

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 PropertyHistoric name: West End Lake Shore Park

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 5 S Roadway St _____City or town: New Orleans State: Louisiana County: Orleans ParishNot 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 x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B x C D**Signature of certifying official/Title:** Carrie Broussard, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date****Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☐
District	☐
Site	☒
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> 10 </u>	<u> 2 </u>	structures
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	objects
<u> 13 </u>	<u> 3 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation/Park

LANDSCAPE: Park/City Park

LANDSCAPE: Natural Feature/Pond

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE: Park/City Park

LANDSCAPE: Natural Feature/Pond

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Beaux Arts

Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

CONCRETE

WOOD

STONE

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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

West End Lake Shore Park is a 22-acre rectilinear public park that is located along the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain in the West End neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana. This public park was developed by the City of New Orleans in 1913 to support outdoor recreation and entertainment, and it was in this spirit that some of the park's significant Beaux Arts and Craftsman features, including the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, and several pavilions were created between 1914-1915. Later, the Works Progress Administration made improvements to the park which included the addition of a picturesque lagoon, stone arch bridge, and curvilinear circulation across the site. Many of the developments completed in 1939 are remaining today. Improvements in 1992 included some alterations to stabilize the existing pavilions, the addition of a new bandstand pavilion, an entrance sign, and a colonnade structure surrounding the prismatic fountain that are sympathetic to the existing historic character but Post-Modern in design. Despite some areas which have been partially demolished, the West End Lake Shore Park site has historic integrity as the site and its contributing resources maintain their original location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a historic destination for public recreation in the West End neighborhood.

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Narrative Description

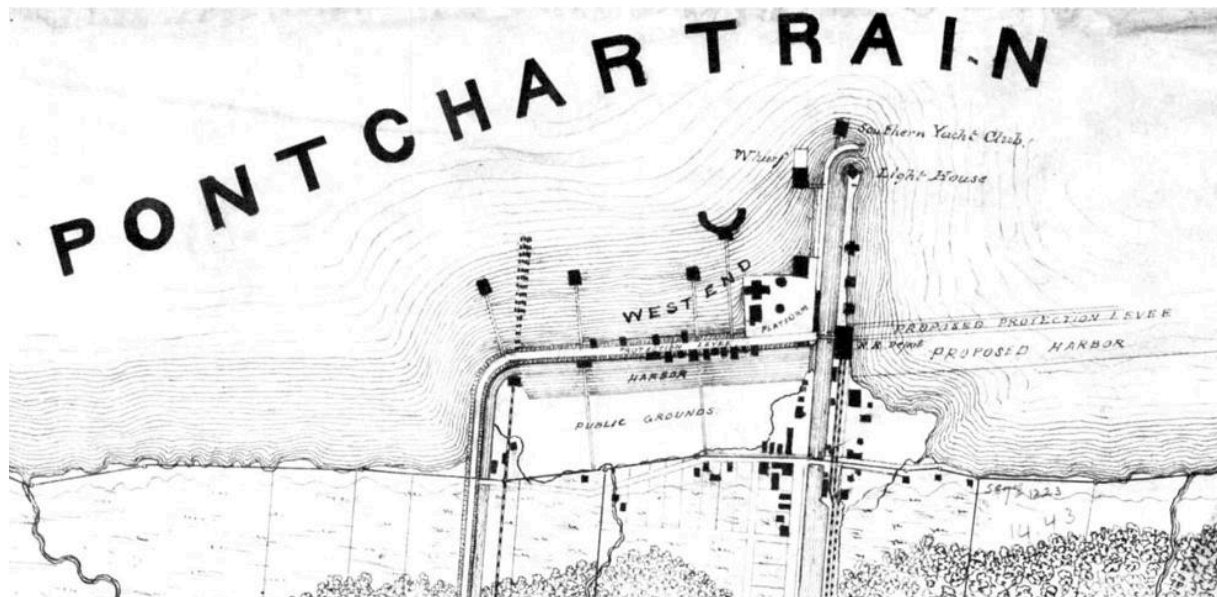


Figure 1: A detailed view from a map of the West End, Late 1800s. (Louisiana State Land Office)

Early Development:

The earliest evidence of the West End (first known as New Lake End) emerges in maps and articles of New Orleans beginning in the 1850s. The area is located at the terminus of the New Basin Canal that was constructed between 1832 – 1838 to support maritime commerce and transportation. The first building in the area was the New Basin Canal lighthouse, completed in 1838, and thereafter several local businesses were established, as was the home of the Southern Yacht Club, constructed in 1857, and several rowing clubs, a resort and amusement park which drew crowds to the area for coastal recreation (See Figures 1 & 2).



