

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 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital

Other Names/Site Number: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

2. Location

Street & Number: 352 Hospital Boulevard

City or town: Pineville

State: LA

County: Rapides Parish

Not for Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐


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, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D


Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breau, State Historic Preservation Officer


Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

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

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
X	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
X	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
6	9	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
1	3	Objects
7	12	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: **0**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Health Care: Hospital, Clinic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Vacant/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Modern Movement:
Streamline Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Concrete w/ built-up

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital was designed by well-known Louisiana architect, Edward F. Neild and constructed in 1937. Located across the Red River from downtown Alexandria in neighboring Pineville, the entire 20.16 acre hospital property includes 7 contributing and 11 non-contributing buildings. The 3 story main hospital building sits at the end of a long drive complete with a guard house and fence. The building's modern style can be seen in many original features including ribbon windows, contrasting colors of blonde and red bricks, aluminum details including curved entrance canopies, and original aluminum sculptural panels above the entry. There have been some alterations to the exterior of the main hospital block and some of the support buildings, but overall, the Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital retains a high degree of integrity and remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

Narrative Description

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital was conceived by its namesake, Louisiana's famous governor of the 1920s and 1930s, as part of his commitment to "care for the indigents... the helpless and afflicted people."¹ Approved in 1937, ground was broken in March, 1938 and the first patient was admitted October 7, 1939. Designed in the Streamline Moderne style by master Louisiana architect, Edward F. Neild, the building is now re-discovered, representing that brief time between the great depression and WW II when architecture in the United States spoke eloquently to the hope for better times and the legacy of an assassinated governor's commitment to the common man began its fulfillment.

The 20.16 acre site herein described (figure 20) is the location chosen by the newly created Louisiana State Hospital Board in 1937 for the first of six planned hospitals to serve the health care needs of the indigent people of Louisiana. Originally named Mid-State Charity Hospital, the name was changed by the Legislature to Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital shortly after opening in 1939 as a tribute to the Governor whose dream it was to build a statewide system of charity hospitals. This site was selected by the board after considering several possibilities for a central location within the 8-parish area

¹ DeParle, Jason. "Charity: An ailing system." *Times Picayune* 21 April 1986: Print.

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(including Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn) it was intended to serve. Positioned within a sparsely populated urban neighborhood near the edge of town in Pineville, several houses were moved or demolished in preparation for its construction.²

The site of the hospital is referred to as a "hill" in the early newspaper accounts³ but is actually, at best, a low rise from its frontage on Main St. with a more noticeable drop-off at the rear to Spanish Bayou. Early references mention three large live oak trees that adorned the site and were protected during the construction of the building. Caroline Coroneos Dorman, the locally renowned naturalist whose work with the Louisiana Forestry Department led to the creation of the Kisatchie National Forest and the Louisiana State Arboretum designed the landscaping for the site.⁴ Access to the site is via a two-block boulevard extending from Main St. in Pineville to the front door of the hospital. Records show the road work in front of the hospital to have been completed as a WPA project (figures 1-3). To the rear of the site is a small meandering ditch called Spanish Bayou and beyond, a wooded area that connects to the grounds of the Central Louisiana State Hospital - lending a contrasting rural feel to the otherwise urban setting. Initial construction included the three story 69,500 square foot reinforced concrete frame brick-clad hospital and the physical plant building set to the rear left of the site to provide heat to the building via steam pipes routed through a subterranean tunnel connecting the two buildings (figures 10 & 12).

Contributing Elements

Main Hospital Building (see Photos 1-5,9,11,12,15,25-27,37-47 and Figures 1-6)

Façade:

The style of the hospital building is Streamline Modern. Among the first things to catch an observer's eye is the design of the far ends of the lateral wings which incorporates two levels of rounded porch extensions bounded by waist-high parapet walls of the body brick. The outer limits of the porches are supported by oversized unornamented cylindrical columns.

The Streamline Modern Style is said to have been heavily influenced by nautical architecture (The ocean liner SS Normandie incorporated many inspirational elements of the style) and these extensions look very much like the stern of a ship.⁵ The façade of the building features a dramatic, streamlined, horizontal form with a high width to height aspect ratio, window bands, curving porch projections, a flat roof, and a primary surface of very pale brick. The light colored brick set with matching mortar creates a uniform field that contrasts with the window bands of darker red brick and matching mortar further accentuating the horizontal. These horizontal bands are further delineated with cast concrete coping at the sill course. The coping of the second and third level extend to cap the parapet walls of the porch extensions.

The windows are metal frame; double hung horizontally divided three-over three, and painted red to match the color of the brick of the window bands. The central massing of the structure, composing 1/3 of the total façade is a two-step extension from the vertical plane of the wings – the first is a shallow

² Roberts, Jonathan and Durant, Thomas J. Jr. *A History of the Charity Hospitals of Louisiana A Study of Poverty, Politics, Public Health, and the Public Interest.* Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press

³ Staff Writer. "Charity Hospital in Pineville May Open Next Week" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 29 September 1939: Print

⁴ Donald M. Rawson, "Caroline Dorman: A Renaissance Spirit of Twentieth Century Louisiana," *Louisiana History*, XXIV (1983)

⁵ Reed, Robert Carroll (1975). *The streamline era.* Golden West Books. p. 278. ISBN 9780870950537.

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squared-off extension half the width of the two wings and finished with the identical treatment. The second extension, forming the central 1/4 of the façade is centered and bowed from the plane of the first extension.

This most central massing features a different finish treatment. The entrance, a low inset porch with side walls of the rounded continuation of the façade field brick contains a relatively short double-door-and-transom entrance flanked by a pair of double hung metal frame & sash windows of the same dimension as those of the façade. (The original brass doors were removed in order to protect them from damage from Hurricane Rita. They are currently stored in the Physical Plant (see figure 13)). The door lintel, a metallic version of the cast concrete coping of the façade extends the full width of the porch bisecting the upper sashes of the flanking windows. The porch is protected by a flat, rounded projecting canopy edged with a double-sized version of the coping used elsewhere on the façade. This coping treatment continues to the outer limits of the center massing to form an "eyebrow" for the four first level windows flanking the entrance porch.

All of these elements work to continue the very horizontal orientation of the building. The upper portion of this central massing, however, shows a distinct vertical orientation - with vertically aligned windows and ornamental panels separated by vertical "columns" of brick. These seven ornamental stainless steel and bronze botanical panels (presumably featuring species native to Louisiana) constitute the building's only nod to ornament. The whole of the façade design works together to draw the eye of the observer from the ends to the center and upwards where he finds, in large block stainless steel letters the name Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital. After a short study, one is left with an appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the design.

The setting and presentation of the assembled elements was obviously important to the designer. In its original configuration – without the present day obstructions of mature trees, the addition of the canteen and the lab and ER additions – the very broad sweep of the dramatic façade (325' wide) set at the top of a low rise and presented with minimal obstructions down the rising wide approach was intentionally dramatic. (see Figure 9)

The alterations to the hospital building are obvious – additions to the building from 1982 (DeKeyser & Boutte, architects (see Photo 60)). At the right side of the front facade, a one-story squared-off flat roofed addition extending forward from the right half of that wing (laboratory) and a larger one-story flat roofed addition extending out from the extended porches of the right wing (emergency room). Additionally, on the south end of the building, the area below the lower porch extension has been enclosed with a low wall of matching brick capped with a rowlock course of brick surmounted with aluminum framed tall and narrow fixed pane windows. The multi pane arrangement of these windows is made necessary in order to follow the curve of the original porch extension but makes the enclosure an obvious alteration as compared to original images of the building (date of this alteration is unknown).

Closer examination reveals too, that several of the original window openings have been bricked up. According to the current administrator⁶, this was made necessary by the repurposing of floor space over the years. Some effort to make these alterations sensitive to the original are noticeable in the selection of the brick (and mortar), the continuation of the window band and the curves of the stair landing and extension of the larger addition. While it is clear that some of the windows have been

⁶ Maroma, William B. Personal interview. 21 October 2014.

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bricked in, they were filled in within the original opening size, which helps to maintain some of the original design rhythm. As far as the two additions to the right go, while they are new, they were done rather sensitively using a blond colored brick to match the original. Original moderne design details were drawn upon for the design of these additions, but it is clear that they are new construction. Furthermore, their size is of a low scale and overall, they do not detract from the main historic hospital building. (see Figures 15-17 and Photos 37-43)

Right Side elevation: The right side elevation is the NE wall of the 1982 Emergency Room addition. This single story wall of blonde brick (chosen, no doubt, to match the lighter brick of the façade) is unbroken but for one opening – an aluminum-framed double door entrance to the emergency room. A canopy extends from the roof line above the entrance to cover the area where emergency vehicles deliver patients to the emergency room. The canopy is banded with bronze colored metal roofing and is supported at its outer limit by simple cylindrical concrete columns similar to those supporting the projecting porches of the original structure. A simpler canopy constructed of steel and metal roofing extends along the wall from the N corner of the addition covering a walkway from the parking area to the entrance. The integrity of this elevation is as-built with the exception of the smaller of the two canopies which is an obvious after thought.

Rear Elevation: The rear elevation includes the rear of the primary wing described above and rearward projecting central extension. The treatment of the rear of the primary wing is a continuation of that described for the façade with red brick window bands set into a lighter colored brick field bordered with cast concrete coping. Just as with the primary façade, the plane of the outer reach of the extensions is bumped out in two stages establishing the visual dominance of the central massing.

The three stories projecting central wing (which is slightly taller than the lateral wings of the primary façade) continues the design treatment with one obvious difference: although the lighter field brick and cast concrete coping treatment is continued, the red brick window bands terminate at about the middle of the extension's projection. As is the case with the primary façade, the integrity of the rear elevation is affected by alterations over the years – most obviously in the closing of a number of window openings however, it should be again noted that these alterations were done with some degree of sensitivity in attempting to match the brick and mortar of the original design.

To the left of the central wing is an addition dating to prior to 1982, which is the Day Surgery/Oncology addition to the building. This was later joined, via an enclosed walkway, to the Outpatient Building. For this reason, the Day Surgery/Oncology addition is being included in the count for the main hospital building as it was constructed as an addition. The Outpatient Building is being counted separately since it was joined at a later date to the Day Surgery/Outpatient building and Main Hospital building.

Left Side Elevation: The left side elevation consists of rounded extensions (slightly inset) from the SW end of the left wing of the primary structure. At ground level, the curved extension is defined by a blond brick waist-high wall surmounted by narrow vertically divided aluminum framed windows. At the far end is a double-door entrance set toward the front and a single door to the rear. The second floor is an extended open porch or balcony bounded by a waist high wall of blond brick. There are two entrance doors from the balcony to the hospital interior. At the rear, the second floor porch extends rearward to accommodate a landing for an integrated stairway to the ground level along the rear wall. Between the second and third levels are three equally spaced unornamented cylindrical support columns. The third level is a repeat of the second level without the integrated stairway.

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Immediately adjacent to the structure is a large steel framed structure open on four sides and topped with metal roofing. This structure served as a cover for parking.

To the NW and SW sides of this structure are two temporary trailers which served as offices and laboratory space. The integrity of this elevation is fair to good – a photograph taken during construction (see Figure 7) reveals the alterations to this portion of the structure: Originally the ground level, like the second and third levels was open – the brick wall, windows and doorway were added. The four support columns of the ground level, visible in the original photograph are still in place. The two bracketed entry roofs visible in the original photograph have been replaced with a modern steel and metal roofing canopy. The original bracketed entry roofs may now be those at the front of the physical plant. All-in-all most of the loss of integrity to this area of the structure is reversible.

