad on the southwest, northwest and southeast elevations in solid vertical aluminum panels.

The building's first story base features heavy concrete piers sheathed in medium gray polished marble with moderate veining. Behind the piers, glass walls (some boarded over) create storefronts. The first story is capped by a pebbledash band of white concrete and black accent stones. (This treatment appears in a photo taken the year the building opened.) Over the slightly off-center entrance the band bears the building's name in brushed aluminum lettering.

Northeast (Rear) Elevation:

The rear elevation (the long elevation opposite the Edwards Street façade) has a strong presence along Texas Street. Its sheer wall of continuous medium brown brick contrasts starkly with the panels and windows of the other elevations, giving the building a strong sculptural quality.

"Form Follows Function":

The Petroleum Tower pays homage to the twentieth century Modernist maxim that "form follows function." Frank Lloyd Wright expounded a variation -- that "form and function are

one." The premise is that a building should convey the functions of its various internal spaces in its exterior design. In the Petroleum Tower the layers of white porcelain panels mark the location of each floor. The uninterrupted expanse of windows conveys the image of continuous internal office space. The top two stories, which housed the mechanical equipment, are treated differently, thus marking a different place.

The decision to locate the mechanical equipment within the body of the building was unusual, and of some note. This is the first generation of urban office buildings that would have had air conditioning, in this case powered by natural gas. Cooling air is more complex than heating. Thus the Petroleum Tower would have required considerably more mechanical equipment than an office building of the previous generation. Instead of the typical treatment, with the HVAC equipment sitting awkwardly atop a building's roof, it is contained within the upper body of the building at the Petroleum Tower. This gives the building a clean flat roofline that is well in accord with the signature geometry of the International Style.

Interior:

Historically, the building's first story was anchored by a squarish lobby that led to a bank of elevators, stairs and restrooms set against the building's blank rear wall. This bank of services was repeated on floors two through fourteen. Stories two through fourteen featured an elevator lobby with rentable office space in front and on each side. The office space had an open structure – i.e., designed to be adjustable. New walls could be added and old ones removed to suit the ever-changing coterie of commercial tenants.

The Petroleum Building has for some time been completely devoid of interior features, historic or otherwise. Each ceiling is open to the rough reinforced concrete, and each floor is bare, down to the structural concrete. And there are virtually no interior wall elements.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Petroleum Tower retains sufficient integrity to easily be able to convey its significance under Criteria A and C. The seven aspects of integrity identified by the National Register are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building is in its original location and retains its downtown urban setting. Its design and materials are completely extant on the exterior; hence it is able to convey workmanship.

Feeling is defined by the Register as a "property's expression of the aesthetic . . . of a particular period of time." While the loss of the interiors is regrettable, the all-important International Style/Miesian exterior is intact. The Petroleum Tower is still very obviously a

mid-twentieth century steel and glass skyscraper, and hence retains the basis for its architectural significance.

In terms of association, there is no question that the building has a direct relationship to the petroleum industry, or that it would be recognizable to someone from the historic period. It still projects the street presence of the well-known Petroleum Tower, a center of the regional petroleum economy of the mid-twentieth century.

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)

- [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.
- [X] 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- [ ] A owed 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.
- [X] N/A Criteria Considerations not applicable

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

industry

Period of Significance

1958 (architecture)

1959-1963 (industry)

Significant Dates

1958

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Architect: Hedrick and Stanley (Fort Worth & Dallas)

Period of Significance (justification) See below.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) NA

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

The Petroleum Tower is significant in the area of architecture (Criterion C: Design), at the state level, as a particularly important expression of post-WWII modernism within Louisiana. It exemplifies the omnipresent flowering of European Modernism in the American city during the middle of the twentieth century. Among commercial and institutional buildings, this was a style that seemed to sweep all before it. Indeed, when asked, more than half a century later, why he practiced Modernism during these years, Louisiana architect Sol Mintz offered a simple reply, "That was all there was." State level significance has been chosen because the Petroleum Tower is one of a very limited number of steel and glass modular grid skyscrapers in the state from the post-war period. The period of significance under Criterion C is the date of construction: 1958.

The Petroleum Tower is of local significance in the area of industry (Criterion A: Events) as a major representation of the tremendous importance of the oil and gas industry to the Shreveport economy – from the time of the first successful oil well in the area (1908) through at least the 1960s. The period of significance under Criterion A spans from 1959, the date the building opened (with a majority of oil and gas related tenants) to 1963, the present 50 year National Register cutoff. The building continued to be occupied mainly by oil and gas businesses up to and past 1963, and the oil and gas industry continued to dominate Shreveport's economy up to and past 1963.

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

ARCHITECTURE (CRITERION C)

Post-War Modernism (Background):

Mid-twentieth century American Modernism has its roots in the International Style as it evolved in Europe during the 1920s. It all grew out of art and architectural reform movements that came together in the Bauhaus School of Design in Weimar, Germany. The Bauhaus sought to marshal artists and architects in the service of humanity towards "the building of the future." This carried strong associations with political reform, socialism and a mandate to respond to the machine age.

The dominant architectural genre that emerged had a "stark cubic simplicity" (Nikolas Pevsner), profoundly devoid of traditional ornament or decoration of any kind. It featured a machined metal and glass framework, flat neutral surfaces (often white) pierced by ribbon windows that sometimes turned the corner, flat functional roofs, a general horizontal feel, and the use of pilotis, or slender poles, to elevate the building mass and make it seem to float above the landscape. Building designs were supposed to take their cue from their practical function, following the oft repeated maxim of the day, "form follows function."

The term International Style was coined by two Americans, Henry Russell Hitchcock and Phillip Johnson, for their ground-breaking 1932 exhibition on Modern Architecture at New York's Museum of Modern Art. The term stuck and came to define the movement. In the ensuing years the International Style enjoyed a modest patronage among Americans of advanced taste. After the Second World War, it became near universal for commercial and institutional buildings in America. Historians have noted a number of reasons for this artistic triumph.

One is the enormous influence of two former Bauhaus directors, Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe, who fled Nazi Germany and established themselves in seminal seats of architectural learning and education (Harvard and the Illinois Institute of Technology, respectively). Their graduates read like a *Who's Who* of American architectural practice in the post-war decades. Then there was the style's powerful quasi-religious underlying philosophy. Designing with integrity in a mode of architecture that was an honest and true reflection of the Modern Era -- the "Machine Age"-- appealed to intellectuals and the greater art world in general. The style's qualities as a geometrical abstraction were no less appealing. Finally, the style received hugely favorable publicity in a vast array of venues. By the late 1940s, the International Style was triumphant. As Phillip Johnson wrote in 1952, "The battle for modern architecture has . . . been won."

But it was not quite the same Modernism as had emerged in Europe some thirty years earlier. The style had evolved somewhat. The old neutral wall had become less prominent. There was more and more glass. Abstract building elevations were given a measure of regularity through a modular surface grid with inset panels of glass or some other finish material. Finally, there was the application of the style to something new—skyscrapers, an American invention. Indeed, the modular grid is generally thought to have originated as a means of reconciling the essential horizontality of the traditional International Style with the vertical thrust of tall buildings. In 1950s America, Mies Van der Rohe emerged as the undisputed master of the glass office tower. (In fact, architectural historians generally label these buildings Miesian.)

The modular grid, with its many and various panels, became standard for mid-century modern commercial and institutional buildings across America, regardless of size or height. But it is in the modular grid, steel and glass skyscraper that Mid-century Modernism achieved its highest and most compelling statement. These are surely the landmarks of the genre. A grouping of gleaming steel and glass skyscrapers was *the l*ook of the modern city to Americans circa 1950, from aesthetes to chamber of commerce boosters.