Figure 2: A panoramic view drawn from the Southern Yacht Club, Circa 1900. (Louisiana State Museum)

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The site of what later became West End Lake Shore Park was conceived during a time when the city was making advancements in public recreation as well as the practice of land reclamation.

The present-day public park grounds were created by infilling a 500 foot projection of area north of the existing embankment as part of a legislative Act, namely Act 206, in 1906. The new physical boundaries of the land are described as being “That portion of the protection of the protection or revetment levee bordering on Lake Pontchartrain and lying between the west bank of the New Basin Canal on the east and the prolongation of the boundary line between the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson on the west; all lands now lying under the waters of Lake Pontchartrain in the rear or south of the aforesaid protection or revetment levee on the north, the shore of Lake Pontchartrain on the south, and the lands belonging to private persons on the east and west, shall be and the same are hereby dedicated to the people of the City of New Orleans for public use for public park or amusement park purposes”.¹ The area was later named West End Lake Shore Park after an ordinance passed on June 25, 1913.

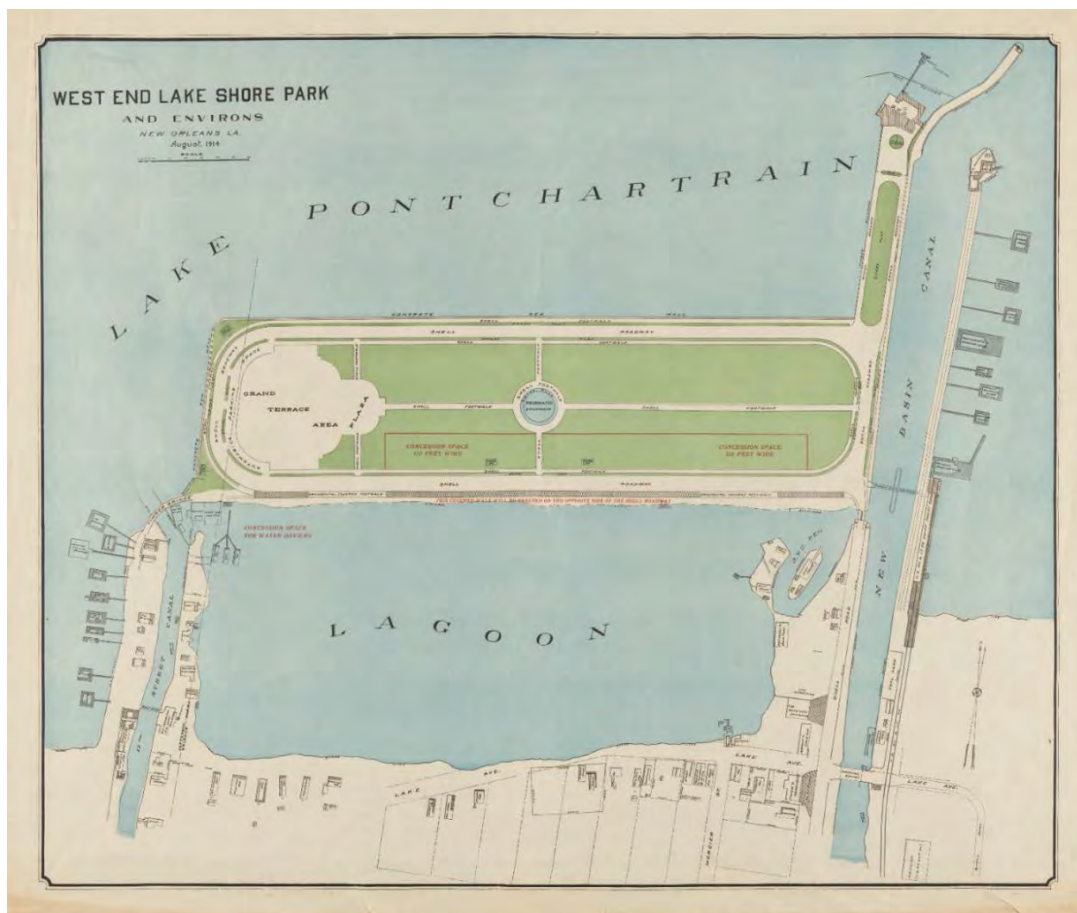


Figure 3: Site Plan, West End Lake Shore Park and Environs, August 1914. (The Historic New Orleans Collection)

¹ Act No. 209, Senate Bill No. 126, State of Louisiana General Assembly. (1906).