Interior: The physical layout of the interior of the original building is simple and logical. The central massing and the rear projecting wing of the structure house the dining room and kitchen, mechanicals (HVAC, elevators), surgery and recovery rooms and procedure rooms. The lateral wings of the central massing house the patients' rooms and nurses' stations. Later additions house those functions for which they were designed – emergency room and laboratory. Interior finishes in the original portion of the hospital include plastered walls with tile wainscoting, terrazzo and tile floors and suspended acoustical ceilings. Doors are metal security doors or solid core wood. Fixtures and fittings are what one would expect in a hospital. The organization and finishes and fixtures of the hospital are designed for functionality without regard to ornament. The lobby is small and functional - the spare ornamentation of the exterior of the entrance ends at the door and flanking window treatment with its brass trim (the original brass doors are stored in the physical plant (see Figure 13)). The integrity of the interior space is primarily affected by the obvious additions, as previously noted. In addition, the organization of the interior rooms was altered relatively early in the life of the building when the floorplan was altered from large open wards with many beds in a single space to more patient rooms accommodating four to six patients per room. This alteration followed the general evolution of healthcare in the hospital setting.

Alterations affecting the overall integrity of the original hospital are most noticeably the 1982 additions of the emergency room and laboratory and the earlier addition of the day surgery / oncology area. It must be acknowledged that these were designed with some sensitivity to the original design of the building as noted. In addition, the repurposing of floor space as the result of changing healthcare practices resulted in the closure of a good many original window openings. Here again, this work was done with sensitivity and the resulting impact on the important element of the elaborated window bands is minimal. Beyond these notable alterations to the original structure, the integrity of the hospital building is very good both exterior and interior.

Physical Plant, Contributing Building (see Photos 19 & 20)

Another significant original structure on the site – the physical plant – remains unaltered on the exterior with the minor exception of the replacement of overhead doors of the vehicle bays and alterations to windows to facilitate the installation of window air conditioner units. The design of the physical plant is contemporary to but less stylish than that of the hospital – a less important structure but of the same hand. The brick is the same, windows are the same, but have smaller lite patterns (two-over-two), and the window band treatment is repeated.

Built into the backside of the hill on which the hospital is built, what, from the front appears to be a one-story structure with four vehicle bays flanked by a door and window on either side is actually an

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extension of the third level of the three-story structure. As if to confirm its lesser importance, only the front and sides of the structure are veneered in brick while the rear wall is finished in stucco. Further confirming its utilitarian purpose is the associated boiler smoke stack. The roof is flat and the short parapet walls are capped with square unornamented cast concrete.

One bit of ornament is the canopies over the two front doors and one of the vehicle bays (where the overhead door has been replaced with a permanent enclosure with a doorway). Two of these canopies are smaller versions of the hospital's entrance canopy with simple but stylish heavy iron supporting brackets. The third is supported by flimsy rods from overhead lending evidence, in addition to the fact that this was once the location of an overhead vehicle bay door, which it is not in its original location. The same may be true of the other two canopies as identical canopies, clearly seen on the third floor of the South end in the 1938 photo of the hospital (see Figures 7&8), are no longer there.

The integrity of the physical plant, considering the minimal alterations noted above, is very good.

The Guard Shack, Canteen, and Fence, 1 contributing building, 1 contributing element – 1937 & 1952 (see Photos 48-54)

The guard shack adjacent to the entrance gate of the site can be clearly seen in photos taken before the hospital was opened (see Figure 3). It is very small with space for one person and a desk. A small window on the Main St. side presumably allows a guard to see incoming traffic and a door and window at the gate side allow access and a view of the gate. Build of the same brick as the hospital, this small structure is Spartan but for the design of its South wall. This wall is one of the eight original brick columns that form the front fence of the site. The columns are constructed of the same brick as the hospital, rounded on the lateral faces and capped with limestone. The two columns that flank the entrance gate and the two that anchor the far ends of the fence are larger versions of the smaller columns that divide the space between. Ornamental iron panels enclose the spaces between the columns. Inset into the inside face of the two columns flanking the entrance gate are stylized original light fixtures. The integrity of the guard shack is very good. The integrity of the fence was compromised on the right side with the loss of two of the columns and their associated iron work – one lost with the addition of the canteen in 1954 and the other lost (presumably) due to the encroachment of a tree.

The canteen portion of this structure is an addition that dates to 1954⁷ and served until the facility's closure as a café for visitors. It is a simple single story flat roofed structure with an entrance for patrons centrally located on the South facing façade flanked by aluminum framed windows set into the upper half of the wall of blond brick matching that of the original guard shack. The patron's entrance is a single metal door set into a wider space that appears to have been "boarded over". Evidence suggests this entrance was originally a pair of aluminum framed glass doors with sidelights and a transom. The treatment of the opposite wall is very similar with a central bank of aluminum framed fixed pane windows set in the upper half of the wall. The South West corner is an open covered pavilion – designed, perhaps, as a shelter for patrons awaiting transportation. A second (rear) door to the canteen is located in the south wall under the pavilion. Although this simple addition was designed to be sympathetic to the guard shack, using very similar brick and overall design, evidence of buckling in the Main St. wall suggests some structural flaw. The loss of the original entrance and the suggestion of structural issues affect the integrity of the canteen.

⁷ Louisiana Facilities Planning & Control Site Code 6-40-015. State ID 06491

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The Outpatient Building – 1940 (see Photos 28-34)

Over the years, several structures were added to the site. The earliest, constructed in 1940 was the venereal disease clinic constructed to the right rear of the hospital, which was administered by the United States Public Health Service until it closed in 1950. In 1960, this clinic was reopened and converted into an 8-bed alcohol treatment center to participate in the Tri-Med Program, a statewide initiative established by Governor Jimmie Davis and the Legislature in the 1960's.⁸ The building is a one story flat roofed 15,000 sq ft wood frame structure designed roughly in a T-form with three wings at right angles to a central entrance. The treatment of the exterior walls is stucco with a heavy pebbled finish. Windows are aluminum frame three lite jalousie. Doors are flush metal doors with single lites. The exterior walls of the entrance are composed of an aluminum framed grid of windows with double aluminum framed glass doors, which makes up the most stylized portion of the building. There is an attached hallway connecting the Outpatient building to the hospital with similar window treatment to that of the Outpatient building, but finished with brick leaving one to wonder if this was a later addition that served to just connect the two buildings on the interior to provide sheltered access. Besides this hallway connector, it does not appear that there have been any other alterations made to the Outpatient Buildings since its construction. The integrity of the outpatient building is very good.

The Intern Quarters – 1948 (see Photos 55-57)

The intern quarters (Van Os & Flaxman, architects) were added to provide living space for interns from Tulane and LSU Medical Schools – the primary source of physician staffing.⁹ Although the design of the building bears similarities to the hospital – consisting of a modern horizontal form and the use of similarly colored brick on the body and in the contrasting elements - the differences may outnumber the similarities. The fenestration of the façade is almost all glass with bands of large one-over-one windows. The inset entrance bears more resemblance to the Outpatient Building than the hospital. This building reflects the change in style to the post-war mid-century modern that occurred over the single decade between the designs of the two buildings. On the left side elevation, there are two doors, one on each floor, that serve as exits. A simple exit stair leads from the second floor to the ground. The only alterations that have occurred on this building including the addition of a decorative wrought iron balustrade, likely for safety, above the entrance, and painted plywood at the far right of the building. The integrity of the intern quarters building is very good.

The Warehouse – 1948 (see Photos 13,14,16,17)

The Warehouse, added in 1948 is a steel frame brick veneer 4,750 sq ft one story flat roofed building.¹⁰ Built with brick that is similar in color to that of the hospital, that's where the similarities end. This is strictly a functional (as its purpose suggests) building with no particular sense of style or ornament. Windows are set high on their walls (probably to allow light without limiting storage space) and the entrance is inset with a pair of flush metal doors. The windows are painted red like those on the main hospital building and are four lite awning style windows and one over one sash windows. Other original features include two sets of double doors with original frosted glass. A modern metal storage building along with carport for large trucks was added in front of the building. While the newer construction does block part of the façade of the warehouse, it is not actually attached and is therefore not an alteration to the building.

Non-Contributing Resources

⁸ Jonathan Roberts and Thomas J. Durant, Jr. *A History of the Charity Hospitals of Louisiana A Study of Poverty, Politics, Public Health, and the Public Interest.* Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press

⁹ Roberts.

¹⁰ Louisiana Facilities Planning & Control Site Code 6-40-015. State ID 06493

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For a resource to be considered non-contributing at Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, the resource would have been constructed or moved onto the site outside the period of significance. There are no historic resources, constructed within the period of significance, that have been altered to the point that they are no longer considered contributing. All non-contributing resources, which consist of 10 buildings and 3 objects, are of modern vintage.

Bio Med Trailer (see Photo 7). This trailer was moved to the site in 1983¹¹, outside of the period of significance.

Medical Staff / Admin Trailer (see Photos 8-10). This trailer was moved to the site in 1985¹², outside of the period of significance.

Secondary Warehouse Building – (see Photos 13,14,16,17) – This building was moved on site sometime after 2005¹³, outside of the period of significance and is thus, non-contributing.

Maintenance Shop (see Photo 18) this shop was constructed in 1976¹⁴, outside of the period of significance

Maintenance Shed (see Photo 21) this shed was constructed in 1992¹⁵, outside of the period of significance.

Hazardous Waste Storage (see Photo 22) this shed was constructed in 2000¹⁶, outside of the period of significance.

Helipad (see Photo 15) – Non-contributing object. Concrete pad for helicopters to land on, which is considered non-contributing as it was constructed outside of the period of significance.

Chillers (see Photo 24) – 2 Non-contributing objects.

Chiller Building (see Photo 15) this building was constructed in 1978¹⁷, outside of the period of significance.

Prisoner Holding Building (see Photo 35) This modern building is the property of the Rapides Parish Sherriff Office and was constructed after the period of significance. This building will be removed from the site.

Outpatient Pharmacy Building (see Photo 36). This building was moved onto the site in 2007¹⁸, outside of the period of significance.

Overall Site Integrity

¹¹ Ibid. State ID 06509

¹² Ibid. State ID 06507

¹³ Ibid. State ID 06497

¹⁴ Ibid. State ID 06498

¹⁵ Ibid. State ID 06499

¹⁶ Ibid. State ID 12900

¹⁷ Ibid. State ID 06500

¹⁸ Ibid. State ID 15277

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Overall, the site retains nearly all its historic integrity. Driving up the boulevard to the hospital today one is greeted with much the same view as the first patients might have seen in 1938. Despite the additions and alterations to the main hospital building and the addition of a number of temporary structures, the site remains very much as it was originally.

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:

	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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Architecture, Health /Medicine

Period of Significance: Criterion A: 1937- 1965; Criterion C: 1937-1939

Significant Dates: October 7, 1939

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Neild, Edward F.

Period of Significance (justification):

From its concept through design and construction, (1937 – 1939), the nominee is significant for its contribution to the diversity of architecture catalogued in the State of Louisiana. In addition, from its concept to the present date, the nominee is the physical monument to the notion that the highest calling of government and the measure of the most advanced civilization is the accommodation for the most basic needs of the least empowered. Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital speaks to the pride

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of the State of Louisiana in being the location of the first charity hospital in the nation and in institutionalizing state wide care for the indigent decades ahead of the federal government.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital is significant at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture for its significance as a prime example of Streamline Modern architecture within Pineville and Rapides Parish. Additionally, it is significant statewide under Criterion A: Health/Medicine for the role it played as the charity hospital for central Louisiana. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1937-1939 reflecting the years it took to design and complete the hospital. The period of significance under Criterion A is 1937 – 1965 Reflecting the years that the hospital served as the only charity hospital in the central Louisiana area including the 8 surrounding parishes.