Moreover, the emergence of steel and glass skyscrapers coincided with America's rise to imperial superpower. They housed numerous giant American corporations whose wealth, at mid-century, exceeded that of some of the world's nation states. So, in a poetical sense these buildings can be seen as symbolic of the wealth and power of American industry and, by extension, the power of America itself. As architectural historian Alan Gowans has noted, as a symbol of hegemony, the Modernist skyscraper was no less effective than Imperial Roman architecture had been in its day.

Post-War Steel and Glass Modular Grid Skyscrapers in Louisiana:

The authors of this document identified steel and glass modular grid skyscrapers as a particularly important mid-twentieth century property type in a series of historic context essays on Louisiana Architecture: 1945-1965. The essays were commissioned by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation in 2009 via a grant from the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (LA SHPO). Approved by the LA SHPO, they are posted on that agency's website (www.louisianahp.org). The essay "Modernism Triumphant: Commercial and Institutional Buildings," under the section on standards for National Register eligibility, notes, "Any historic steel and glass modular grid skyscraper that survives with integrity in Louisiana is eligible for the Register, most likely at the state level of significance."

The above referenced historic context studies included windshield survey fieldwork throughout Louisiana, particularly (but not exclusively) in the state's largest cities, which were clearly high probability areas. The cities were New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Monroe, Shreveport and Lake Charles. Only two, Shreveport and New Orleans, contain skyscrapers in the architectural genre described above. They are the only two communities whose downtowns were large and developed enough in the period 1945-65 to have produced works of modern architecture on this scale. (For the record, smaller cities such as Alexandria and Lafayette do not have any post-war steel and glass skyscrapers.) Downtown Shreveport contains two such skyscrapers, the candidate and the Beck Building. There are four in downtown New Orleans: (1) the Oil and Gas Building, 1100 Tulane; (2) Maryland Casualty Life Insurance Building, now a Quality Inn, 210 O'Keefe Avenue; (3) a building now housing a Hilton Garden Inn, 821 Gravier; and (4) the Texaco Building (1501 Canal, National Register).

The foregoing six steel and glass skyscrapers are of roughly comparable architectural quality, and the five not already listed individually on the National Register would be eligible under Criterion C. No meaningful architectural comparison can be made among these five. They are in the twelve to twenty story range, and all employ the modular grid approach. None are completely modular grid (i.e., glass curtain walls) on all four elevations. The closest is the Beck Building, where all elevations are glass curtain walls, but one elevation is interrupted by a large masonry shaft extending above the roofline (for elevators and other services). The other examples feature two to three glass curtain wall elevations, with the other elevations being either party wall or of brick. All survive with their exteriors intact.

Hence the Petroleum Tower takes its place as an architectural resource from the 1945 – 1965 era of the first rank. It is thus eminently eligible for an individual listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

INDUSTRY (CRITERION A)

The Oil and Gas Boom:

Shreveport, located in the northwest corner of the state, is the capital of what was and is known as the Ark-La-Tex. Historically the second largest city in Louisiana, Shreveport was certainly the only city of any size in the region. Consequently it was only natural for the city to emerge in the early twentieth century as the administrative and distribution center for one of the most important oil-producing regions in a major oil-producing state. Virtually every Louisiana parish and Texas and Arkansas county in the Ark-La-Tex produced oil or gas, or both.

While a prairie near Jennings in southwestern Louisiana can claim the state's first successful oil well (1901), few fields were richer than the Caddo Field and Caddo Lake. An oil well had been drilled in the Caddo Field as early as 1904; however, successful production was not possible because of the presence of too much natural gas (the latter causing spectacular fires and yielding little oil). Two wildcatters named Mike Benedum and Joe Trees are credited with opening the Caddo Field to oil production when in late 1908, they decided the key was to dig deeper. They had "solved the puzzle of tapping Caddo's riches," conclude oil historians Kenny A. Franks and Paul F. Lambert.

By 1910 Caddo Parish accounted for seventy-seven percent of the crude oil produced in Louisiana. Then there were the untold riches lying beneath Caddo Lake. The world's first off-shore oil well was drilled there in May 1911. By 1950, 278 wells had been drilled on the lake.

The oil boom prosperity of the Ark-La-Tex began with the Caddo Field and Caddo Lake, and continued with numerous other oil and gas fields in the region. While there may have been ups and downs in the cycle, oil and gas prosperity continued to be the economic foundation for Shreveport and vicinity for decades. New immensely profitable wells continued to be discovered – for example, the East Texas Oil Field in 1930 and the Rodessa Field in 1935. In fact, Shreveport did not feel the worst effects of the Depression because of the oil and gas industry (as well as the construction of a major air base in adjacent Bossier City).

When the Petroleum Tower was conceived in the late 1950s, the petroleum industry was riding high, so-to-speak, as the backbone of the Shreveport economy. "Petroleum continues to be the chief contributor to the economy of the urban area in terms of employment and income," observed *Shreveport Magazine* in an August 1958 article titled "Giant of the Area's Economy." Of the working population at that time in metropolitan Shreveport, 30 percent were employed directly by the oil and gas industry, and 15% worked in allied industries. More than 160 companies in the Shreveport-Bossier City area were engaged in the production and distribution of oil and gas, supported by 36 drilling companies and 60 supply and service businesses.

Downtown Shreveport's Role:

As noted above, as the region's large city, Shreveport naturally emerged as the administrative center (the "nerve center") of the Ark-La-Tex oil and gas business. In the early days the city's location at the center of eight major railroad connections made it well suited to become a center for production and distribution of oil and gas. By the 1930s pipelines passing through the area had supplanted the railroads.

Downtown Shreveport was awash in oil men and oil-related activities. It was where they had their offices, took their meals, met with bankers, made deals, and in the early days, where they lived (in various hotels and rooming houses). Untold numbers of oil companies (160 in 1958) had headquarters in downtown Shreveport, both national companies such as Standard Oil and Gulf, and innumerable local independent companies.

Oil men initially leased office space, as they could find it, in existing buildings. But soon buildings were being constructed specifically with the oil and gas business in mind. Shreveport historians Marguerite Plummer and Gary D. Joiner write: "During the Progressive Era, a few skyscrapers rose on the Shreveport skyline, but they were inadequate to accommodate the armies of petroleum engineers, managers, purchasers, pipeline companies, lawyers and bankers required to service the petroleum industry."

Plummer and Joiner continue chronologically, noting that with the acceleration of the oil and gas industry during and after World War II, post-war Shreveport "faced a serious shortage in office space." "Companies that wanted to locate in Shreveport because of its central location and transportation facilities were unable to find suitable offices. In response to this need, local interests joined with oil companies to build more office building skyscrapers. . . . " The large multi-story Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation Building at the corner of Milam and McNeil opened in 1953 to house the pipeline company's offices, followed in 1955 by the Henry C. Beck Building and in 1958, the Petroleum Tower. The latter two were built for oil and gas business offices by the same developer, N.O. Thomas, Jr.

The twenty story glass and steel Henry C. Beck Building is located behind and to the side of the Petroleum Tower. A sign on the construction site proclaimed that it would be "Headquarters for the Oil and Gas Industry." But clearly even this amount of square footage was not enough to meet the demand, for a scant two years later the developers announced the Petroleum Tower, to be built on downtown's main thoroughfare (Texas Street). A January 1957 advertisement in *Shreveport Magazine* shows an artist's rendering of the building with the notation, "Serving the Petroleum Industry and Its Allied Firms." (The building shown is an earlier version of the design – one never executed.) A large advertisement in the same publication appearing in 1958 shows pictures of both the Petroleum Tower and the Beck Building with the title, "Building for a Greater Shreveport at Shreveport's Best Oil and Gas Addresses." A four story c.1900 building was demolished to make way for the Petroleum Tower.

