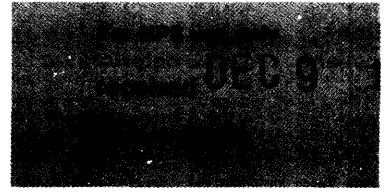


010 100 100

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

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

1. Name

historic *Old Jefferson Parish Courthouse*

~~and/or common~~ *Gretna City Hall*

2. Location

street & number *200 Huey P. Long Avenue* *N/A* not for publication

city, town *Gretna* *N/A* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state *LA* code *22* county *Jefferson Parish* code *051*

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<i>N/A</i> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<i>N/A</i> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name *Parish of Jefferson* *Joseph S. Yenni, Parish President*

street & number *P. O. Box 9*

city, town *Gretna* *N/A* vicinity of state *LA* *70054*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Jefferson Parish Courthouse*

street & number *no specific street or mailing address*

city, town *Gretna* state *LA* *70053*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title *LA Historic Sites Survey* has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *1982* federal state county local

depository for survey records *LA State Historic Preservation Office*

city, town *Baton Rouge* state *LA*

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gretna City Hall (formerly the Jefferson Parish Courthouse) is a three-story glazed brick structure with concrete trim. It is located in the old central business district of the town. Built in 1907, the building is essentially Renaissance in style, but with one major Baroque element. Despite numerous changes (chiefly on the interior), the old courthouse retains its architectural integrity.

The exterior of the building is treated in a way that is designed to resemble formal limestone facades. This effect is achieved through the use of grey glazed brick and cast concrete details. The structure rests upon a cypress board grillage footing and has a rock-faced concrete water table. The smooth brick first story base has arches set at the building entrances. Other openings have jack arches. The second and third stories are articulated as a piano nobile with a colossal Corinthian portico on the principal facade and Corinthian brick pilasters articulating the bays. The building is surmounted by a brick entablature, a pressed copper modillion cornice, and a plain brick parapet.

The two story courtroom is set in the middle of the building on the second floor. It has a bulging Baroque shape which is recessed within the building mass on each of the side elevations. The courtroom opens to a second story gallery on each side which culminates in a central pedimented aedicule motif.

The only significant interior features which remain are:

- (1) The axial entrance hallway with its succession of arches.
- (2) The front staircase with its mahogany balustrades.
- (3) The marble dado found in many parts of the building.
- (4) The curving walls of the courtroom.

Since construction, the following changes have been made in the building:

- (1) The courtroom ceiling has been lowered to half its original height, leaving a large void above.
- (2) Most of the offices have been completely redecorated leaving no evidence of the original fabric.
- (3) The clock which was originally in the tympanum has been lost.
- (4) A few of the window openings have been bricked in.
- (5) New steps and railings have been installed.
- (6) Air conditioners have been installed.
- (7) New bar railings have been placed between the columns on the portico and on the courtroom galleries.
- (8) In 1929 the building received a three story concrete annex in the rear. Connected by a single story hyphen, the annex is treated sparingly with Renaissance details inside and out. (The side elevation which appears in the photographs is unornamented.)

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet *Gretna City Hall*

Item number 7

Page 2

7. *Description (Continued)*

Assessment of Integrity:

The Gretna City Hall is significant because of its exterior articulation, which, of course, remains intact. The few exterior alterations have been minor. The rear extension does not intrude upon one's perception of the building, and, in fact, reads as a separate structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907 (addition in 1929) **Builder/Architect** Architect for 1907: R. S. Soule, New Orleans

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Gretna City Hall (Old Jefferson Parish Courthouse) is locally significant in the area of architecture because its exterior articulation gives it the status of an architectural landmark within the context of Jefferson Parish.

Excluding ecclesiastical structures, the Gretna City Hall is undoubtedly the most pretentious 50+ year old building in Jefferson Parish. It is a three-story Renaissance and Baroque style structure, nine bays wide and eleven bays deep, with colossal pilasters, a colossal portico, Corinthian capitals, grand colonnades, and a large curvilinear central mass. It stands in sharp contrast to the parish's few surviving plantation houses, and to the low-scale frame cottages and houses of Gretna, which is the parish's only old town. The parish also has a good number of old commercial buildings, but they are small and unpretentious. In addition, the parish has a few large 50+ year old apartment buildings. But these are architecturally innocuous and do not feature the level of high style treatment which characterizes the Gretna City Hall.

History:

The Old Jefferson Parish Courthouse was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$74,750. The architect was R. S. Soule of New Orleans. The building served as the parish courthouse until 1956. The 1907 portion has been leased to the city of Gretna since 1961. (The rear 1929 annex is leased to the sheriff's department.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Swanson, Betsy. Historic Jefferson Parish From Shore to Shore. Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, 1975.