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

As an example of the Streamline Moderne style, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital displays most of the hallmark characteristics including: simplified forms with rounded corners devoid of much applied decoration, horizontal compositions, bands of windows and flat roofs, smooth brick exterior wall surfaces and subdued colors with light earth tones contrasting with darker trim colors.

In the field of Medicine, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital represents the very best intentions to provide comfort and healing to those among us who can least afford it. In a state with the proud heritage of being home to the second oldest hospital in the country – a charity hospital - this was the state wide outreach to provide the most essential of needs many decades before any such attempt on the part of the federal government. Additionally, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital was only the third charity hospital in the state and the first to serve the central part of the state.¹⁹

Criterion A: Health/Medicine

A Brief History of Louisiana's Charity Hospital System

In 1736, while Louisiana was still a French colony, The Charity Hospital of New Orleans first opened its doors. Funding for the hospital was made possible by the bequeath of sailor and boat builder Jean Louis upon his death in 1735 to ... "serve in perpetuity to the founding of a hospital for the sick of the city of New Orleans, without anyone being able to change my purpose, and to secure the things necessary to succor the sick". (Until its closing in 2005, the Charity Hospital of New Orleans was the second oldest continuously operating public hospital in the United States. Only Bellevue Hospital in New York City is older, having been founded a month earlier.)²⁰

In the 16 year period between 1873 and 1889, the number of beds in government-owned hospitals in the United States increased by 211% while the number of beds in private hospitals increased by 283% due in large part to rapid social and demographic changes. Outside the cities in rural areas,

¹⁹ Roberts and Durant, pg 100.

²⁰ Ibid.

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healthcare for the rural poor and many others was primarily left to families and churches of the community.²¹

In 1876, Shreveport Charity Hospital opened as the second state-owned hospital for the poor. . It was renamed Confederate Memorial Medical Center and moved to the hospital's current location 1953. Today, the original hospital buildings are no longer standing and are of a modern vintage serving as the Louisiana State University Medical School in Shreveport.²²

In campaign speeches leading up to his election as governor in 1928, Huey Long promised, among other things, "institutions to care for the indigents... the helpless and afflicted people".²³ Assonated in 1935, nevertheless governor Long's vision was realized in the form of eight additional charity hospitals across the state. Louisiana constructed the nation's most extensive network of free hospitals - a commitment to provide health care for the poor made decades before the federal government did with the creation of Medicare in 1965. Beginning with the construction of the Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital in Pineville in 1938 and culminating with the opening of the Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center at Houma in 1978.²⁴

The reasons for the selection of Pineville as the sight for the first of the expansion hospitals was a combination of access and need – with charity hospitals located at opposite ends of the state (New Orleans and Shreveport), the challenge for access was greatest for those located at the center. According to governor Leche, "We realize that fully three fifths of the people of Louisiana were paying taxes for hospitalization of which they were not getting any benefits. We took a map of Louisiana and picked out the strategic points at which new hospitals should be built. This is how the State Hospital Plan evolved. Lafayette, Monroe, Alexandria (Pineville), and Independence were points where hospitalization should be brought to most people, along with the hospitals already existing in the city of New Orleans and in the city of Shreveport."²⁵ Also, the need was enormous with a great many indigents living in the area- The population of central Louisiana had suffered greatly going back as far as the burning of Alexandria during the occupation by Union troops in 1863, reconstruction, and the impact of post-war transition of the agrarian economy from the plantation system to the tenant farmer. Even the timber boom at the turn of the century made possible by the advent of the railroad was short-lived and left in its wake deforested ruin and rampant poverty just in time for the arrival of the great depression in 1929.

Skeptics may choose to believe the selection of the site was more political. At the groundbreaking Lieutenant Governor Earl K. Long Said: "My people in Winnfield appreciate it. The people of Winnfield would have voted a tax to have had a hospital erected there, and I would like to see it there, but I thought that Alexandria or Pineville should be the place..."²⁶

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital

Under the leadership of Governor Richard Leche, the State Hospital Board was created in 1936 to fulfill Huey P. Long's vision of a state-wide charity hospital system. The first of what would eventually be eight (ten, including the two existing at New Orleans and Shreveport) was to be the Mid-State

²¹ Ibid.pg 13.

²² LSU Health Shreveport. Internet. 5 February, 2015

²³ DeParle, Jason. "Charity: An ailing system." *Times Picayune* 21 April 1986: Print.

²⁴ Roberts and Durant, pg 103.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Staff Writer. "Promises Made, Carried Out Says Governor Leche" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 7. March 1938: Print.

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Charity Hospital. After considering several possibilities, a site within the city limits of Pineville was selected.²⁷

The ground-breaking ceremony was held on March 5, 1938 and the public was invited to attend "the world's largest free barbeque". On the day, speeches were made by local and state officials, including Governor Leche, followed by festivities, including a parade through the downtown of Alexandria attended by "between 50,000 and 60,000 people" – said to be the largest crowd ever assembled for a state event. For the barbeque, "55 beeves and 25 sheep were converted to 25,000 pounds of barbecued meats, there was 4,000 pounds of potato salad and 4,000 loaves of bread...late that evening when the crowd finally left, there was nothing left. All had been eaten."²⁸

One week before its official opening, a reporter from the Alexandria Town Talk was given a tour of the new building by Superintendent Dr. O. W. McFarland. His report in the September 29, 1939 issue under the headline "Charity Hospital in Pineville May Open Next Week - \$1,000,000 Building Is Ready for Occupancy read":

"The million dollar Mid-State Charity Hospital in Pineville will in all probability be open for receiving patients early next week, according to a statement made yesterday afternoon by Dr. O. W. McFarland, superintendent...

The Mid-State Charity Hospital is almost fully equipped with medical, nursing and ambulance staffs. Nine physicians, one dentist, 48 nurses and 4 ambulances are now stationed there, and only a few articles of equipment yet remain to be installed. When these are placed in position, the word "open" will be given.

The building contract price on the new hospital was \$443,313 and at the time the building was under construction it was estimated that fully that much more money would be required for the necessary equipment.

Most certainly a vast sum has thus been expended, and the various clinics, operating rooms, laboratories and other departments contain almost every operating device known to the medical and surgical world.

As an instance, the deep therapy or cancer clinic may be taken as an example. The equipment in this department alone is estimated to have cost between \$9,000 and \$10,000. X-Ray machines are in every clinic and operating room where they are deemed necessary, Mr. McFarland said yesterday that he believed there was not a more completely equipped hospital in the state.

The building is divided equally for white and Negro patients, the whites being provided for in the northern half and the Negroes in the southern half of the institution. The second floor is composed for white and Negro women and the third floor is for white and Negro men.

In the four large ward rooms there are approximately 240 beds, divided almost equally for medical and surgical cases. There are smaller wards for obstetrical or other unusual cases,

²⁷Roberts and Durant, pg 88.

²⁸Staff Writer. "25,000 To 30,000 At Big Barbecue" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 7 March 1938: Print.

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and there are wards and incubators for infant children. There are also special wards for women awaiting motherhood.

Operating and other special rooms are air conditioned, and a reserve and separate lighting system is in each operating room. This means that should the regular lighting system fail, the simple throwing of a switch will provide lights for another source of power.

A special flash light call system prevails throughout the building. Each physician and nurse has a number, and when such person is wanted, the signal is flashed all over the building.

Yesterday afternoon, Dr. R. G. Masterson, who accompanied a Daily Town Talk reporter through the building was signaled a number of times. He simply stepped to the nearest telephone on the floor and answered.

The ambulance drivers are especially trained for the purpose not only in careful driving, but in the treatment of emergency cases. Each driver is given a federal course in first aid, the use of splints, first aid kits, and similar instruments.

There are eleven rooms in the "out-patient" clinics. These are for persons who simply require examinations and do not remain at the hospital.

The staff dining room seats 40 persons and the "kitchen" is as fine as those found in any hotel. Patients coming to the hospital will be unloaded in an arch covered driveway at the south end of the building and from there will be conveyed to proper locations.

The park-way drive from Main Street, Pineville, has been paved as has been the parking space and a driveway around the main building. The beautiful live oak and other trees that adorned the hill before selecting it as the site for the hospital have been retained, and many working men are now adding the finishing touches to the landscaping and beautifying the grounds.

The site, the building, which is absolutely fire proof, and the equipment are all such as to make the Mid-State Charity hospital one of the best in the nation."²⁹

On Saturday October 7, 1939, HPLM admitted its first patient, Mrs. Beatrice Thompson, an 18-year-old native of Rapides Parish, at 2:10 p.m. The hospital accepted its second patient, George Smith, an African-American male from Winn Parish, who received treatment for heart disease. Elton Norris, HPLM's third patient, traveled from Whitmore, Louisiana, via ambulance for an appendectomy.³⁰

Timeline of Louisiana's Charity Hospital System

1763 The Charity Hospital of New Orleans opened.

1876 Shreveport Charity Hospital opened.

1938 On February 21, Mid-State Charity Hospital, renamed Huey P. Long Medical Center, is formally established in Pineville.

²⁹Staff Writer. "Charity Hospital in Pineville May Open Next Week" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 29.September 1939: Print

³⁰Roberts and Durant, pg 90.

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On September 29, Lafayette Charity Hospital (refurbished St. John Hospital) formally opens in Lafayette. Having become outdated, this hospital was replaced with a new structure which opened its doors on June 12, 1982. Shortly thereafter the new hospital was renamed University Medical Center. The original hospital (St. John / Lafayette Charity) has been demolished.³¹

1939 Charity Hospital in New Orleans moves to a new building on Tulane Avenue.

On August 15, Florida Parishes Charity Hospital opens in Independence. In 1954 the hospital is renamed Lallie Kemp Charity Hospital in honor of the deceased local member of the State Hospital Board. The hospital continues to operate from the same location however modern alteration has erased any trace of the original building.³²

1941 On July 1, Northeast Louisiana Charity Hospital (renamed E. A. Conway Medical Center by the state legislature in 1948 in honor of the deceased Secretary of State) opens with a 135-bed capacity in Monroe. On May 9, 1987 E. A. Conway Medical Center moved its operations to a new building. The original structure is standing however it has been vacant for years and is more or less derelict.^{33 34}

1951 On January 11, Washington – St. Tammany Parish Charity Hospital opens in Bogalusa. In 2002 the hospital merged with the Bogalusa Community Medical Center and was renamed the Bogalusa Medical Center. The original hospital (heavily altered) is now operated as an outpatient clinic for the Bogalusa Community Medical Center.³⁵

1953 The Shreveport Charity Hospital was renamed Confederate Memorial Medical Center and moved to a new location at Kings Highway and Linwood Avenue.³⁶

1958 Lake Charles Charity Hospital opens to serve patients from Southwest Louisiana. In 1969 the hospital closes inpatient services and reopens in 1972. In 1978 the Legislature changes the name of the hospital to the Walter Olin Moss Regional Medical Center in honor of the pioneering surgeon of the 1920's. The hospital closed June 24, 2013 as the result of a cooperative endeavor agreement between Lake Charles Memorial Health System and LSU Health System. The original structure with minimal alteration remains standing albeit vacant.

1968 On March 1, after construction delays and labor shortages, Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital (Earl K. Long Medical Center) receives patients on a limited basis in Baton Rouge. On April 14, 2013, Earl K. Long Medical Center closed. The structure is still standing albeit in a disused and altered state.

1970 The Department of Health and Human Resources (renamed the Department of Health and Hospitals) takes control of the Charity Hospital System.