N. O. Thomas' Beck Building was designed by local architect Edward F. Neild. For the Petroleum Tower, Thomas turned to Hedrick and Stanley of Fort Worth and Dallas. The Henry C. Beck Company was in charge of construction. An article announcing the construction of the Petroleum Tower gives 522 Market Street, Inc. as the owner, including Henry C. Beck, Jr., Mrs. Margaret Beck Grinnan and Wirt Davis II, of Dallas; Joe B. Hutchinson, of Atlanta; and N. O. Thomas Jr., of Shreveport.

Ground excavation for the $3,500,000 Petroleum Tower began in November 1957. The framework was started in March 1958 and completed by September 1958. Tenants began occupying the building in February 1959.

City directories show that the majority of tenants were related to the oil and gas industry (oil company offices, oil lease offices, drilling company offices, etc.). The Petroleum Club (a business and social organization for the industry founded in 1950) moved from its location in the Washington-Youree Hotel to much more spacious quarters in the Petroleum Tower designed especially for the organization's use. The Petroleum Club occupied the entire second floor and part of the third – for a total of 12,000 square feet.

Shreveport Magazine, in a feature-length article on the club's new home appearing in March 1959, noted that the Petroleum Tower "offers the club a modernistic, petroleum industry environment in a central location." The increased space enabled the organization to offer membership to additional individuals and firms. And the club could now have a kitchen of its own for the first time, headed by a Swiss-born chef from New York (per *Shreveport Magazine* article).

The Petroleum Tower as Focal Point:

A tabulation of petroleum-related businesses from city directories for the 1959-1963 period shows that the vast majority had offices in one of four downtown Shreveport buildings: the Petroleum Tower (1958), the Beck Building (1955), the Commercial National Bank Building (1940), and the Johnson Building (c.1920). Then there was the huge Texas Eastern Building, housing that pipeline company's offices. All five of these downtown buildings survive today as important representations of the city's oil and gas history.

The Petroleum Tower, Beck Building and Texas Eastern are of particular importance because they were purpose-built for the oil and gas industry. All three would be individually eligible for the National Register in this respect (under Criterion A). With a name that proclaims its purpose, and as the home to numerous oil and gas businesses, not to mention the prestigious Petroleum Club, the Petroleum Tower is a powerful reminder of the days when oil was king in Shreveport.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Forbes, Gerald. "A History of Caddo Oil and Gas Field." *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No.1, January 1946.

Franks, Kenny A. and Lambert, Paul F. *Early Louisiana and Arkansas Oil: A Photographic History: 1901-1946.* College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1982.

Fricker, Jonathan and Fricker, Donna. "Louisiana Architecture, 1945-1965: Modernism Triumphant." Historic context essay prepared for the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation via a grant from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, 2009. www. louisianahp.org.

Grant, Autumn. "Every Man for Himself: The Rise of the Oil Business Sector in Shreveport, Louisiana." *North Louisiana History.* North Louisiana Historical Association: Volume XXXIV, No. 2-3, Spring-Summer, 2003.

Holland, Ray. "Petroleum Club Moves to Swank New Home." *Shreveport Magazine.* March 1959.

"Opening of the Tower." *Shreveport Magazine.* March 1959.

Petroleum Tower advertisements. *Shreveport Magazine.* January 1957-March 1959.

Petroleum Tower Plans. Hedrick and Stanley, Architects-Engineers. Dated 7/5/57; revised 9/10/57. Archives and Special Collections, LSU-Shreveport.

Petroleum Tower Photographs, 1958. Archives and Special Collections, LSU-Shreveport.

"Petroleum Tower to be Completed by November '58." *Shreveport Magazine.* July 1957.

"Petroleum: Giant of the Area's Economy." *Shreveport Magazine.* August 1958.

Plummer, Marguerite R. and Joiner, Gary D. *Historic Shreveport-Bossier: An Illustrated History of Shreveport & Bossier City.* San Antonio, Texas: Historical Publishing Network, 2000.

Shreveport City Directories, 1959-1963.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): **NA**

___ 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 #_____
___ Not applicable – no previous documentation on file

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

NAD 1927

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	429620	3597460	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Legal Property Description: Lot 1 and the w'ly [sic.; westerly] ½ of Lot 2, Block 40, City of Shreveport.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the candidate.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jonathan and Donna Fricker
organization Fricker Historic Preservation Services, LLC date March 2013
street & number 6016 North Shore Dr. telephone 225-246-7901
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70817
e-mail jonathanfricker@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Petroleum Tower

City or Vicinity: Shreveport

County: Caddo Parish **State:** LA

Photographer: Donna Fricker

Date Photographed: February 2013

Location of Digital Files: LA Division of Historic Preservation

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 9
Texas and Edwards elevations
Camera facing north/northwest

Photo 2 of 9
Texas elevation
Camera facing northwest

Photo 3 of 9
Texas elevation closeup
Camera facing northwest

Photo 4 of 9
Texas elevation and northeast elevation
Camera facing west/northwest

Photo 5 of 9
Edwards elevation (right hand side); northwest elevation (left hand side)
Camera facing east/southeast

Photo 6 of 9
Edwards elevation entrance
Camera facing north

Photo 7 of 9
First floor interior

Photo 8 of 9
Sample interior

Photo 9 of 9
Window/panels closeup from interior

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BATON ROUGE

BOSSIER CITY QUADRANGLE
LOUISIANA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 BOSSIER CITY 15' QUADRANGLE

7249 II NE (DIXIE)
7249 II NW (BENTON)
7249 II NE (BODCAU LAKE)
7249 III SE (NORTH HIGHLANDS)
7249 II SE (EASTWOOD)
7246 IV NE (SHREVEPORT WEST)
7246 I NE (SLIGO)
7248 I NW (SHREVEPORT EAST)

PLAIN DEALING 22 MI.
BENTON 5 MI.

93°45′ — 42′30″ — 40′ — 93°37′30″
32°37′30″
1 650 000 FEET
710 000 FEET
680 000 FEET
R 14 W — R 13 W — R 12 W
T 19 N — T 18 N