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In a 1914 site plan, the overall composition, formal circulation, and primary components of the park (including a grand terrace area, shell roadways, shell foot walks, and the central prismatic fountain) are delineated and labeled (See Figure 3).

Newspaper articles cited the city engineer as saying that the park would be open to the public on either May 1 or May 15, 1915.² Public notice for bids to provide park benches and shrubbery continued, while photographs dating to 1915 show the park as being accessible to the public (See Figure 4). At the time of opening, the park could only be accessed through bridges on the southwest and southeast ends. A footbridge was proposed, and eventually built, which provided pedestrian access between the railway terminal and the park (see Figure 5).



Figure 4: View of West End Park from the Southern Yacht Club, facing south, 1915. (Library of Congress)



Figure 5: An illustrated postcard view, circa 1920, from the southeast end of the park, Southern Yacht Club on Left, Rowing Clubs, accessed via a bridge over the New Basin Canal, on the right. (E.C. Kropp Co. Milwaukee)

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Figure 6: West End Lake Shore Park, 1928 (The Historic New Orleans Collection).



Figure 7: View of the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, 1915 (W.A. Dillzel, City Engineer, The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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Figure 8: View of the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain Heads, Shade Pavilions in Background, 1915 (W.A. Dillzel, City Engineer).



Figure 9: View of a typical Shade Pavilion (New Orleans Public Library).

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During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration made improvements to the park by adding picturesque features, including a crescent-shaped lagoon bisected by a stone arch bridge at the eastern end of the park, and a rose garden at the western end of the site (See Figures 10, 11).



Figure 10: View of the WPA Stone Arch Lagoon Bridge at the eastern end of the park (New Orleans Public Library).

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Figure 11: View of the Rose Garden at the western end of the park, November 1933 (Charles L. Franck, The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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West End Lake Shore Park, Present Day Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources:



Figure 12: Aerial View of the Site's Present-Day Design, Orientation, and Circulation (Google Earth).

The West End Lake Shore Park today is comprised of approximately 22 acres, representing the same footprint of the park's historic boundaries that were established in 1906. The park is a long rectangular shape and has a primary east-west axis. The primary entrance to the park is designated by a marquee sign located at the southwest corner of the property (See Photo 1), but the park is otherwise accessible to enter as there is no fencing to prevent walking onto the site. There is a paved walkway that circulates around the perimeter of the park. Along this walkway are shade pavilions dating to circa 1915 improvements (See Figures 6-9), all of which have been reroofed, and some of which have columns that have been refinished with stucco during improvements made to the park in 1992.

In the center of the park, paved walkways lead to a massive circular concrete fountain, namely the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, dating to 1915 (See Figures 6-8). The fountain is currently inoperable. A circular non-contributing arbor colonnade structure (See Photo 4) surrounds the fountain, under the canopy of the arbor are walkways that allow for circulation around the fountain with metal benches for seating.

In 1939, the Works Progress Administration completed improvements to the park, altering some of the park's circulation, and adding a crescent-shaped lagoon. The lagoon is bisected by a stone arch bridge (See Figure 6), which allows for circulating around and across the lagoon. The design of the park thus transitioned from a formal park into one that included picturesque design elements, including the addition of organically shaped water bodies and the introduction of more curvilinear pathways across the site. Today, West End Park still possesses the WPA-era circulation (See Figure 7).

West End Lake Shore Park has thirteen extant contributing resources that communicate the site's overall integrity and significance. The site retains its original location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a public recreation area in the West End neighborhood,

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despite repeated storms that have altered the site's surrounding context over time, and three non-contributing improvements made to the park including the addition of new structures, limited demolition of unused areas, and stabilization of existing structures in 1992.