³¹ United States Board on Geographic Names. U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey. Internet. 3 January, 2015

³² Diane Farnham, Telephone Interview. 30 January, 2015

³³ Betty Futch, Telephone Interview. 29 January, 2015

³⁴ Scott Smith, Telephone Interview. 29 January, 2015

³⁵ Alyce Knight, Telephone Interview. 29 January, 2015

³⁶ LSU Health Shreveport. Internet. 5 February, 2015

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- 1976 LSU takes control of Confederate Memorial Medical Center in Shreveport. The Hospital is later renamed LSU Medical Center in Shreveport.
- 1978 On September 9, South Louisiana Medical Center opens in Houma. In 1991 the hospital suffered significant damage from hurricane Andrew, closed, but reopened in four days in 1992 the hospital was renamed Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center in honor of the late state Senator. On June 24, 2013 operation of the hospital was turned over to Ochsner Health System as part of a management agreement program between Oschner, Terrebonne General Medical Center and LSU Health. The hospital continues to operate under that arrangement and the structure bears no obvious sign of alteration.
- 1979 On July 1, Louisiana State University (LSU) Medical Center at Shreveport assumes responsibility for the provision of medical services at the E. A. Conway Charity Hospital.
- 1990 Act 855 creates the Louisiana Health Care Authority (LHCA).
- 1991 Act 390 transfers the charity hospitals from the Department of Health and Hospitals to LHCA.
- 1992 On January 1, LHCA officially takes over the operation of the state-owned, acute-care hospitals with the exception of the Louisiana State University Hospital at Shreveport.
- 1997 On July 1, Act 3 of the Louisiana Legislature authorizes the operation of the charity hospitals by the LSU System.
- 2003 On June 12, Plans for a new replacement for Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital were “put on hold” for lack of funding.
- 2005 On August 29, Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf Coast, damages Charity Hospital in New Orleans and severely damages Bogalusa Medical Center, Lallie Kemp Medical Center, and Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center.
- On September 24, Hurricane Rita causes damage to both W. O. Moss Regional Medical Center and University Medical Center and forces them to temporarily cease operations.
- 2007 On May 22, a bill passed the legislature to transfer governance of the Huey P. Long Memorial Medical Center from LSU Health Sciences Division to LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport
- 2012 Services curtailed at Huey P. Long, 56 employees laid off. Operations at LSU Health Sciences Center at England Airpark are eliminated due to budget cuts.
- 2013 On November 15, a cooperative endeavor agreement between the state and Rapides Regional Medical Center and Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria was completed to operate three outpatient clinics to replace Huey P. Long services.³⁷

³⁷Sharkey, Richard. “The Future? HPL site’s fate remains undecided” *Town Talk*, 29 June 2014: Print.

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Today, seven of the eight charity hospitals opened in the state prior to 1965 remain extant (Lafayette Charity having been demolished). Of these, four (New Orleans, Huey P. Long, E. A. Conway, and Lake Charles) are still recognizable as historic hospital complexes. Three (Shreveport, Lallie Kemp, and Bogalusa Medical Center) are still operating as hospitals. Four (New Orleans, Huey P. Long, E. A. Conway, Lake Charles) are vacant and their fate is undetermined. As a representative of the state's charity hospital system, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, for its remarkable history of service to the indigent, its particular architectural expression of the relatively rare style of Streamline Moderne by the hand of a noted Master Architect and its retained integrity stands out as the best choice.

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital is of local significance under Criterion A for History, in the area of Health/Medicine. As the first of the eight expansion hospitals of the Louisiana Charity Hospital system – a system that served as a model for the role of government in addressing the health care of its most needy citizens many years in advance of the adoption of similar policies by the federal government. HPLMH provided free, state-of-the-art public health services to indigent and low-income patients in the area of Central Louisiana from its opening in 1938 until its closure in 2013. When compared to the other nine hospitals of the system, HPLMH, while sharing a rich history of public service, retains more of its original integrity in a significant example of a relatively rare architectural style.

Criterion C: Architecture

The contract for the design of the new Huey P. Long Memorial hospital was awarded to Edward F. Neild (see Photo 59), the leading architect of his generation in North Louisiana, born in Shreveport in 1884. The modern firm of Somdal Associates (the same firm that was once Neild's with partner Dewey A. Somdal historically) has donated original Neild plans to LSU Shreveport for digitizing and archiving and thus, the plans were not available to be included as figures in this nomination. However, correspondence with current Somdal employees who could look at the original plans (in addition to the plaque on the building) do tell us that Edward F. Neild, Sr. was the lead architect on this project. His son, also Edward F. Neild was working under his father, but there is no indication that Huey P. Long was his son's design.³⁸

Edward F. Neild, Sr., rose to prominence in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s designing many of Shreveport's most important buildings. These include the nine-story Henry C. Beck Building, the Municipal Building, and the Caddo Parish Courthouse, the massive exhibit center at the Shreveport fairgrounds, the Shreveport Veterans Administration Hospital, and many of the Caddo Parish school buildings. Stylistically, Neild was an eclectic architect mainly rooted in the axial Beaux Arts tradition who gradually turned to modernism in the late 1920's. His rise to national prominence began in 1928 when Judge Harry Truman visited Neild's recently completed Caddo Parish Courthouse. Truman was impressed and engaged Neild to design the Jackson County Courthouse in Missouri. Neild died in 1955 while working on the design for the Truman Memorial Library in that city.³⁹

A number of Edward F. Neild's works are listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic including:⁴⁰

- Maricopa County Courthouse, Phoenix, AZ
- Mooringsport School, Mooringsport, LA
- Prescott Memorial Library-Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA

³⁸ Email correspondence with Somdal Associates, April 27, 2015.

³⁹ Pollux Variste Kjeld. "Edward F. Neild." Chrono Press, 2012. Print.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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- Rayville High School, Rayville, LA
- Reese Agriculture Building-Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- Robinson Hall-Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- Scott Street School, Baton Rouge, LA
- Scottish Rite Cathedral, Shreveport, LA
- Shreveport Municipal Building, Shreveport, LA
- Steere, A. C., Elementary School, Shreveport, LA
- Toliver Dining Hall-Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- US Post Office and Courthouse-Alexandria, Alexandria, LA
- Wray-Dickinson Building, Shreveport, LA

The style chosen by Mr. Neild for design of Huey P. Long Charity Hospital was Streamline Moderne – appropriately, a style that speaks to the uniquely American experience of the post-depression 30's and the aspirations of the common man. Characteristics of Streamline Moderne include simplified forms with rounded corners devoid of much applied decoration, horizontal compositions, bands of windows and flat roofs. Smooth brick exterior wall surfaces. Colors are subdued with light earth tones contrasting with darker trim colors.⁴¹

Streamline Moderne Design in the United States

The Stock Market Crash in October, 1929, served as the great divide between the 1920s and the 1930s, and between American modernist designs. The distinct moods of the two decades dramatically affected the arts of each. Streamline Moderne, which depicted the laws of aerodynamics in architecture, reflected the growth of speed and travel in the 1930's. Building forms evoke automobiles, trains, ocean liners, and airplanes. Massing reflects abstract, simplified forms with rounded corners devoid of much applied decoration. Horizontal compositions, bands of windows, racing stripes, and flat roofs are featured, as well as new materials such as vitrolite, glass block, chrome, stainless steel, terrazzo, and neon. Features of these buildings typical to the Miami area are "eyebrow" ledges over the windows, front porches, nautical motifs like porthole windows, and bas-relief panels depicting tropical scenes. Streamline Moderne buildings commissioned by the Public Works Administration (Depression Moderne) reflect a greater use of conservative and classical elements.⁴²

Although some consider Streamline Modern to be a late style of Art Deco architecture, it actually stands in stark contrast to it. Art Deco was a style of design that emphasized the bold with geometric shapes, sharp angles, extravagant ornamentation, and bold colors. It represented the lavish lifestyles associated with the roaring 20s, and the world prior to the Great Depression. Streamline Moderne was a bit of a rebellion to all of the tenants associated with Art Deco. Many of the elements it incorporated purposefully countered those of the Deco style - sharp geometric angles were replaced by rounded corners, and sweeping curves, bold colors were replaced by cool, muted, tones, and excessive decoration was replaced by a minimalist quality. The roots of the Streamlined Moderne style lie in a fascination with speed especially as it was manifested in the rapidly advancing field of aerodynamics.⁴³ In his analysis of the Streamline Moderne style, David Gebhard notes "There is also in a strong association with science-fiction. Utopian visions were provided by scores of illustrators for magazines, comic books and Hollywood film sets. The serial Buck Rogers began in 1930 and Alex

⁴¹ David Gebhard. "Art Deco and Streamline Moderne Architecture in the United States, 1920-1949." Introductory essay to *The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

⁴² Robert Carroll Reed (1975). *The streamline era*. Golden West Books. p. 278. ISBN 9780870950537. Retrieved 7 July 2012.

⁴³ National Register of Historic Places, Blue Plate Building, pg 5.

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Raymond's *Flash Gordon* appeared four years later. In H.G. Wells' 1936 film version of *Things to Come*, montage and photography were combined with state-of-the-art moderne model sets. The futuristic cities painted for *Amazing Stories* and other "pulp" variously anticipate or reflect the advanced designs of Buckminster Fuller, Walter Dorwin Teague and other pioneering designers of the thirties. Four American expositions, all in the 1930s, also had a significant impact on design awareness. Of the four, Chicago's *Century of Progress Exposition* in 1933-34 had the greatest mass appeal and likely did more to advance the cause of design in America. It drew 38 million visitors and turned a handsome profit at the depth of the Depression. It is difficult to appreciate the excitement, even euphoria, surrounding such an event, but it provided a welcome relief from unrelenting financial woes with a glimpse into a utopian future."⁴⁴ Streamline Modern is characterized by: a dramatic, streamlined, horizontal form; ribbon windows; curving walls; a flat roof; and a smooth gleaming light colored surface with minimal ornamentation

Streamline Moderne Design in Louisiana

The following was noted in the 2008 nomination of the Blue Plate Building in New Orleans: "While Louisiana retains about 40 major Art Deco buildings, only 6 or 7 major Streamline Moderne buildings in the state (see below) have so far been identified. Streamline Modern structures tend not to age well and are subject to substantial remodeling. By David Gebhard's ("Art Deco and Streamline Moderne Architecture in the United States, 1920 to 1949," as an introduction to *The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America* (1996)) reckoning, "probably upwards of three-fourths of the Streamline Moderne buildings erected in the 1930s [in the United States] are now gone." Today there are probably less than 50 examples of the Streamline Moderne taste in Louisiana. Many have been lost within the last twenty years. The vast majority of survivors can be summarized as follows: small low-key gas stations and bus stations; a streamlined shop front here and there; or small buildings that display an element of the style (perhaps rounded corners).

The major examples of the Streamline Moderne taste in Louisiana are:

- Blue Plate Building (individually listed in 2008)
- Standard Oil Co. Building, Baton Rouge, 1950. Of five stories and with a long rectilinear footprint, this is also a quite large building. Some would place it more squarely within the International Style. It has squared off corners and long ribbon windows. But the building has very strong horizontal lines and two curving rooftop elements (to enclose mechanical equipment), which, taken together, make it evocative of an ocean liner.
- Walgreen's, Canal Street, New Orleans. This three story corner building features a boldly formed curved tower-like mass to define the corner with a curving fixed canopy below.
- Andress Motors, corner Texas Avenue and Elvis Presley Blvd., Shreveport. Andress Motors is a long one story building with a curved plate glass front (for car display). Its Streamline Moderne character is limited to this frontal element.
- Airline Motors Inn, Airline Hwy., LaPlace. Airline Motors is a one story restaurant with a front porte-cochere that originally sheltered gas pumps. Its Streamline Moderne façade features curved edges, curved glass block windows, and a port-hole like (albeit elongated) window. (This building has since been altered and some of its original features no longer stand out as much as they used to.)
- Feibleman House, Metairie, 1938, Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth. This two story house combines International Style signature features (mainly squared-off corners) with two curving sections in the Streamline Moderne taste.