RED RIVER
Willow Chute
Cypress Bayou
Gas Well
BM 177
Mt. Zion Ch
BM 178
Vanceville
BM 176
Benoit
BOSSIER PARISH
CADDO PARISH
INDEX
AIRLINE DRIVE
PIPELINE
BR 169
BR 170
FLAT RIVER
DRAINAGE CANAL
Swan Lake
Green Lake
Chute
Round Lake
Racetrack Bayou
Sew Disp Ponds
RED CHUTE BAYOU
Sewage Disposal Ponds
BM 173
Substa
Brownlee
SOUTHWESTERN
Gravel Pit
Pumping Sta
Oil Well
BM 171
Horseshoe Lake
Bright Star Ch
Sew Disp Pond
Northwest Louisiana State Sch
BOSSIER CITY CORP BDY
Bossier City Reservoir
Honore
Water Tank
Apollo Sch
VIKING DRIVE
Airline Community College
St Judes Ch
Ferguson
BM 172
TILMAN DRIVE
MELROSE AVE
ASHLAND AVE
DOUGLAS DR
NORTHSIDE DR
BELLE GROVE RD
CLINTON ST
BENTON RD
St Stephans Ch
YMCA
Greenacres Jr High Sch
Plantation Park Sch
Meadowview Sch
Swan Lake Park
SWAN LAKE ROAD
NORRIS DR
SHED
Hope Ch
KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN
BR 171
LOUISIANA DOWNS
RED CHUTE 0.8 MI.
FILLMORE 6 MI.
MINDEN 23 MI.
MONROE 92 MI.
SHREVEPORT DOWNTOWN AIRPORT
Radio Tower
Control Tower
Beacon
Sandpit
SHREVEPORT CORP BDY
Pumping Sta
Nursing Home
Hospital
Hinkle
JAMES ST
Walbrook Park
4 LANE
BECKETT ST
Library
Drive-in Theater
Trailer Park
New Hope Ch
Cem
Alligator Bayou
Mussel Shell Bayou
YARBROUGH ST
TEXAS ST
PEACH ST
TRAFFIC ST
WYCHE ST
GREEN ST
Butler Sch
Bossier Sch
Skill Center
Tuttle Park
BOSSIER CITY
High Sch
Learning Center
City Hall
PO
BARKSDALE BLVD
HAMILTON RD
LONG-ALLEN BRIDGE
Gasing Sta
Courthouse
MP
CROSS B
Rusheon Jr High Sch
Kerr Sch
MINDEN RD
OLD MINDEN RD
BOBBIE ST
PATRICIA DR
DUDLEY LA
MURPHY ST
Waller Sch
JANA PL
ANITA AVE
NORTH GATE RD
Macks Bayou
Cooper Bayou
FLAT RIVER
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE
Nursing Home
Golf Course
BONN ST
RODNEY ST
PINE ST
ROME ST
FULLILOVE DR
MC DADE ST
TRICHEL ST
BARKSDALE BLVD
Hamilton Terrace Jr High Sch
Doctors Hosp
Highland Hosp
GREENWOOD CEMETERY
Veterans Hosp
PARK
VETERANS PARKWAY
MEMORIAL BRIDGE
SHREVEPORT WALL ST
LAKE ST
MARSHALL ST
CROSS LAKE
RED RIVER
BOSSIER PARISH
CADDO PARISH
SHREVEPORT CORP
INDEF BDY
ST LOUIS SOUTHWESTERN RR
HOSSTON 27 MI.
5 MI. TO JUNC. US. 71 & LA. 1
CANEY 21 MI.
LONGVIEW 61 MI.
MARSHALL, TEX. (U.S. 59) 40 MI.
LUCAS 7 MI.
GRAND BAYOU 35 MI.
TAYLORTOWN 10 MI.
COUSHATTA 42 MI.
LOUISIANA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Petroleum Tower
Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA
15/429620/3597460

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with Louisiana Department of Public Works

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954 and 1959
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943 and 1955
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Louisiana coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN
GN
0°22′ 7 MILS
6° 107 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

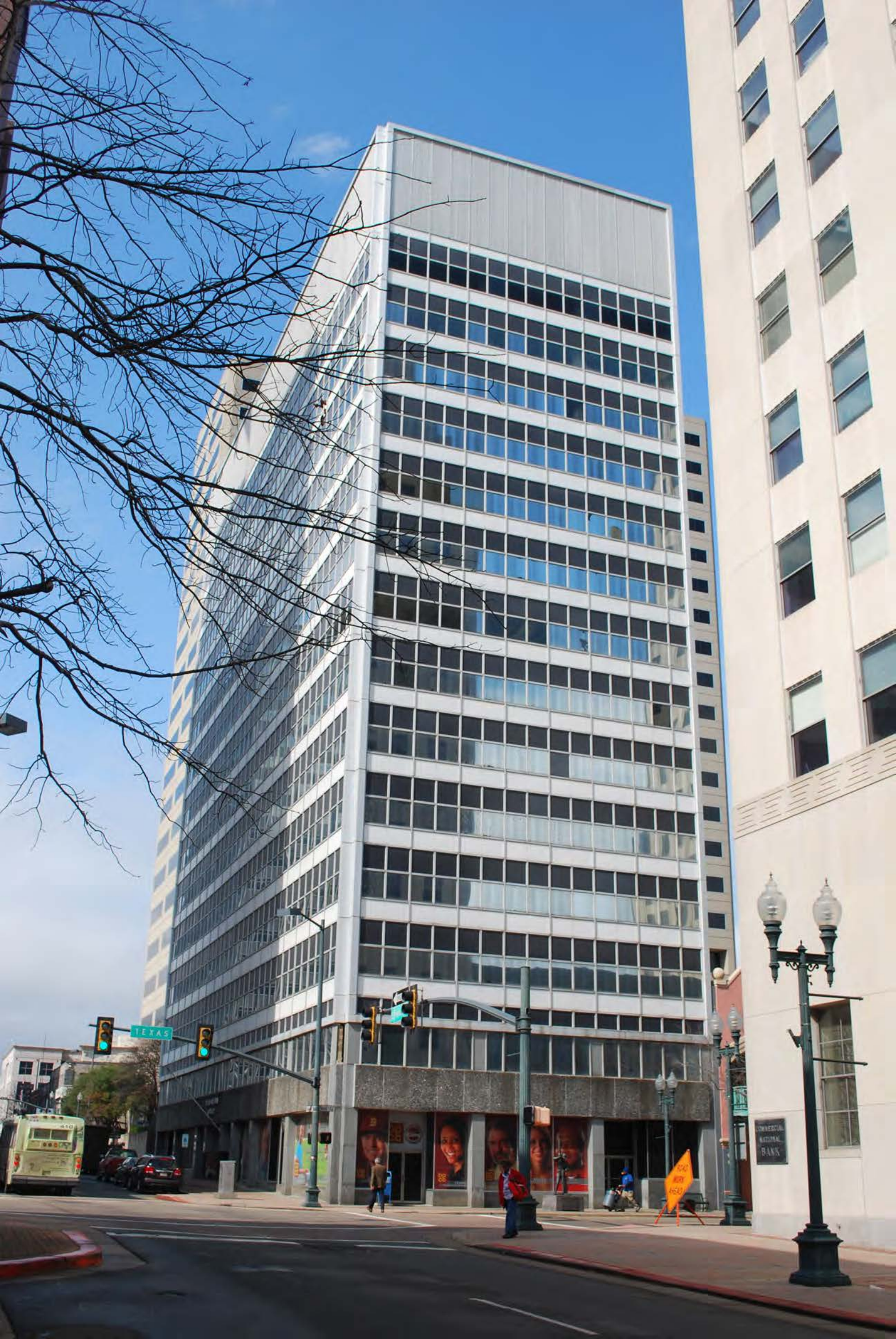
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