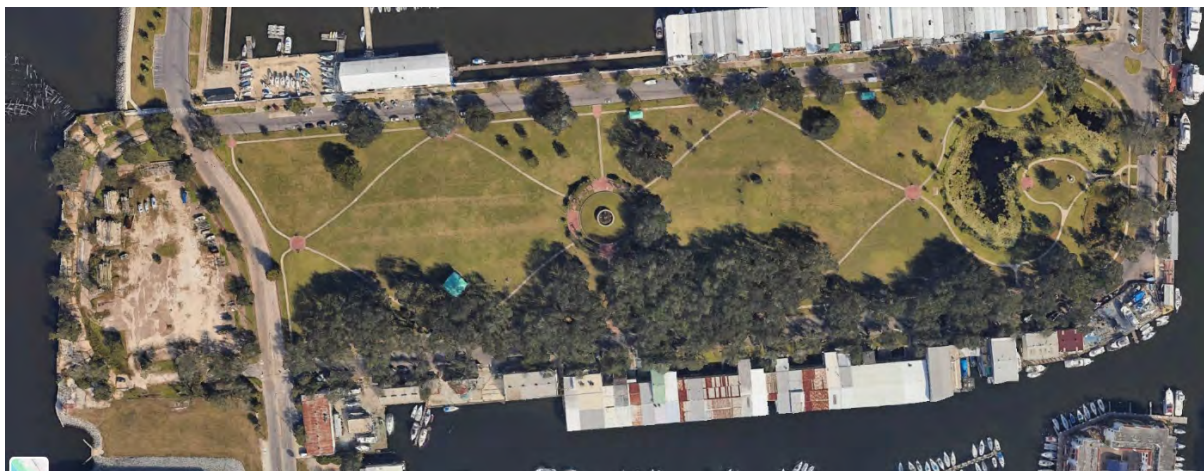
Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources:



Image Source: GOOGLE EARTH. Markups by Mia Kaplan/MKS.

Figure 13: Aerial View of the Site's Resources (Google Earth, with annotations by the author).

1. West End Lake Shore Park Site, 1915 – 1938, Contributing



The area of land belonging to the park was developed in 1906 and first opened to the public in 1915. Improvements were made in 1938-1939, and most recently in 1992.

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2. Shade Pavilion 1, 1915, Contributing



Shade Pavilion 1 is a two-column shade structure with a green metal roof. The columns have square bases and are finished in stucco. The roof portion of the structure is supported by metal beams, with wood roof framing above. The wood roof framing is typical of other existing pavilions dating to the park's opening in 1915. The columns, metal beams, and metal roof were later additions that occurred during improvements made to the park in 1992. Some loss of integrity has occurred, but the pavilion has integrity in its overall design, location, setting, and association with the park.

3. Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, 1915, Contributing



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The Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain is a tiered concrete fountain whose collection basin has been filled with earth. Some of the mechanical components of the fountain remain within the fountain structure, but the spray heads of the fountain have been removed. Dominic Shaw, an expert in fountain restoration with knowledge concerning a replica of this fountain designed by F.W. Darlington, said that it was possible to restore the fountain to closely replicate its prior performance by retrofitting with modern plumbing and LED lighting. This fountain, centrally located in West End Lake Shore Park, is the only original Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain extant structure in the world.

4. Shade Pavilion 2, 1915, Contributing



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Shade Pavilion 2 is a two-column shade structure with a green metal roof. The columns have square bases and are finished in stucco. The roof portion of the structure is supported by metal beams, with wood roof framing above. The wood roof framing is typical of other existing pavilions dating to 1915. The columns, metal beams, and metal roof were later additions that occurred during improvements made to the park in 1992. Some loss of integrity has occurred, similarly to Shade Pavilion 1, but the pavilion has integrity in its overall design, location, setting, and association with the park.

5. Edward Wisner Stone Memorial, 1917, Contributing



The Edward Wisner Stone Memorial was erected in 1917 to acknowledge the contributions of Edward Wisner, known as the “Father of Reclamation”, who passed away in 1914 and donated over 50,000 acres of wetlands to a variety of organizations, including the City of New Orleans. A bronze plaque on the east face of the monument reads:

TO
EDWARD WISNER
PIONEER IN
THE RECLAMATION OF LANDS
OF THE SOUTH
BY
HIS FRIENDS OF LOUISIANA
1917

The freestanding granite monument features decorative carvings of cattails and water lilies. Overall, the monument is in excellent condition and has historic integrity in every aspect.

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6. WPA Stone Arch Lagoon Bridge, 1939, Contributing



The WPA Stone Arch Bridge was completed during improvements made between 1938 – 1939 under the Works Progress Administration. The bridge features rusticated stone masonry, and primarily granite with beaded mortar joints. The bridge retains all the qualities of its original construction and maintains integrity as a primary focal point at the west end of the park.