⁴⁴ Ibid

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- Masonic Temple, Shreveport, 1936, Theodore Flaxman. This building may or may not belong within this list of notable Streamline Moderne buildings, (individually listed in 1991), depending upon one's interpretation. It is a highly individualistic design that shares common forms with the Streamline Moderne. Dr. Karen Kingsley, the foremost authority on modernism in Louisiana (see below), describes it as a "blend of modernism with expressionistic forms." Flaxman's acknowledged inspiration was the sweeping curved forms of Eric Mendelsohn. The two story beige brick building's façade is dominated by two sweeping curved forms with thin ribbon windows.⁴⁵

Streamline Moderne Design in Pineville and Rapides Parish

There are no known examples of Streamline Moderne Design in Pineville. In Rapides Parish, the only known notable example of the style is Rugg Elementary School in Alexandria (see Figure 10). Listed in 2001 and classified as Streamline Moderne, "Rugg exhibits a distinctive strand of the Modernistic taste known as Streamlined Moderne. Its signature was curving fluid forms symbolizing motion. While Rugg is on the chaste side of the spectrum, it nonetheless is a convincingly developed Streamlined Moderne building. With its rounded corners, ribbon-like windows, and thin bands of brick, the exterior reads almost as a continuous flow of building mass." Built in 1940, the architect/ builder are unknown.⁴⁶

Examples of large structures of the period in Rapides Parish include the U. S. Post Office and Federal Court House (see Figure 12) and the Rapides Parish Court House (see Figure 11) – both of the Art Deco style. An interesting stylistic distinction can be made here: The U. S. Post office and Federal Court House was designed by Edward F. Neild and completed in 1933. A mere five years separate his design of this building and the Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital. The contrast in the two designs by the same notable architect demonstrates that Streamline Moderne style was more a rebellion to than a new iteration of the Art Deco Style. It is no doubt the influence and respect for Mr. Neild's reputation that resulted in such a stylish state of the art building being located in Pineville. Also interesting, in his comments regarding the nomination of Rugg Elementary School, the author noted "Louisiana for the most part was architecturally conservative in the late 1920s and '30s. With some notable exceptions such as Huey Long's State Capitol, the state is not considered a mecca for enthusiasts of Modernistic architecture. Most of the forty or so major examples within a statewide context were made possible by New Deal funds."⁴⁷ During the dedication ceremony for the Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, Lieutenant Governor Earl K. Long said: "...Every dollar that is being put into this hospital is coming from the luxury tax. Governor Leche and the members of the legislature have agreed that the tokens will be taken off and a general sales tax will be put on and the money derived from it will be used to build hospitals and give relief to the poor people."⁴⁸

The design of Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital incorporates virtually every signature feature of the Streamline Moderne style. With its flat roof, three-part façade, bold horizontal form accented by colored window bands set against a blond field, curved walls with rounded porch extensions, cylindrical columns, limited ornamentation of natural bias-relief panels above the entrance, "eyebrow" ledge above the entrance, it is a textbook example of Streamline Moderne". This structure is

⁴⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Blue Plate Building, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, National Register #08000989.

⁴⁶ U. S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. (2008). *Phase 1a Cultural Resources Literature and Records Review and Associated GIS Archeological Predictive Modeling Project for the Proposed Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study, Rapides Parish, Louisiana*. New Orleans, Louisiana: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates.

⁴⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Rugg Elementary School, pg 2.

⁴⁸ Staff Writer. "Promises Made, Carried Out Says Governor Leche" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 7.March 1938: Print.

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essentially heretofore unknown in this context – hiding in plain sight for 70 years waiting to be discovered and recognized.

As a very large, extremely well-articulated example of the style by a well noted master Louisiana architect with at least thirteen National Register listings to his credit, Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital is deserving of listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance.

Developmental Information

Timeline – Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital – 1961 and on

- 1961 Milton J. Roberts, hospital superintendent and the Louisiana Commission on Alcoholism formally dedicate a new alcoholic treatment center to participate in the statewide Tri-Med Program.
- 1968 Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital undergoes a “massive \$2M expansion and modernization program. Changes include the conversion of the large wards into rooms for two, three and four patients as required by federal regulations. A few single rooms for terminal cases are also being provided.”⁴⁹ Presumably, this is also when the day surgery / oncology addition to the hospital was constructed.
- 1970 The Department of Health and Hospitals took over operation of the system. 1973 Phillip S. Williams becomes superintendent.
- 1977 Wayne C. Heap, assistant secretary of the Office of Hospitals, fires Williams. In August, James E. Morgan is appointed chief executive.
- 1989 In October, the hospital celebrates its 50th birthday (50 years from the day is first admitted patients).
- 1991 In July, Governor Buddy Roemer signed a bill to transfer operations of the Charity System to the Louisiana Health Care Authority. “Plans envisioned by the board’s 5-year plan call for a \$365M construction program – HPLMH is one of three designated for replacement.”
- 1994 Huey P. Long Hospital purchases the England Air Force Base Hospital.
- 1997 In May, Governor Mike Foster signs a bill to transfer the charity System to the LSU Medical Center in response to years of criticism that the system had been neglected, if not mismanaged, and too tied up in politics. Request for Proposal is prepared for replacement of HPLMH to be located at Central State Hospital, Pineville.
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- 2003 In June, Plans for the new hospital to replace HPLMH are “put on hold” for lack of funding.
- 2007 In May, a bill is passed to transfer governance of HPLMH from LSU Health Sciences Division to LSU Health Services Center – Shreveport.

⁴⁹ Elaine H. Brister. *Once Upon A River: A History of Pineville, Louisiana*. Baton Rouge: Claitor’s Publishing Division, Baton Rouge. 1981. Print

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- 2012 Services are curtailed at HPLMH – 56 employees are laid off and LSU Health Sciences Center at England Airpark is closed due to budget cuts.
- 2013 In November, a cooperative agreement is signed between the State and Rapides Regional Medical Center and Cabrini Hospital to operate three outpatient clinics to replace HPLMH services.
- 2014 On June 30th Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital closes its doors to patients⁵⁰

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

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

- Brister, Elaine H. *Once Upon A River: A History of Pineville, Louisiana*. City: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1981. Print
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- Kjeld, Pollux Variste. "Edward F. Neild." Chrono Press, 2012. Print.
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- National Register of Historic Places, Blue Plate Building, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, National Register #08000989.
- Rawson, Donald M. "Caroline Dormon: A Renaissance Spirit of Twentieth Century Louisiana," *Louisiana History*, XXIV (1983)
- Reed, Robert Carroll (1975). *The streamline era*. Golden West Books. p. 278. ISBN 9780870950537.

⁵⁰ Sharkey, Richard. "The Future? HPL site's fate remains undecided" *Town Talk*, 29 June 2014: Print.

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA
County and State

Roberts, Jonathan and Durant, Thomas J. Jr. A History of the Charity Hospitals of Louisiana A Study of Poverty, Politics, Public Health, and the Public Interest. Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press

Smith, Scott. Telephone interview. 30 January 2015

Staff Writer. "Charity Hospital in Pineville May Open Next Week" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 29 September 1939: Print.

Staff Writer. "Promises Made, Carried Out Says Governor Leche" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 7 March 1938: Print.

Staff Writer. "25,000 To 30,000 At Big Barbecue" *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* 7 March 1938: Print.

United States Board on Geographic Names. U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey. Internet. 3 January, 2015

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. (2008). *Phase 1a Cultural Resources Literature and Records Review and Associated GIS Archeological Predictive Modeling Project for the Proposed Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study, Rapides Parish, Louisiana*. New Orleans, Louisiana: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ 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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☒ Other State agency: Plans for 1968 Remodel/Addition located in State Archives.
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 20.16 acres

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 31.321114	Longitude: -92.441911
2. Latitude: 31.321749	Longitude: -92.442516
3. Latitude: 31.321886	Longitude: -92.439871
4. Latitude: 31.321379	Longitude: -92.438689
5. Latitude: 31.320143	Longitude: -92.438433
6. Latitude: 31.318992	Longitude: -92.437542
7. Latitude: 31.318665	Longitude: -92.437821
8. Latitude: 31.320168	Longitude: -92.439879
9. Latitude: 31.319107	Longitude: -92.443181

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lands occupied by Huey P. Long Charity Hospital, Pineville, Rapides Parish, LA – a 20.16 acre tract, part of Central Louisiana State Hospital Lands; lots 1,2,3,4,5, block 1 Ball addition; lots 4,5,6,7 & 8 block 2 Ball addition; lot 8 Gray Subdivision; attract 125' on Main & extending back towards hospital to lot 5 block 1 Ball addition (now being used as Huey P. Long Blvd): A tract on Singer St. & a recently acquired tract on Ball St. (See submitted Boundary Map)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen reflect the majority of the historic boundaries of the Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital property, purchased in 1937 – a portion of the original boundaries, seen as Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, and Lots 6, 7, 8, 9 in Block 1 Ball Addition, are currently vacant and used for parking and no longer retain enough integrity to remain part of the district's boundary. (These can be seen on a Survey by Avit J. Gremmillion for State Department of Hospitals, 1965.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paul Smith / Historic Preservation Consultant
organization: Paul Smith Historic Preservation Consulting
street & number: 2022 Albert St.
city or town: Alexandria state: LA zip code: 71301
e-mail: paul@preservationtaxcredit.com
telephone: 318-613-7385
date: 12 February, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital

Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital

City or Vicinity: Pineville

County: Rapides Parish

State: Louisiana

Name of Photographer: Paul Smith

Date of Photographs:

Photo Log

- 1 of 75 : Façade of main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 2 of 75 : Façade of main hospital building; camera facing west
- 3 of 75: Façade of main hospital building; camera facing north
- 4 of 75: Façade of main hospital building. Window band detail; camera facing north
- 5 of 75: Southeast corner of main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 6 of 75: Southwest elevation of main hospital building; camera facing northeast
- 7 of 75: Southwest corner of main hospital building & Bio Med trailer; camera facing southeast
- 8 of 75: Medical Staff trailers; camera facing northwest
- 9 of 75: Rear of south west wing of main hospital building; camera facing east
- 10 of 75 : Medical Staff trailers; camera facing south
- 11 of 75: Rear wing of main hospital building; camera facing east
- 12 of 75: Rear of main hospital building; camera facing east
- 13 of 75 : Warehouse; camera facing southwest
- 14 of 75 : Warehouse; camera facing west
- 15 of 75: Rear elevation of main hospital building as seen from helipad, camera facing southeast.
- 16 of 75: Warehouse; camera facing west
- 17 of 75: Warehouse; camera facing southeast
- 18 of 75: Maintenance Shop; camera facing southwest
- 19 of 75: Physical Plant; camera facing west
- 20 of 75: Physical Plant; camera facing south
- 21 of 75: Maintenance Shed; camera facing west
- 22 of 75: Hazardous Waste Storage; camera facing west
- 23 of 75: Incinerator; camera facing west
- 24 of 75: Chillers; camera facing north
- 25 of 75: Roof of enclosed walkway between outpatient clinic and main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 26 of 75: Attachment of day surgery / oncology addition to rear of north east wing of main hospital building; camera facing southwest
- 27 of 75: Second level balcony, north east end of original hospital building detailing attachment of ER addition roof; camera facing west