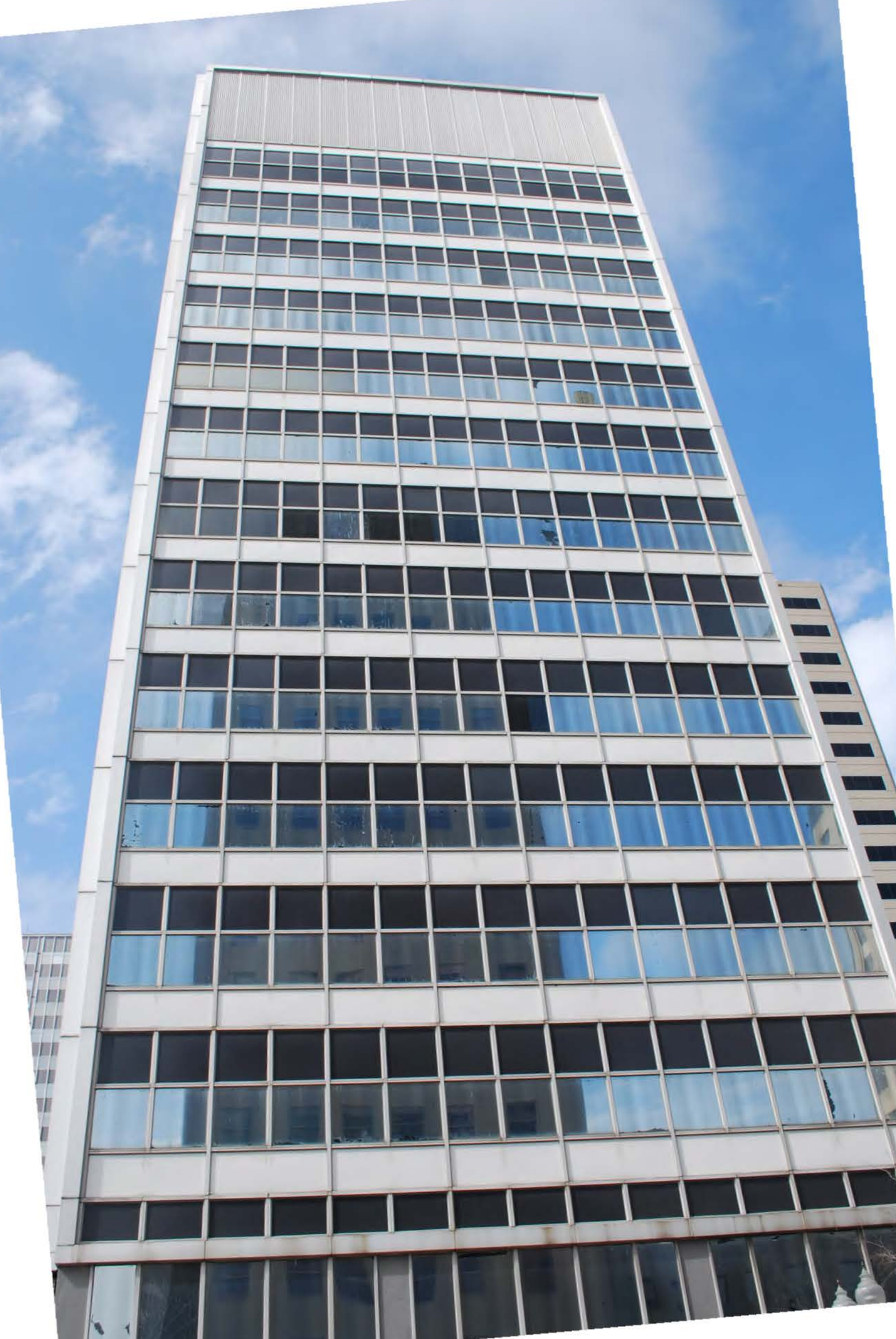
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

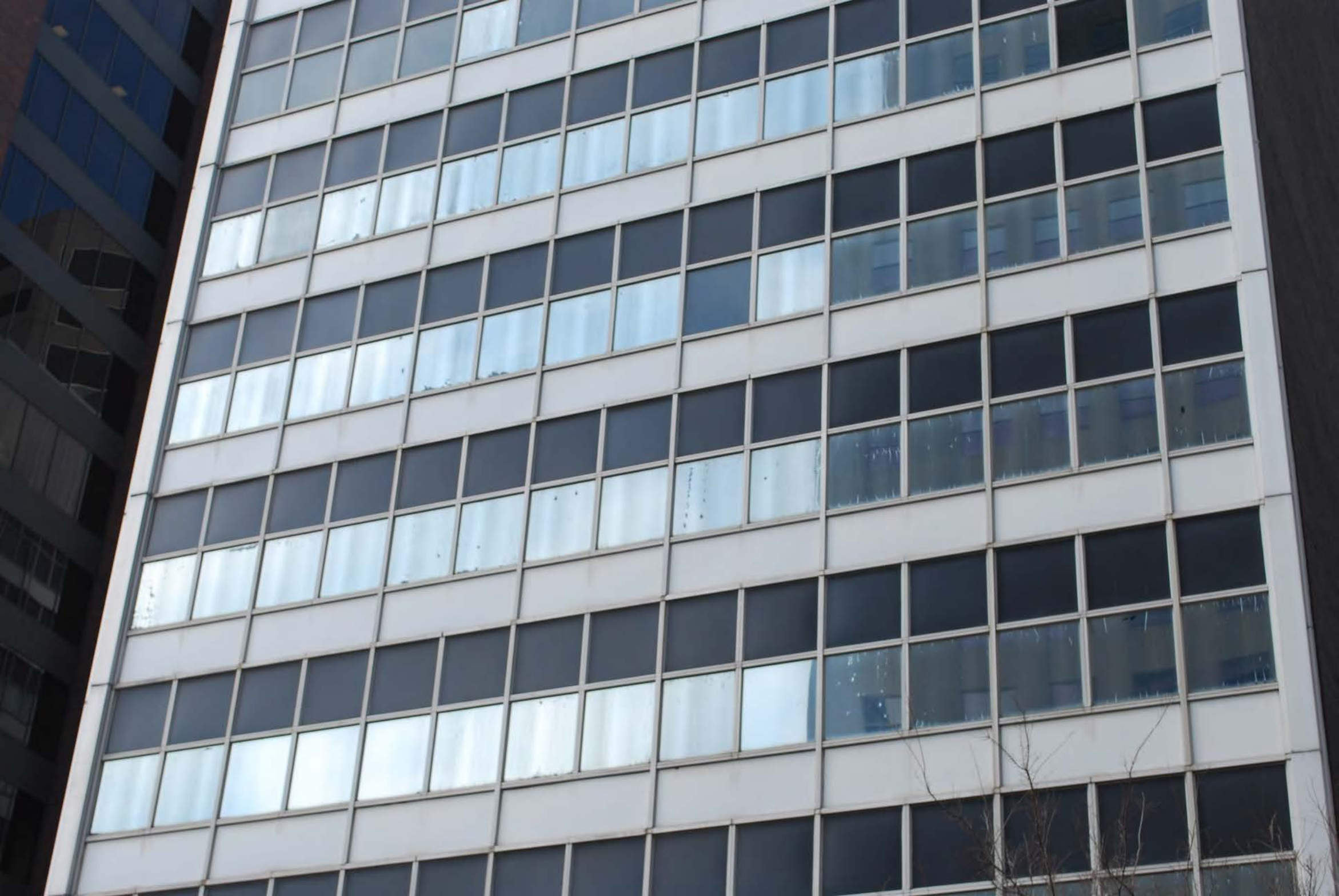
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