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7. Shade Pavilion 3, 1915, Contributing



Shade Pavillion 3 is typical of the remaining shade pavilions located on the north side of the park. The pavilion features two rustic, bungalow-style tapered stone columns that feature concave mortar joints. The roof portion of the structure is supported by wooden beams, with wood roof framing above. The wood roof framing is typical of other existing pavilions dating to 1915 and has details including exposed structure with curved rafter tails. The pavilion retains integrity in all aspects of consideration, except for the metal roof cladding which was replaced during 1992 improvements.

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The following contributing pavilions are practically identical in size, materiality and construction. All have historic integrity and are in very good condition as examples of the craftsman bungalow style.

8. Shade Pavilion 4, 1915, Contributing



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9. Shade Pavilion 5, 1915, Contributing



10. Shade Pavilion 6, 1915, Contributing



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11. Shade Pavilion 7, 1915, Contributing



12. Shade Pavilion 8, 1915, Contributing



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13. Perimeter Balustrade, 1915, Contributing



The Perimeter Balustrade is made of cast concrete and is located along the north and west perimeter of the park. The balustrade has been damaged in several areas, and repairs have been made to restore the railing by replicating the existing design. The balustrade is easily identifiable as contributing to the overall park and has integrity despite the repeated instances of damage.

Non-Contributing Resources:

14. Park Entrance Sign, 1992, non-contributing



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15. Bandstand Pavilion, 1992, Non-Contributing



The Bandstand Pavilion was a new addition to the park that occurred during improvements made in 1992. The overall design of the pavilion is a Post-modern departure from the park's historic Craftsman character, but seeks to pay homage to the historic context by employing exposed structural framing at the roof, dark metal structural supports at the column heads that speak to the material layering in the historic pavilions, and having the same roof material that was used to reroof the surrounding historic structures.

16. Colonnade Arbor Structure (surrounding the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain)



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The Colonnade Arbor structure was added as part of the 1992 improvements. The structure surrounds the Darlington Fountain and provides shade and seating. The structure is comprised of several round columns with exposed steel framing above that is stylized to be playfully sympathetic to the park's historic craftsman design. However, these improvements are clearly Post-Modern in style and materiality. The structure is in good condition overall.

Integrity of Contributing Resources:

The West End Lake Shore Park is a cohesive historic recreational area with many contributing resources that have historic integrity. The property is particularly unique because of the surviving Darling Electric Prismatic Fountain, which is considered the last known original fountain of its kind in the world. Alterations that were made to the park were made in a way that does not detract from the park's historic fabric. The extant contributing resources are in good condition and have maintained their historic integrity in all aspects.

Location: The site and all contributing elements exist in their original location

Design: The extant resources have experienced some alterations. Examples of this include the reroofing of all the shade pavilions, and the stucco resurfacing of columns at two pavilions. The rose garden is no longer present, and the Darlington fountain has been gutted of its fountain heads (See Figures 8, 13) and the control shed that allowed for the operation of the fountain. However, the fountain can be restored to its historic function through modern mechanisms that wouldn't compromise the integrity of the fountain's structure or design.

Setting: The park has maintained its historic setting as a natural area along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Materials: Many of the original materials in the contributing resources remain and are in good condition.

Workmanship: The quality of wood framing in the pavilions and masonry on the stone bridge and pavilion columns are some examples of resources that provide quality examples of historic workmanship in the craftsman style.

Feeling: As a coastal recreation area, the park certainly maintains the feeling of being along the lake and is conducive to long strolls as it was when it was first constructed in 1915.

Association: Residents and locals largely associate the park with the historic West End neighborhood, which has a rich history and culturally was a unique destination for entertainment and recreation in New Orleans.

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Figure 14: View of the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain Heads, 2024 (Mia Kaplan/MKS).

Summary:

West End Lake Shore Park is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because it has significant resources that are in fair to excellent condition, and it possesses integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with its historic use. The West End Lake Shore Park is still used for public recreation today.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture/Engineering

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

Engineering/Architecture 1909 – 1939

Landscape Architecture 1909 - 1939

Entertainment/Recreation 1915 - 1974

Significant Dates

1906 – West End Lake Shore Park dedicated as a public park, Act 209__

1915 – Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain Constructed__

1939 – WPA Improvements Completed_____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Frederic Darlington, Prismatic Fountain Designer__

W.A. Dillzel, Prismatic Fountain Constructor/Engineer__

W.J. Hardee, Park Designer

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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.)

