

PH 0662 674

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

AA

HISTORIC
Louisiana State Capitol Building and Gardens

AND/OR COMMON
"New" Capitol

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Capitol Drive

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

22

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th, Henson Moore

COUNTY CODE
East Baton Rouge Parish 33

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
State of Louisiana

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Administration

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

222 St. Louis Street

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
NONE AVAILABLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Louisiana Capitol is a 34-story, 450 foot, Alabama limestone, sculptured skyscraper designed by Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth of New Orleans in 1929 under the administration of Governor Huey P. Long. The building is set on a high basement which contains service spaces. The ground lobby or "Memorial Hall" is approached from the south via a grand frontal stairway with one step for each of the forty-eight states which existed when the Capitol was built. The grand stairway is flanked by a pair of monumental sculptured figure groups modeled by Leonardo Taft and executed by C. M. Dodd. The east group is dominated by an armored soldier and the mourners of a warrior slain in battle. The west group depicts "men and women of vision who created a state out of a hostile wilderness."

The "Memorial Hall" is entered through a massive four (4) story rectangular opening carved in bas-relief with paneled bronze and glass doors. The Hall itself is 124 feet long and 40 feet wide. It rises to a shallow vaulted ceiling which sets upon a light entablature. The walls are articulated with pairs of stylized, fluted pilaster strips without capitals. These are executed in dark marble, which contrasts with the light marble of the walls. The end walls are decorated with murals by Jules Guerin and depict agriculture in the state. The hall is flanked by a pair of massive bronze doors which lead to the House Chamber on the east and the Senate Chamber on the west. These chambers occur in the wings, which flank the main skyscraper tower. Each chamber has a marble interior similar to the "Memorial Hall."

There is an auxiliary space to the rear of the Hall which originally had four free-standing columns; two of these columns have been removed. However, the columns still exist and are slated to be replaced. Flanking this auxiliary space is a pair of elevator blocks which provide access to the office tower for the Governor and state officials.

The exterior is the most impressive aspect of the building. It is massed as an Art Deco progression of repeating blocks which rise to a central square tower. As the tower rises, it cuts away in stages from a square plan to an octagonal plan. The transition from square to octagon is made by four massive allegorical busts which occur at corners near the top of the main shaft. The detailing is worthy of note.

The ground floor of the building is articulated with pilaster strips similar to those in the "Memorial Hall." There is also a shallow relief frieze formed of stylized figures. The upper octagonal cupola has a large pedimented window on all four sides; this area is garnished with symbolic, stylized motifs. There is more carved ornamentation in this area than in any other part of the exterior building. The transition from the cupola to the beacon is by four massive flying buttresses.

The boundaries of the nomination were chosen to encompass the Capitol and the gardens, which were designed to complement it. The adjacent lake was in existence at the time the Capitol was built, but it became part of the landscape design.

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The gardens were designed by Leon Weiss of the architectural firm and installed by Jungle Gardens of Avery Island. The 600 foot by 600 foot sunken, formal garden to the south of the Capitol is representative of a late 19th century English garden with strong axial design, flanked by curved walks. All walks are lined with a boxwood hedge pruned into a rectangular form. Irregular masses of camellias and azaleas subordinate the formal walkways and create vistas into the garden. Many of the pittosporum shrubs are pruned into tight circular forms which contrast with the arching branches of the 200 year old live oaks. Southern magnolia trees are planted throughout as the unifying element; it is also the state flower.

In the center of the sunken garden is a motif design by Weiss. This was an area of concentrated annual color to be a jewel in the heart of the garden. Today, this area is a Memorial Garden where the Honorable Huey P. Long is buried.

The garden to the east of the building is less formal in design and setting. The main walk is terminated by the 17th century Arsenal Museum. Directly in front of the museum is a display rose garden 115 feet long and 60 feet wide which is bordered by a pruned boxwood hedge. The main walk is randomly intersected by curving walks which lead to the mound area where two Spanish cannons look out onto the lake. The walks also lead into a finger-like peninsula which projects into the lake. This walk is lined with neatly pruned pittosporum shrubs and crepe myrtles.

To the north and rear of the Capitol is a formal area. A broad axial walk with radiating walks lead pedestrians into the rear of the Capitol from the semi-circular parking area. Along the lake edge, plantings are massed to create a natural area which is extensively used by tourists and state employees for picnicking.

At present, criteria are being formulated for the establishment of a master plan to restore some aesthetically depressed areas.