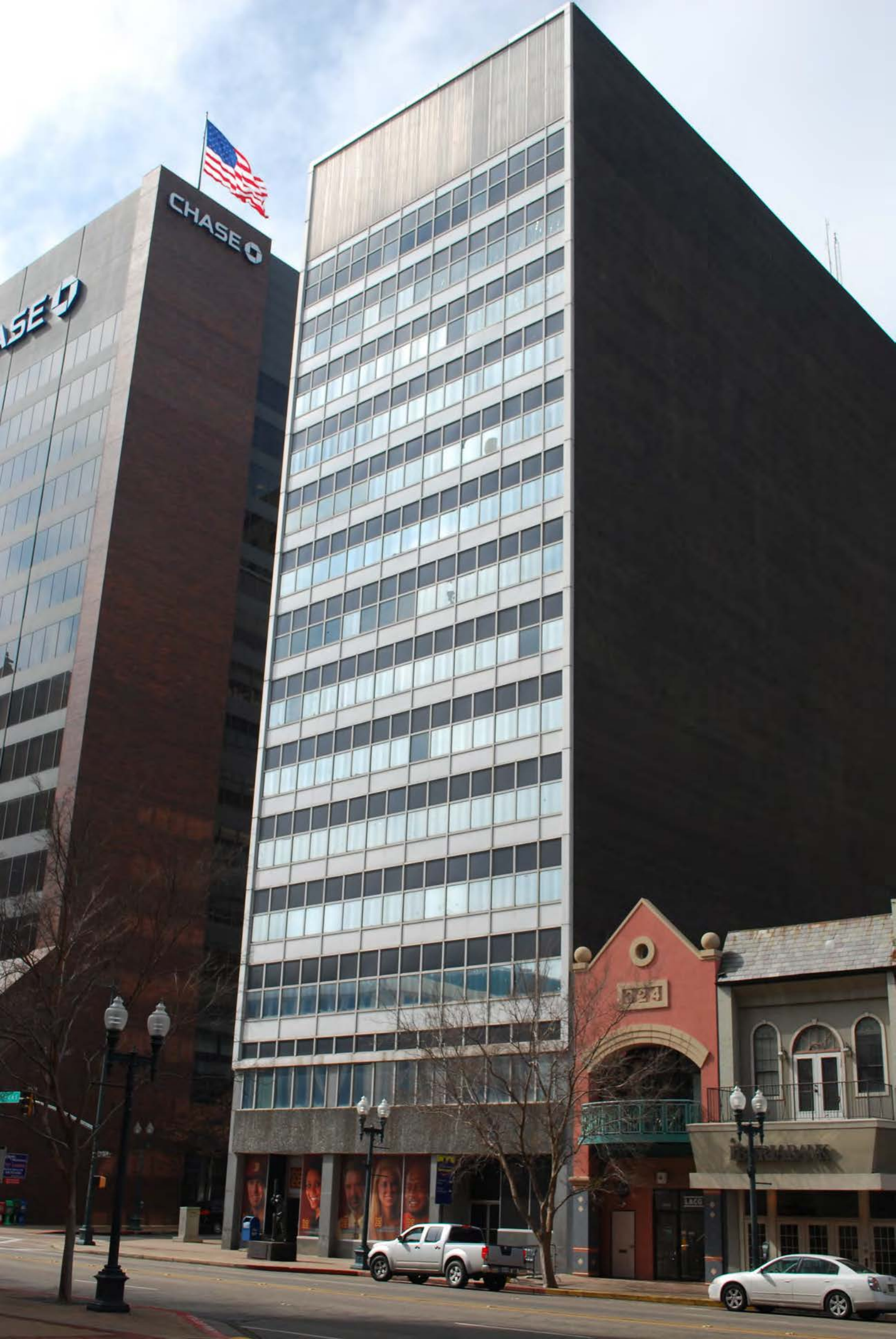
BOSSIER CITY, LA.
SW/4 BOSSIER CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3230 — W9337.5/7.5
1975
AMS 7249 II SW—SERIES V885
ISBN 0-607-22546-7

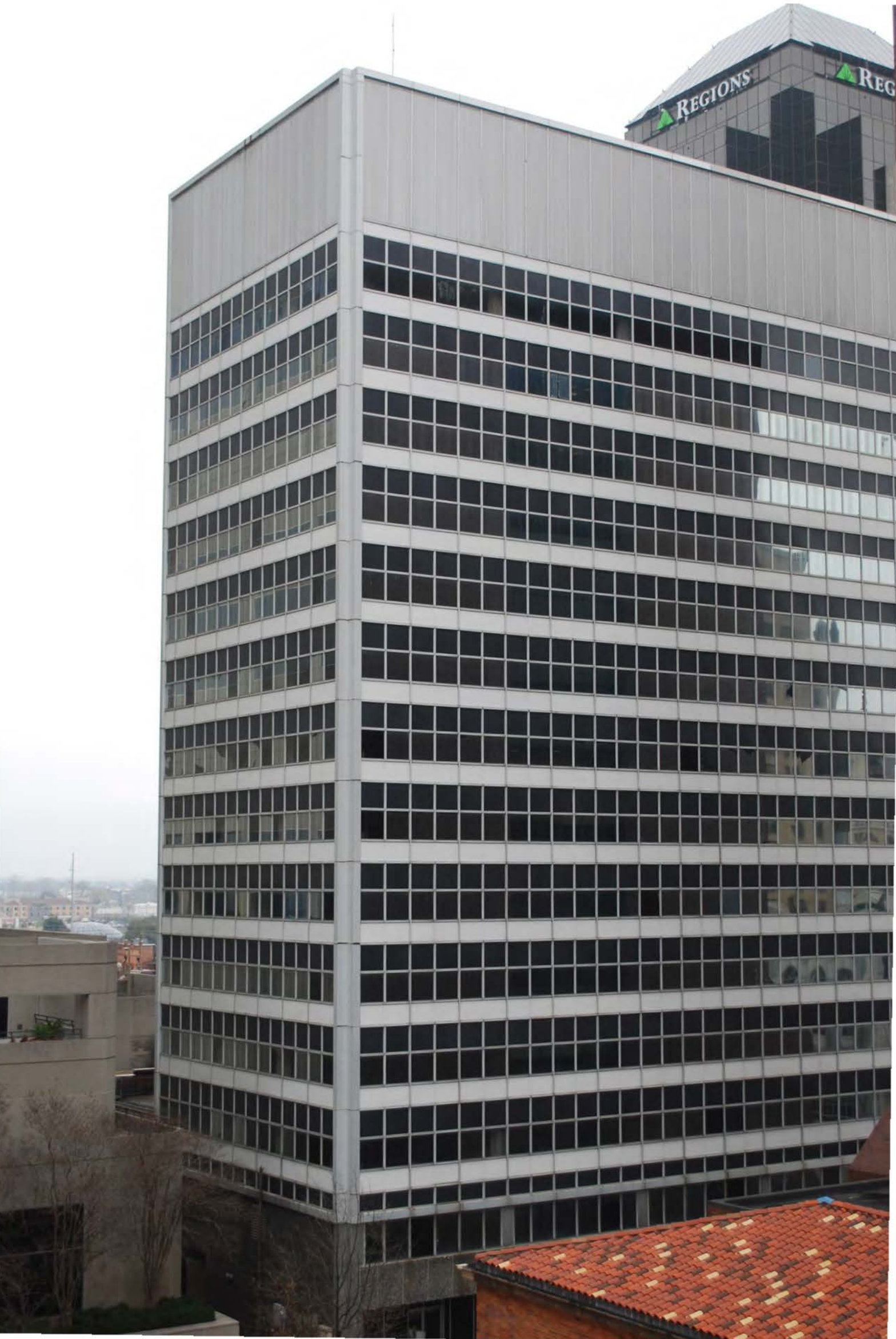
INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978