The West End Lake Shore Park is locally significant under Criteria A for its role in the history and development of public recreational areas in the West End neighborhood of New Orleans and is significant under Criteria C as a site that was created through an act of coastal engineering historically known as land reclamation, and possesses many contributing elements of its historic design, including several contributing structures, and a rare example of a Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain constructed in 1915. The West End Lake Shore Park highlights two main periods of significance, the first encompassing the area of Architecture/Engineering and Landscape Architecture which begins in 1909 when the land was first developed and ends in 1939 when the latest improvements were completed under the Works Progress Administration, and the second area of Entertainment/Recreation which begins in 1915 when the park first opened and ends in 1974. The park remains open to the public today.

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



Figure 15: Panoramic view of the West End, looking south from the Southern Yacht Club (The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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Criteria A: Entertainment & Recreation

1830 – 1914

Located along the central south shore of Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana, the West End gained popularity following the completion of the New Basin Canal in 1838 and the freshly placed rail line that connected downtown New Orleans to the “Lake End” stations of steamer and rail lines terminating at Lake Pontchartrain. A variety of restaurants and music venues opened along the docks to accommodate guests, and with the establishment of the Southern Yacht Club’s headquarters in 1857, tourism flourished.

By the 1860s, The West End was a popular destination for coastal leisure in New Orleans. The area was promoted as a place to spend the weekend, and the crowds became substantial when the Tranchina’s West End Hotel resort opened in 1871, and an amusement park was constructed in the early 1900s (See Figure 16). Weekends were filled with locals and tourists alike who came to experience a variety of performances and entertainment.



Figure 16: Triptych view of the bandstand, roller coaster on the far left, and Ferris wheel of the West End amusement park on the far right. The present-day West End Lake Shore Park was constructed on top of the former boardwalk resort. (Google Earth).

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Figure 17: View of the Southern Yacht Club from the New Basin Canal, facing north, Circa 1900 (Library of Congress).



Figure 19: View of the West End Resort, facing northeast, circa 1900 (Library of Congress).

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Figure 20: View of the West End Resort, facing east, circa 1900 (Library of Congress).



Figure 21: View of the West End Resort, facing southeast, circa 1900 (Library of Congress).

The West End resort was a popular destination for the city's premier jazz musicians as well as Opera and Vaudeville performers. The nearby puzzle garden and amusement park rides made it a family-friendly environment during the day, while the hospitality and performance venues made it a vibrant night life scene in the evenings (See Figure 19).

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Figure 19: West End As It Was, photos by Henry G. O'Connell (Louisiana State Museum).

1915 – 1939

Louis Armstrong's performance of "West End Blues" (1928), inspired by the area, is an example of how West End's popularity influenced the development of art and entertainment in the city of New Orleans. The West End Lake Shore Park remained a popular outdoor destination, especially for viewing the prismatic fountain shows, and as an extension of activities occurring around the harbor.

1940 – 1974, to present day

The surrounding neighborhood of West End evolved to focus on the many restaurants and night clubs located on the west side of the park. Along the boundary between Jefferson and Orleans Parish, and leading into an adjacent area known as Bucktown, several restaurants popped up, and anchor establishments like Brunners, Fitzgeralds, Club My O My, and Coconut Beach were popular destinations along the park's perimeter. Due to catastrophic storm damage, these businesses slowly disappeared, and the area is currently a field of piles in the water which has become a popular hangout for sea birds.

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Criteria C: Architecture & Landscape Architecture

After significant damage occurred following the Grand Isle Hurricane of 1909, the boardwalk resort area along the north levee was replaced by an expanded recreational area named the West End Lake Shore Park. The new park was created by reclaiming the land below the waters of Lake Pontchartrain, a process where containment walls are built, and new earth is filled and allowed to dry out before construction. This practice of land reclamation was a revolution for its time in New Orleans, considering the context of the city's drainage issues in the 1880s which led to Albert Baldwin Wood's invention of the screw pump in 1913, just a year before plans were made to develop the West End Lake Shore Park.³



Figure 20: Panoramic View of West End Lake Shore Park, 1915 (Louisiana State Museum).



Figure 21: Aerial View of West End Lake Shore Park, facing west, Circa 1930 (Louisiana State Museum).

³ Dunn, Katherine Joliff. *The Pumps That Built (and sank) the City of New Orleans*, First Draft, The Historic New Orleans Collection. August 3, 2020.

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Figure 22: Aerial View of West End Lake Shore Park, facing west, Circa 1930 (Louisiana State Museum).