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital

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- 28 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing east
- 29 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing east
- 30 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing east
- 31 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing south
- 32 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing southwest
- 33 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing southwest
- 34 of 75: Outpatient Clinic; camera facing south
- 35 of 75: Prisoner Holding Building; camera facing west
- 36 of 75: Outpatient Pharmacy; camera facing north
- 37 of 75: North East corner of main hospital building (ER addition); camera facing southeast
- 38 of 75: South East corner of main hospital building (ER addition); camera facing northwest
- 39 of 75: Façade of main hospital building; camera facing southwest
- 40 of 75: South east façade of main hospital building (ER addition); camera facing north
- 41 of 75: South East corner of original hospital building (ER & Lab additions); camera facing west
- 42 of 75: Detail of attachment between original hospital and ER addition; camera facing west
- 43 of 75: Detail of attachment between original hospital and the lab addition; camera facing north.
- 44 of 75: Entrance of main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 45 of 75: Entrance to lobby of main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 46 of 75: Bas relief panel detail above entrance to main hospital building; camera facing northwest
- 47 of 75: Rear elevation of north east wing of main hospital building and Day Surgery / Oncology addition; camera facing east
- 48 of 75: Guard Shack; camera facing northwest
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- 67 of 75: 3rd floor - Typical interior finish treatments and original terrazzo floors; camera facing west
- 68 of 75: 3rd floor - Underside of roof, main hospital building; camera facing west
- 69 of 75: 3rd floor, left wing - Typical patients' room, main hospital building; camera facing northwest

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70 of 75: 3rd floor, left wing - Typical patients' room, main hospital building; camera facing northwest

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72 of 75: 3rd floor, rear wing - Operating room, main hospital building; camera facing west

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Figure 4. Historic photo, façade of main hospital building during construction; camera facing west. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

Figure 5. Historic photo, façade of main hospital building during construction; camera facing west. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

Figure 6. Historic photo, approach to hospital during construction; camera facing east. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

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Figure 13. Photo, original brass entrance doors. Image courtesy of the author.

Figure 14. Plat map showing the historic boundaries of Huey P Long Memorial Hospital. Image courtesy of Pan American Engineers.

Figure 1. 1947 Plat Map. Image courtesy of the author and Rapides Parish Assessors Office.

Rapides Parish, LA

County and State



Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA
County and State

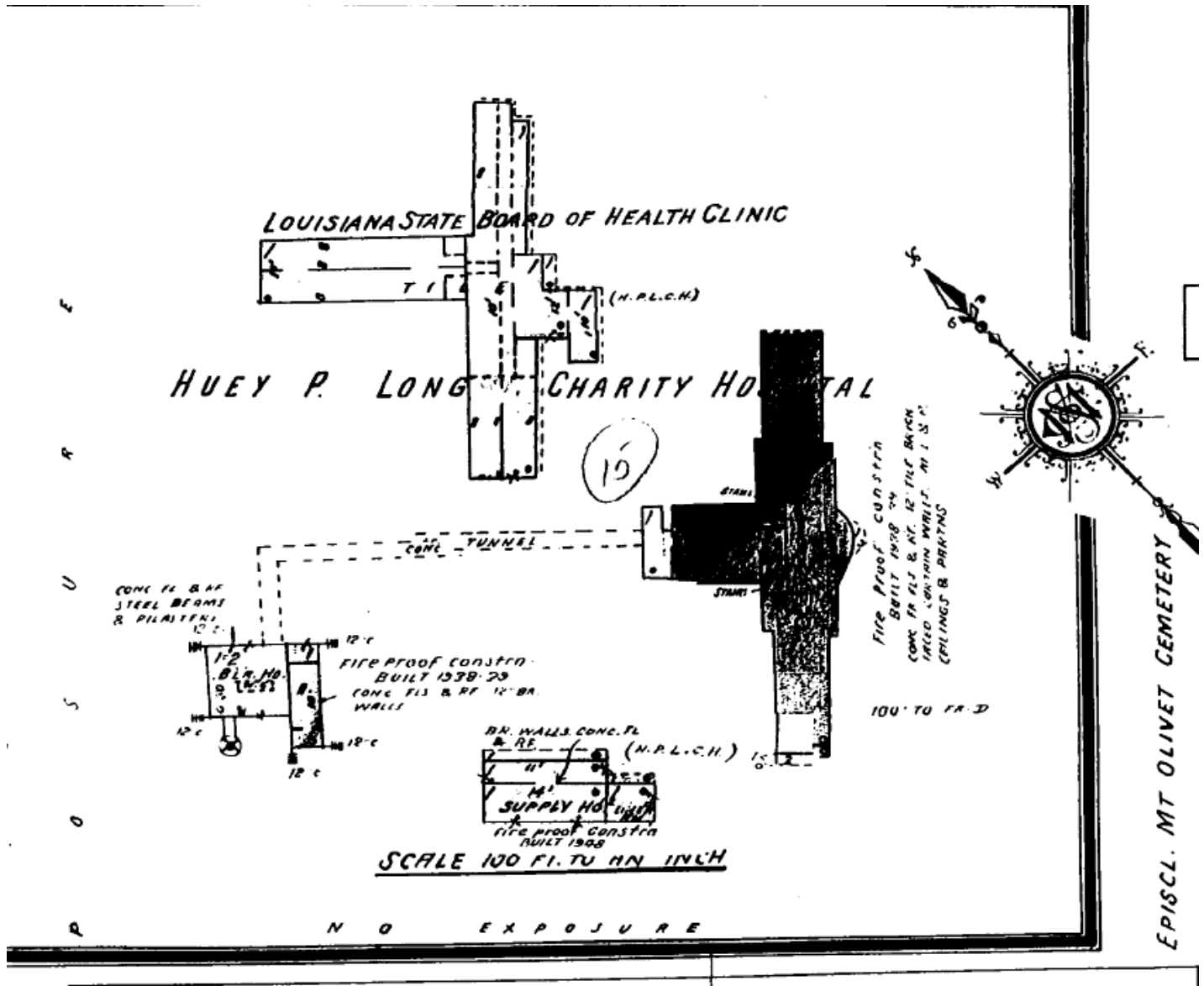


Figure 2. 1928-1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

Rapides Parish, LA
County and State



Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA
County and State



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County and State



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Name of Property

County and State

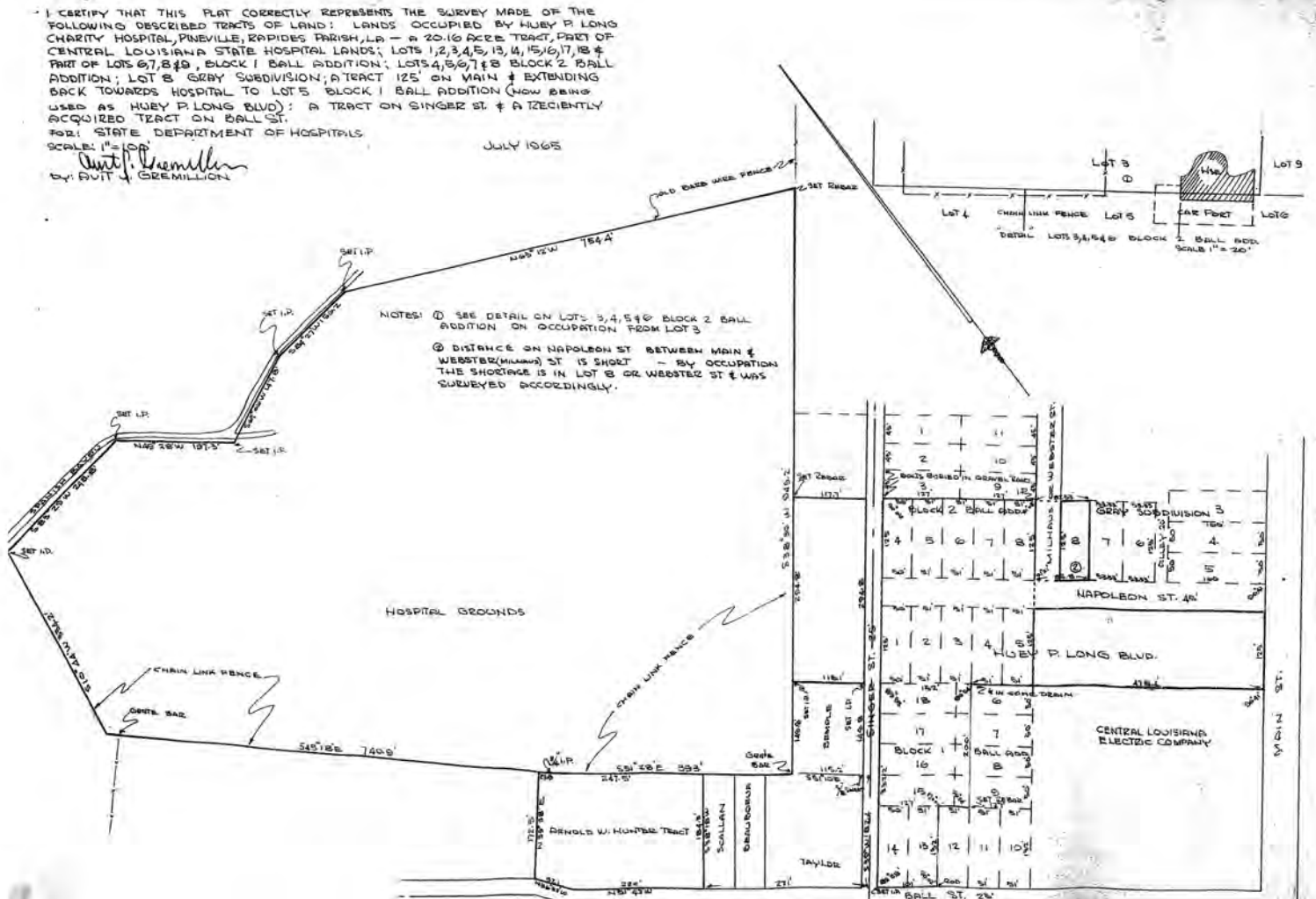
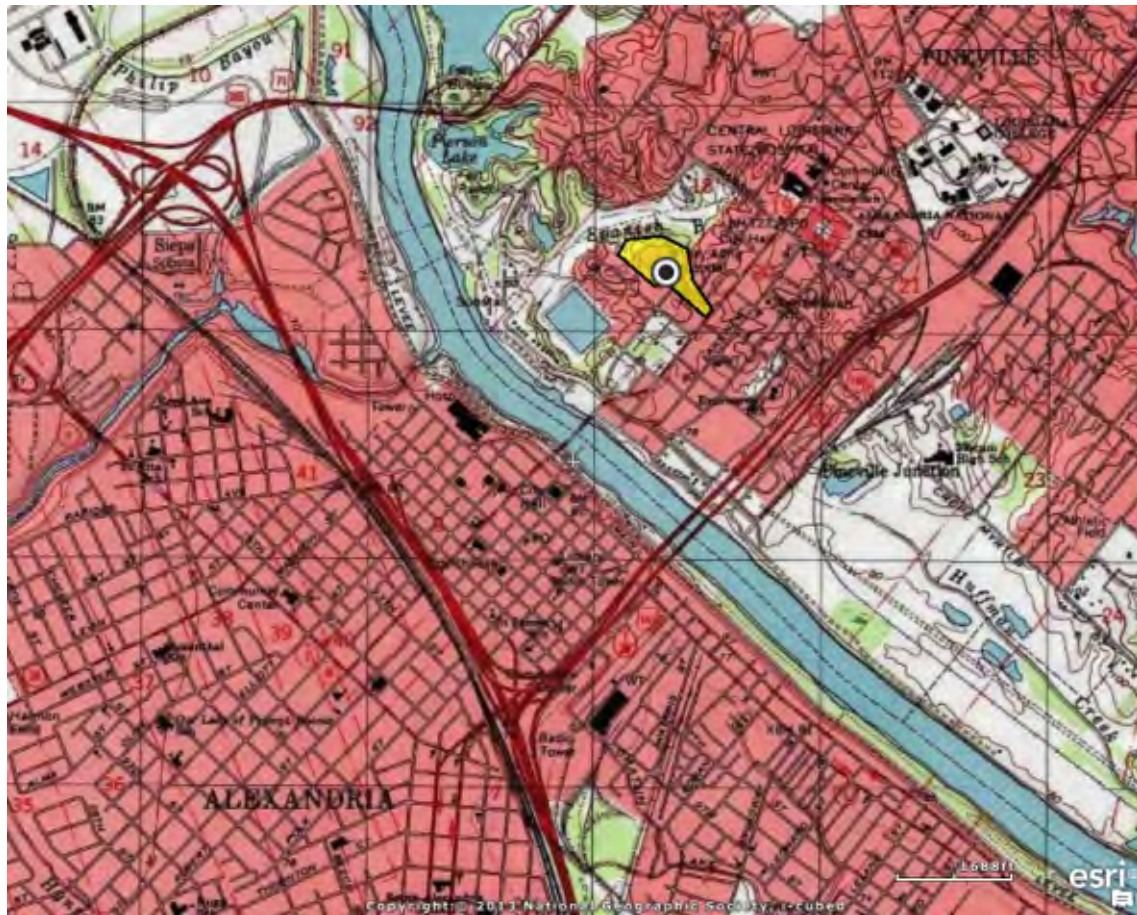