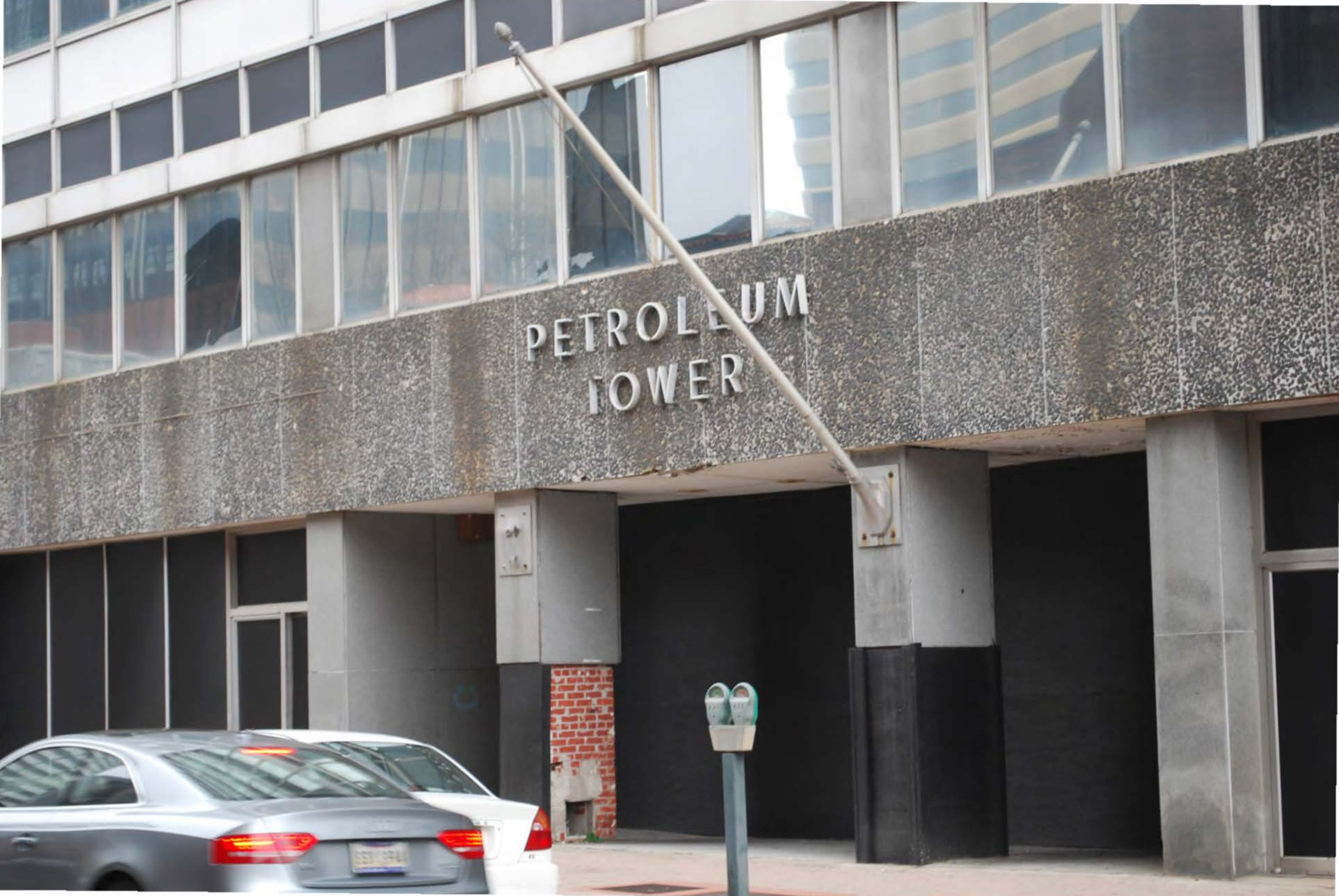

TEXAS
COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK

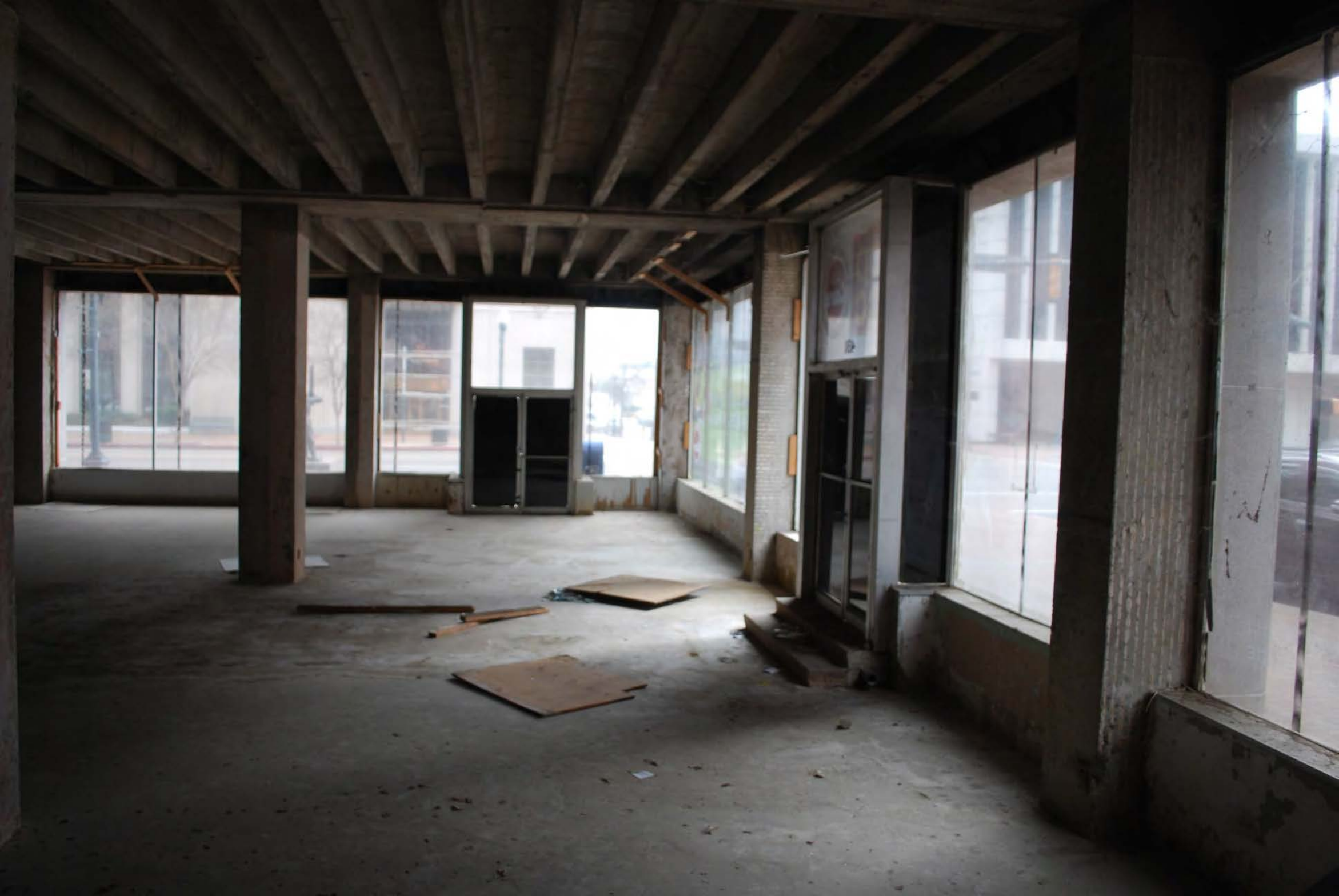


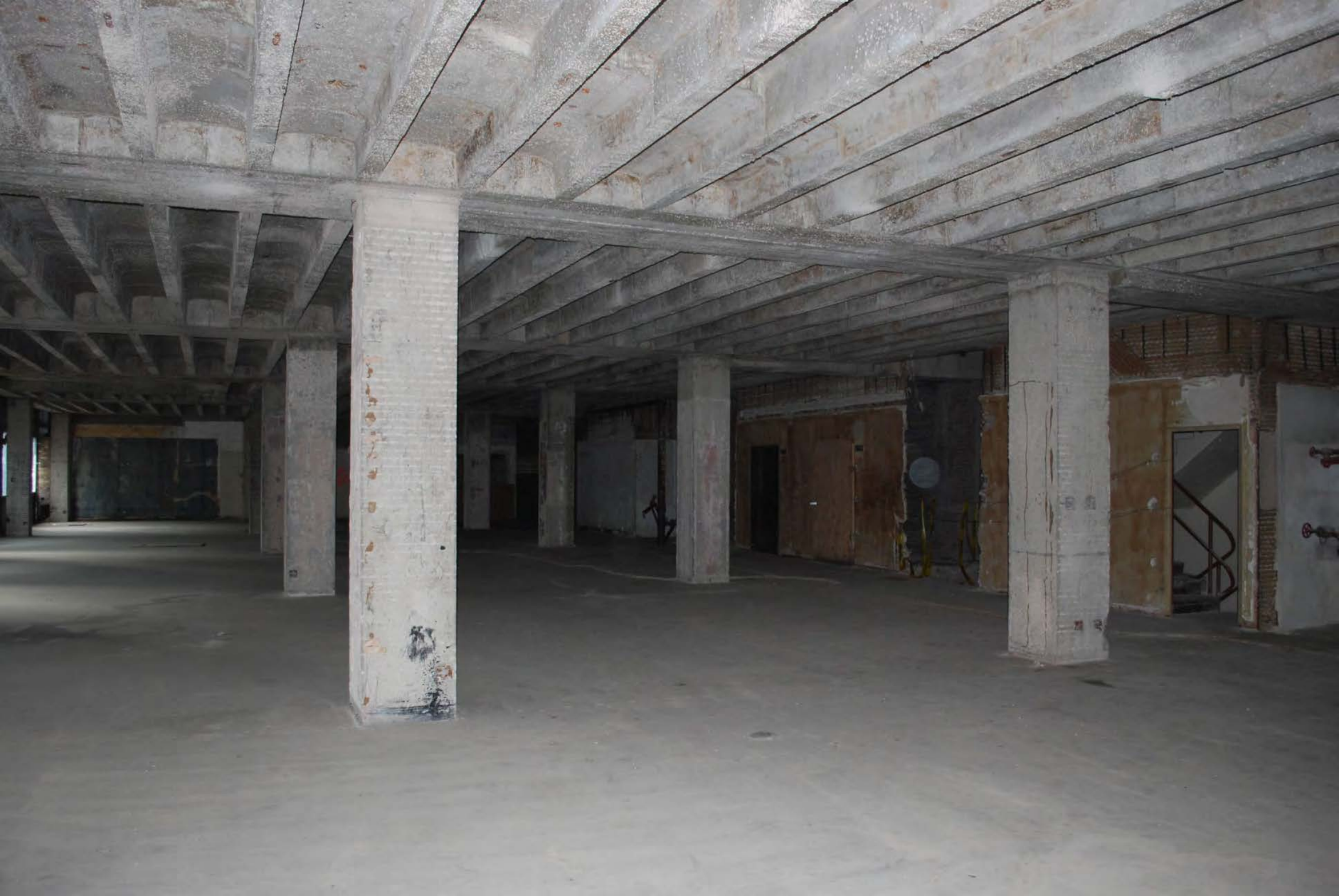


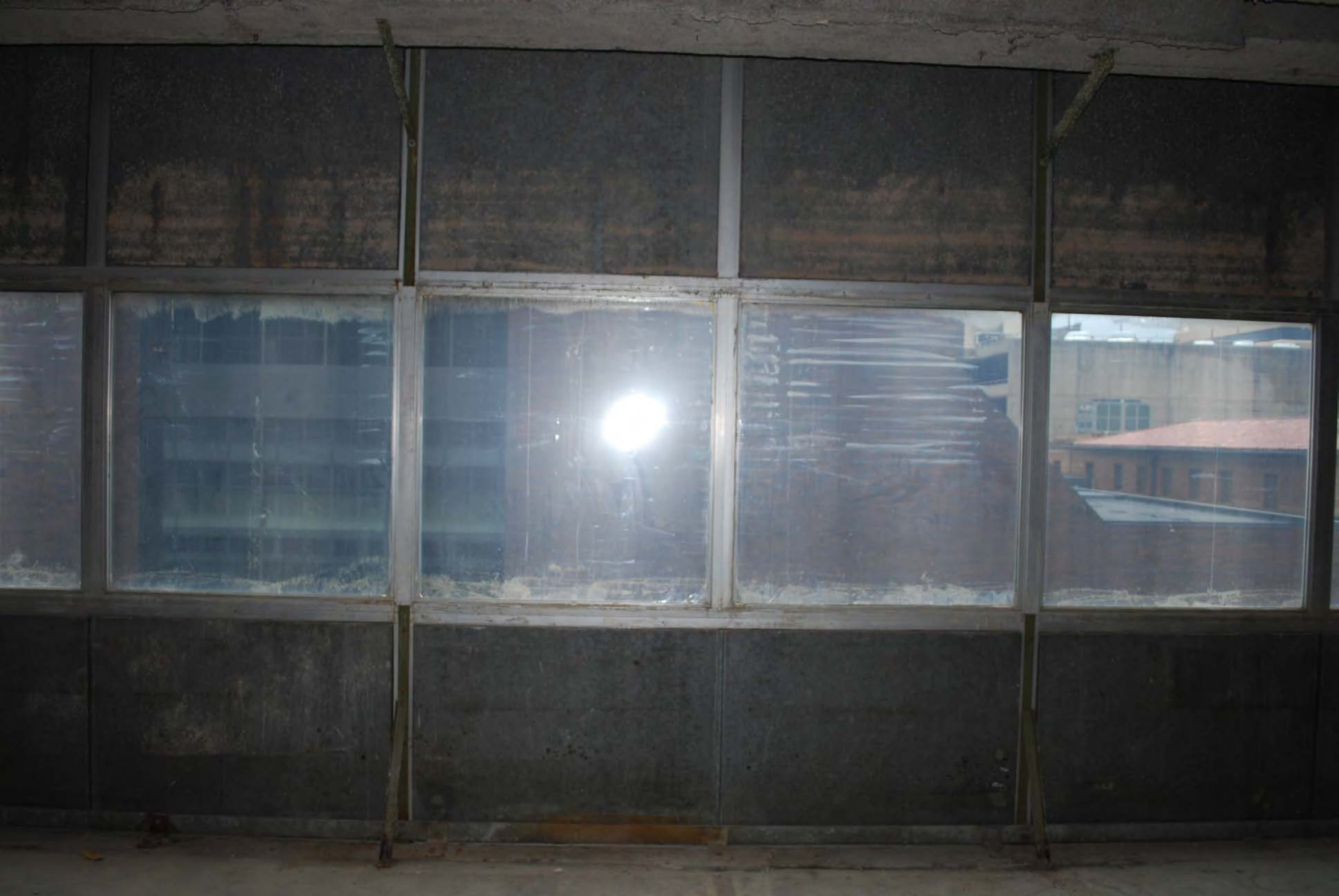

CHASE
324


REGIONS


PETROLEUM
TOWER







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Petroleum Tower

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Caddo

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000730

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 9/17/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Local level of Significance
"Commerce" is Area of Significance Under A
SLR.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER Jim Gabbert DISCIPLINE ____

TELEPHONE ____ DATE ____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

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

PAM BREAUX
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 29, 2013

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Patricia Duncan, Architectural Historian, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation Pat Duncan

RE: Petroleum Tower, Caddo Parish, LA

Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property or historic district. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595.

PD/pld
Enclosures:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

NA Multiple Property Nomination form

1 CD with electronic images and digital copy of nomination

9 Photograph(s)

1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s)

0 Location/Latitude-Longitude Maps

0 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s) (included in Figures)

0 Piece(s) of correspondence

0 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.
X Other: This property will become a tax credit project