The West End Lake Shore Park's design has a variety of features that complimented the causes of recreation and entertainment, the greatest of which is the focal point of the site, a monumental electric prismatic fountain designed by Frederick W. Darlington, a nationally renowned electric fountain designer who completed commissions in other major cities. The new fountain would have regular shows for visitors to experience the grand sprays of illuminated water set to music in the evenings.

The fountain's construction was overseen and completed by Walter A. Dillzel, a contractor and electrical engineer for the city, in 1915. Dillzel became the local expert in the fountain's operation, which was controlled from an adjacent booth with several levers and switches, located to the east of the fountain (See Figure 24).

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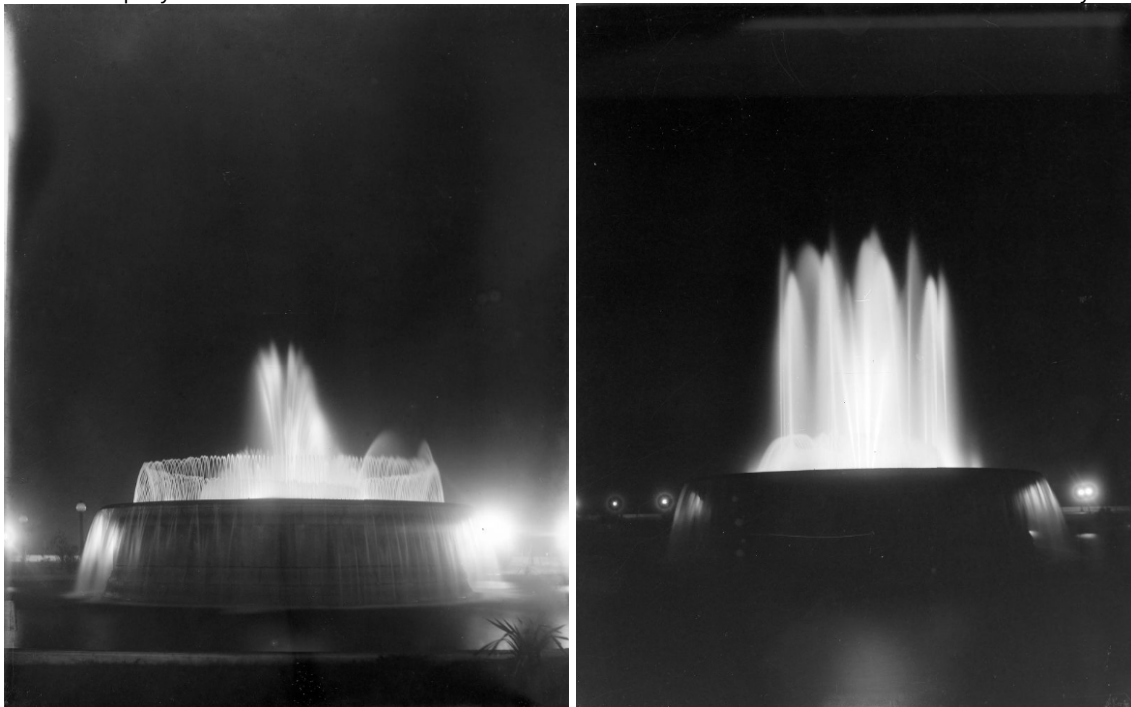


Figure 23: Views of the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain at Night (The Historic New Orleans Collection).



Figure 24: Contractor and engineer W. A. Dillzel in the control booth for the fountain, circa 1915. (The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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On the western end of the site, though no longer present, the Municipal Rose Garden was planted as part of the 1930s improvements which included the lagoon and stone arch bridge construction (See Figure 25, 26). By the 1950s, the area was designated for parking to serve nearby restaurants and clubs on the western waterfront.



Figure 25: Municipal Rose Garden on the western side of the park, 1933 (The Historic New Orleans Collection).



Figure 26: Stone Arch Bridge and lagoon on the eastern side of the park, 1947(The Historic New Orleans Collection).

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Figure 25: Fairchild Aerial Survey, Aerial View of the West End Lake Shore Park (New Orleans Public Library).