Thoede, H. J. City Hall, Gretna, Louisiana. Gretna, Louisiana: C & C Offset Printing, 1964.

Thoede, H. J. History of Jefferson Parish and Its People. Gretna, Louisiana: Distinctive Printing, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name New Orleans, East, LA

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	7	8	3	3	5	10	3	3	1	1	2	9	7	15
Zone			Easting						Northing							

B

Zone			Easting						Northing							

C

Zone			Easting						Northing							

D

Zone			Easting						Northing							

E

Zone			Easting						Northing							

F

Zone			Easting						Northing							

G

Zone			Easting						Northing							

H

Zone			Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Mary G. Curry, Environmental Impact Officer

organization Jefferson Parish

date September 1982

street & number 3330 North Causeway Blvd., Room 303

telephone 504-834-7700, Ext. 345

city or town Metairie

state LA 70002

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 2, 1982

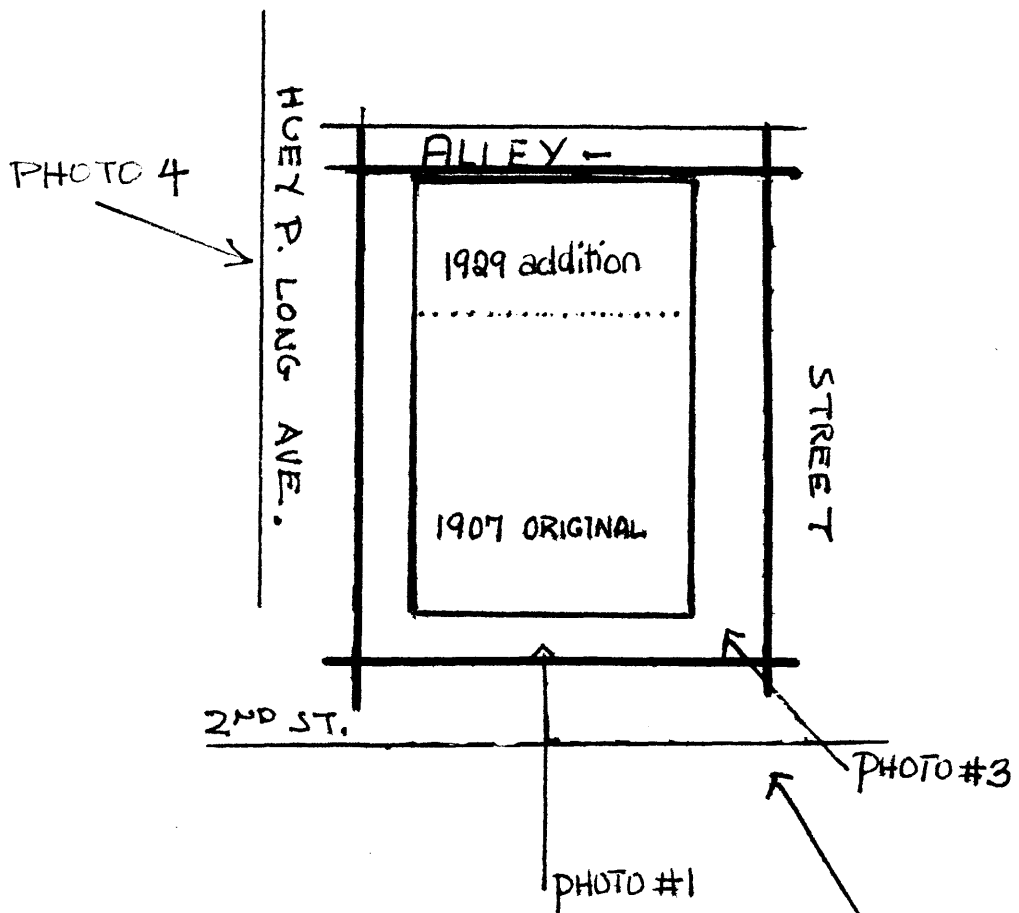
For NPS use only

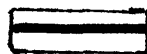
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

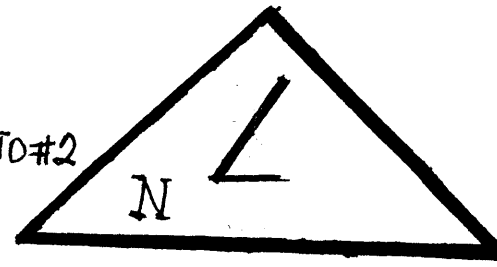
Patricia Andrews
of Keeper of the National Register
Attest: *Patricia Andrews*
Chief of Registration

date 1/24/83

date 1/17/83




 SIDEWALK / BOUNDARY FOLLOWS CURBLINES WHICH COMPLETELY SURROUND THE BUILDING.



THE GRETNA CITY HALL, GRETNA, LOUISIANA.