Figure 14. Plat map showing the historic boundaries of Huey P Long Memorial Hospital. Image courtesy of Pan American Engineers.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

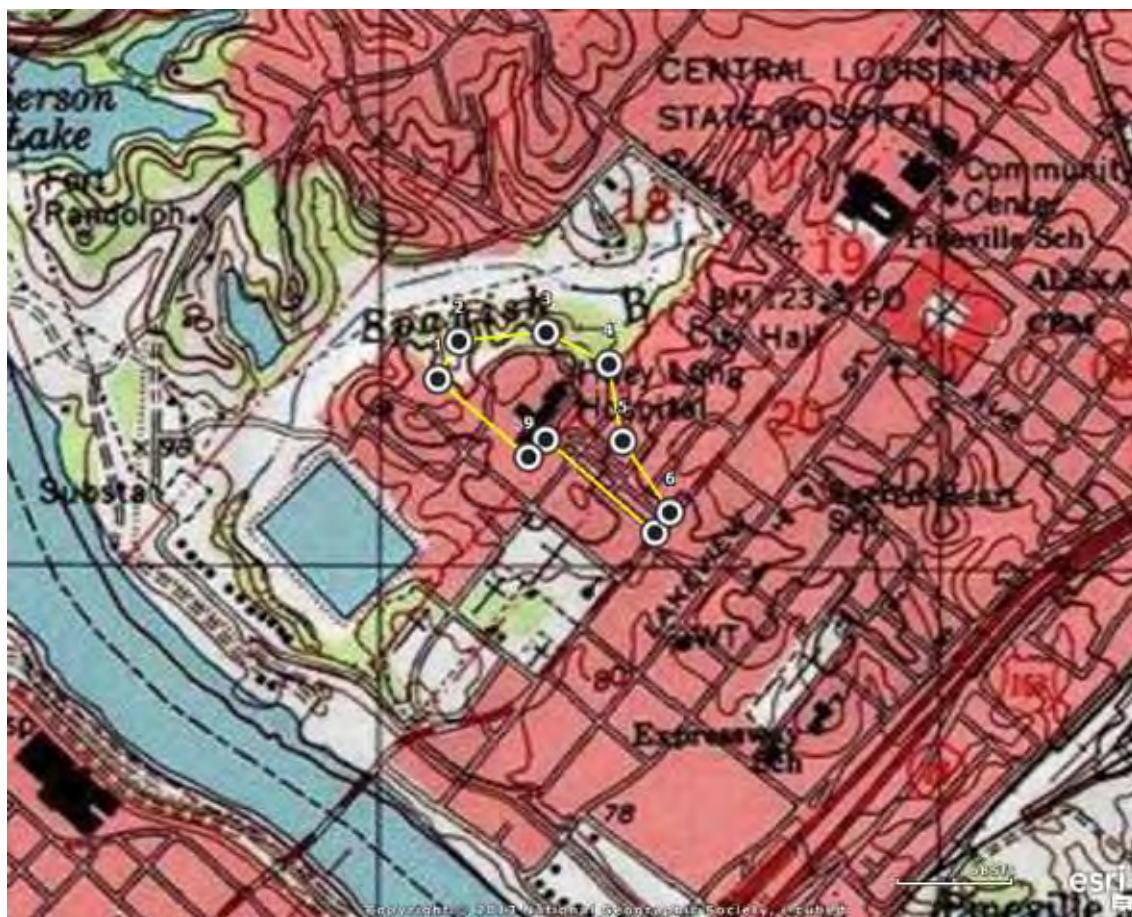
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, Rapides Parish, LA



Latitude	Longitude
31.320465	-92.439695

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, Rapides Parish, LA



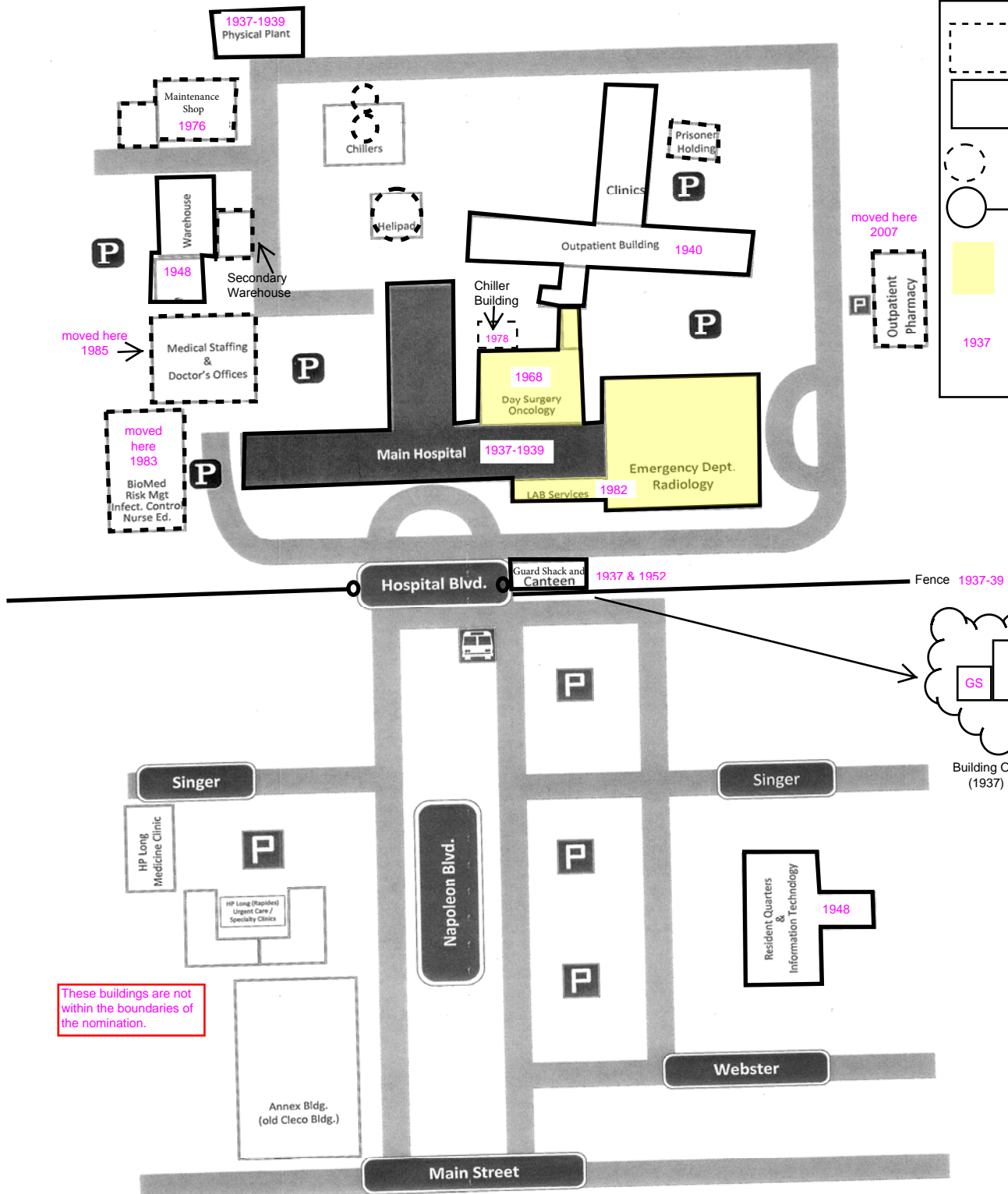
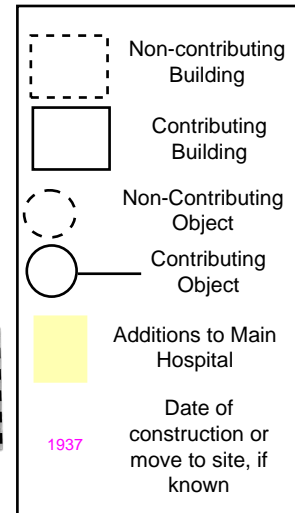
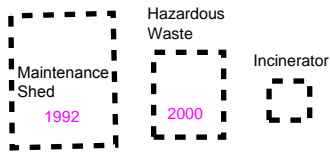
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4. 31.321379	-92.438689
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9. 31.319107	-92.443181

Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital, Rapides Parish, LA

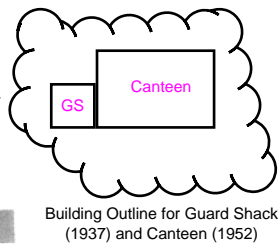


	Latitude	Longitude
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4.	31.321379	-92.438689
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9.	31.319107	-92.443181