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Louisiana Capitol is an excellent example of the combination of a greatly simplified classicism with Art Deco details which were in vogue for monumental buildings in the late 1920's. This can be seen in its cut-away massing, its highly stylized relief, and in its use of giant allegorical busts to terminate architectural masses. The Louisiana State Capitol is one of only two state capitols which were built in this mode. It is also the only 1920's, New York style skyscraper in Louisiana.

The Capitol Gardens are one of the finest examples of traditional late 19th century English design in a public garden. Its symmetry and balance greatly complement the Capitol Building, with which its design was coordinated. It also serves as a green space in an urban setting.

The political significance of the Capitol is an integral part of the short, but colorful, political career of Huey Pierce Long. The inception of the idea and the final construction are the results of much political maneuvering by the "Kingfish." Today, the Capitol Building still embodies the mechanism of state government.

In 1928, Huey Pierce Long was running for Governor of the State of Louisiana. Part of his platform was to construct a "new" capitol on the site which was once Louisiana State University and formerly a military post known as the Pentagon Barracks (National Register, July 26, 1973). Included was a strip of land on which the 17th century Arsenal Museum (National Register, June 4, 1973) was located.

By the end of the 1930 Legislative Session, Long had pushed through an amendment which financed the "new" capitol. Previous to this, Long had contracted with a New Orleans architectural firm, Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth, to design the building. Within 36 days of completion of the final design, actual construction by the George A. Fuller Company of Washington, D.C. had begun.

The construction work took twenty-nine months to complete and dedication was coordinated with the inauguration of Oscar K. Allen as Governor on May 16, 1932. Ironically, Long was not present because he had been elected to the U. S. Senate and his duties kept him in Washington.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kubley, Vincent. The Louisiana Capitol: Its Art and Architecture, 1977. Gretna: Pelican Press.

Agard, Walter Raymond. The New Architectural Sculpture, 1935. New York: Oxford University Press.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22 acres
30

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

DA | 1,5 | 6,7,3 | 9,3,0 | 3,3 | 7,0 | ⁷⁸⁰ 8,1,0

AA | 1,5 | 6,7,4 | ⁶⁰⁰ 5,7,0 | 3,3 | 7,0 | ⁸⁴⁰ 8,8,0

B | 1,5 | 6,7,4 | 1,6,0 | 3,3 | 7,0 | 3,7,0

CA | 1,5 | 6,7,3 | 9,5,0 | 3,3 | 7,0 | ³⁵⁰ 3,7,0

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of North 3rd and Boyd Avenue, proceed due east to where North 5th intersects Boyd Avenue. Thence, due north to the Capitol Avenue intersection and from there, north to a driveway which curves north-eastwardly toward Capitol Lake.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ken Courtade

ORGANIZATION

Division of State Buildings & Grounds

DATE

November 14, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 44001

TELEPHONE

(504) 389-5125

CITY OR TOWN

Baton Rouge,

STATE

Louisiana

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

Andra Thompson

TITLE

Secretary - Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

DATE

1/25/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wentz

DATE

6/9/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William Coll

DATE

6-7-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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On September 8, 1935, Long was shot in the Capitol as he left the Senate Chambers. Two days later, Huey Pierce Long was dead from the assassin's bullet. In 1940, Long's body was moved to the Capitol Gardens where it remains, flanked by numerous memorial oaks and 100 year old camellias from antebellum plantations.

Today, Huey Long's "new" Capitol and the gardens remain as one of the major tourist attractions in the state. It is estimated by the Louisiana Tourist Commission that some 175,000 people will have visited the Capitol by the end of 1977.

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"The South's New Skycraper Capitol," Architectural Forum, LVII. December, 1932.

"Beautiful Approach from Every Angle is Given by Landscaping of Grounds",
Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, May 16, 1932.

"Statue of Huey Long at Capitol May Move Back Into Spotlight", Baton Rouge
Morning Advocate, May 16, 1977.

"The Capitol Gardens", Gris Gris, September 6, 1977.

"The Building of a Landmark", Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, November 20, 1977.

Solis Seiferth, Architect, May 17, 1977.

Dr. Robert Heck, Architect, November 14, 1977.

Dr. Neil Odenevald, Landscape Architect, November 14, 1977.

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Highway 3045 intersects this driveway and follows along the lake's edge in a westward direction to finally intersect with the west side of the gardens, North 3rd Street.