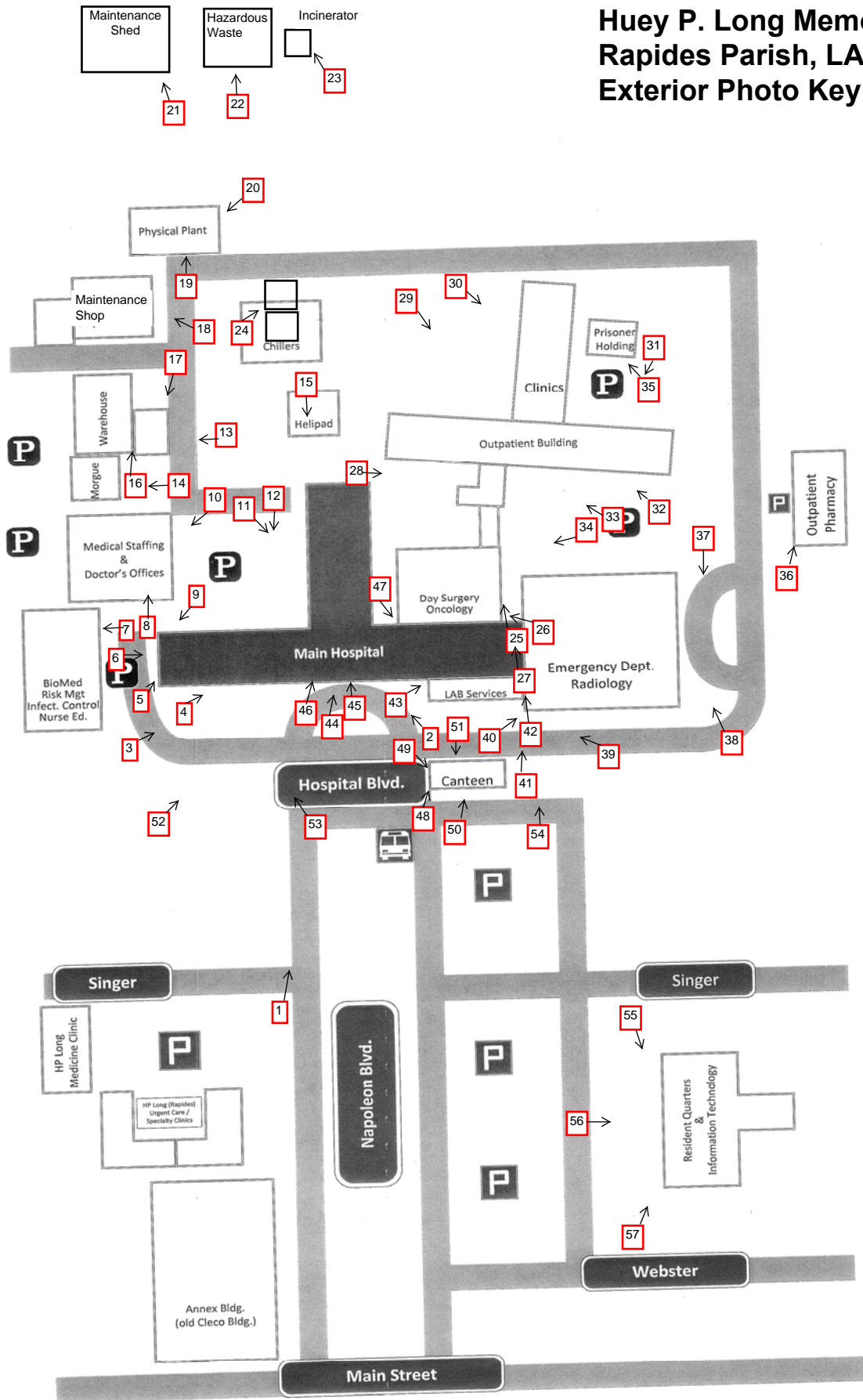
Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital Rapides Parish, LA C/NC Resource Map



These buildings are not within the boundaries of the nomination.



Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital Rapides Parish, LA Exterior Photo Key

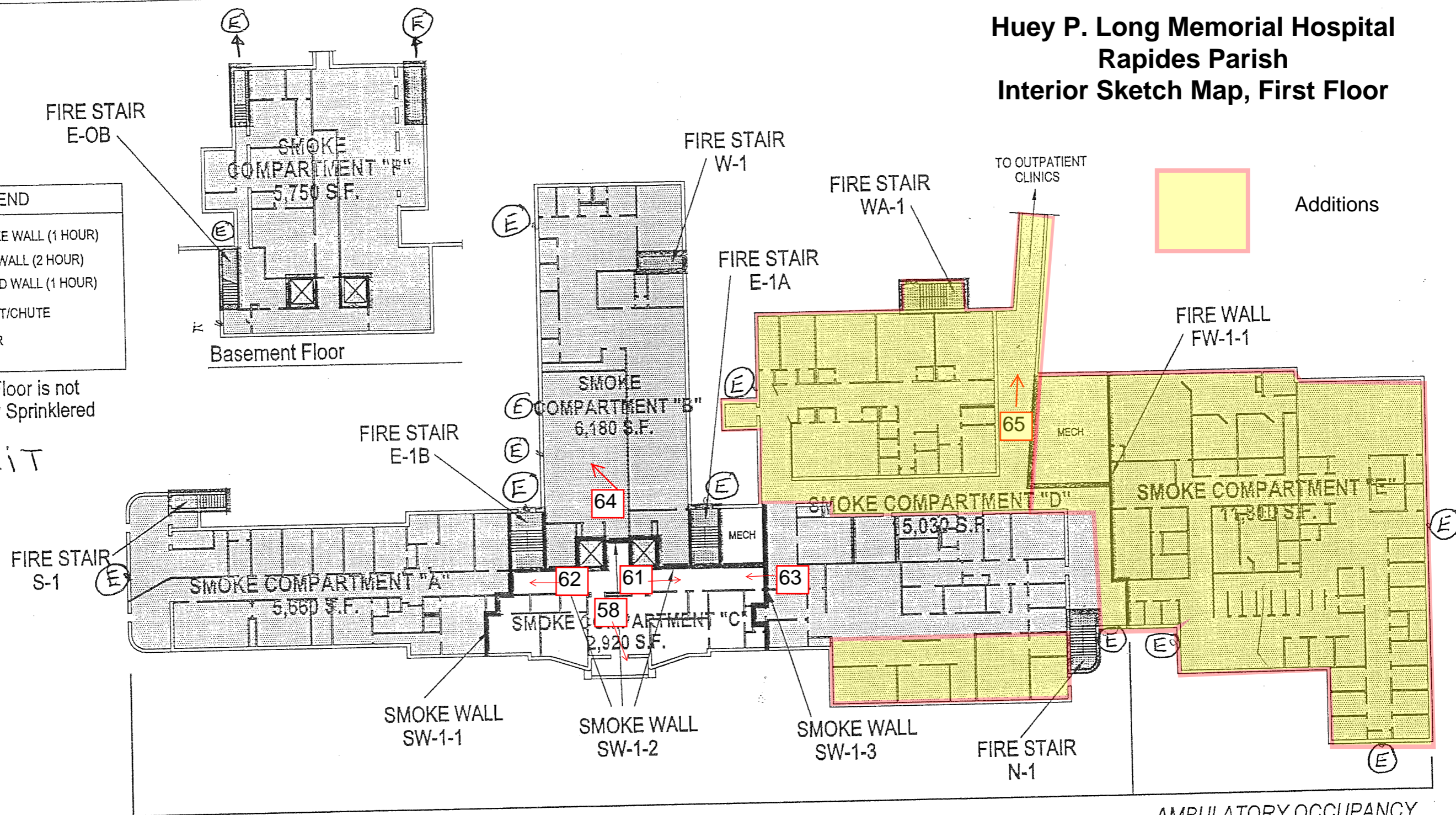


Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital Rapides Parish Interior Sketch Map, First Floor

LEGEND	
	- SMOKE WALL (1 HOUR)
	- FIRE WALL (2 HOUR)
	- RATED WALL (1 HOUR)
	- SHAFT/CHUTE
	- STAIR

Note: Floor is not completely Sprinklered

E - EXIT



Photos 59 and 60 face the northern wall of the main lobby, just behind where the #58 is

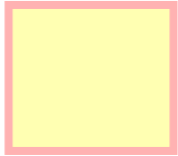
**Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital
Rapides Parish
Interior Sketch Map, Second Floor**

LEGEND

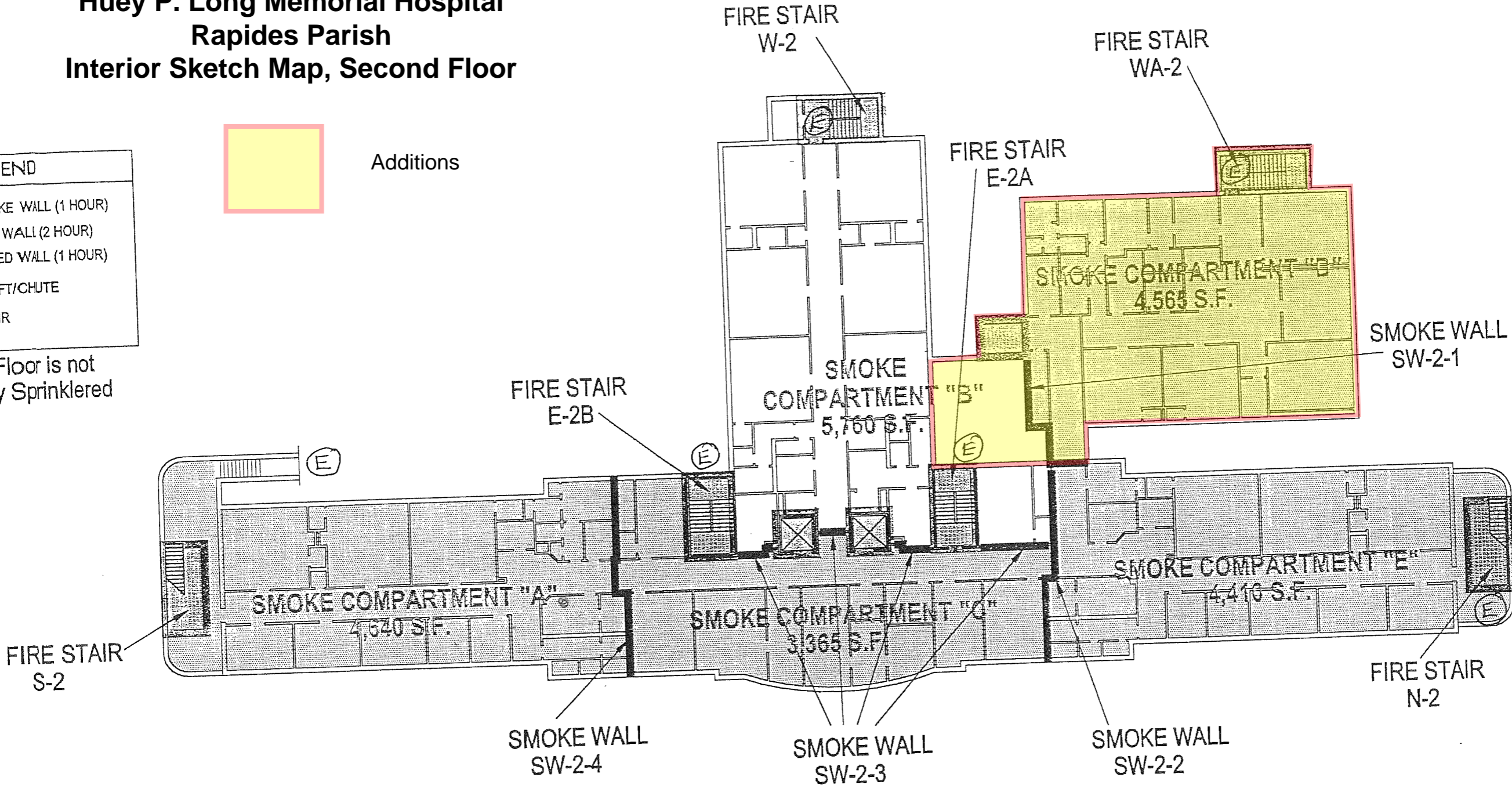
- SMOKE WALL (1 HOUR)
- FIRE WALL (2 HOUR)
- RATED WALL (1 HOUR)
- SHAFT/CHUTE
- STAIR

Note: Floor is not completely Sprinklered

EXIT



Additions



Huey P. Long Memorial Hospital Rapides Parish Interior Sketch Map, Third Floor

LEGEND	
	- SMOKE WALL (1 HOUR)
	- FIRE WALL (2 HOUR)
	- RATED WALL (1 HOUR)
	- SHAFT/CHUTE
	- STAIR

Note: Floor is not completely Sprinklered

E - EXIT



Additions