Summary

The West End Lake Shore Park is significant under Criteria A as a historic and present-day recreational area that continues to serve its historic function of providing a natural respite from city life along the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The park is also significant under Criteria C as a well-preserved example of park design between the years of 1915 through 1939, with particular emphasis on the extant fountain in the center of the site. Though the surrounding context of the West End neighborhood has changed from a vibrant resort to a quiet residential neighborhood, the West End Lake Shore Park has persevered in its ongoing service to the New Orleans community.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Baker, L. *New Orleans: The Making of an Urban Landscape*. University of Chicago Press. 2007.
- Baton, T. *Parks and the WPA: Building Public Spaces in New Orleans*. Louisiana Historical Society Press. 2003.
- Canal, J. M. *The West End: The Development of a Waterfront Community*. New Orleans Municipal Archives. 1938.
- Cangelosi, Jr., Robert. *West End*. New Orleans Preservation in Print Magazine. September Issue, 1984.
- Dunn, Katherine Joliff. *The Pumps That Built (and sank) the City of New Orleans*, First Draft, The Historic New Orleans Collection. August 3, 2020.
- Foster, S. (1996). *Waterfront Leisure and Urban Parks: The Case of West End*. Journal of New Orleans Urban Studies, 34(2), 45-61.
- Gilbert, Troy A., *West End: New Orleans' (other) forgotten waterfront*. Preservation in Print Magazine. June 1, 2024. <https://prcno.org/west-end-new-orleans-other-forgotten-waterfront/>
- Louisiana Secretary of State, Act No. 209, Senate Bill No. 126, 1906.
- O'Connor, J. (2001). *The WPA in Louisiana: A New Deal for Public Parks*. Louisiana Historical Quarterly, 48(4), 79-102.

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 # _____

West End Lake Shore Park
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 24.4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 30.025071 | Longitude: -90.120903 |
| 2. Latitude: 30.023678 | Longitude: -90.120982 |
| 3. Latitude: 30.024046 | Longitude: -90.114851 |
| 4. Latitude: 30.024256 | Longitude: -90.114349 |
| 5. Latitude: 30.025386 | Longitude: -90.114323 |
| 6. Latitude: 30.025189 | Longitude: -90.117216 |
| 7. Latitude: 30.025289 | Longitude: -90.117228 |

West End Lake Shore Park

Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA

County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

That portion of the protection or revetment levee bordering on Lake Pontchartrain and lying between the west bank of the New Basin Canal on the east and the prolongation of the boundary line between the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson on the west; all lands now lying under the waters of Lake Pontchartrain between the protection or revetment levee on the south, the west bank of the New Basin Canal on the east, the prolongation of the boundary line between the Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson on the west, and a line drawn parallel to and in front of said protection or revetment levee a distance of 1500 feet therefrom on the north; all lands now lying under the waters of Lake Pontchartrain in the rear or south of the aforesaid protection or revetment levee on the north, the shore of Lake Pontchartrain on the south, and lands belonging to private persons on the east and west.

Certain portions on the northeast edge of the park are being omitted due to new developments which do not possess historic integrity. These exclusions begin where the north balustrade ends, traveling south to meet the extant boundary of the present-day park, and continue east to meet at the corner of North and East Roadway St. For similar reasons, the southeast boundary of the park has been adjusted to include only portions with remaining integrity. This boundary follows the inner edge of the intersection of East and South Roadway Streets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries represent the physical description of the area of land that was allocated for the creation of West End Lake Shore Park by the City of New Orleans through Act 209 in 1906. The final boundary justification omits those areas which do not directly contribute to communicating the extent of the park with historic integrity.

West End Lake Shore Park
Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mia Kaplan, Principal Architect & Architectural Historian
organization: Mia Kaplan Studio, on behalf of West End Lake Shore Park Civic Association
street & number: 274 West Hall Avenue
city or town: Slidell state: LA zip code: 70460
e-mail mia@miakaplan.com
telephone: 985-205-1161
date: 9/19/2025

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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.

West End Lake Shore Park

Name of Property

Orleans Parish, LA

County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: West End Lake Shore Park

City or Vicinity: New Orleans

County: Orleans

State: Louisiana

Photographer: Mia Kaplan

Date Photographed: November 2024 & February 2025 (Although some photos are more than a year old, they accurately reflect the current appearance of the park.)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16. – Entrance Sign, non-contributing, facing northeast.
- 2 of 16. – Approach to the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, facing north.
- 3 of 16. – View of the Darlington Electric Prismatic Fountain, facing north.
- 4 of 16. – Arbor Colonnade from the western side of the fountain, facing northeast.
- 5 of 16. – View of the harbor from the north side of the fountain, facing north.
- 6 of 16. – View of the fountain from the harbor, facing south.
- 7 of 16. – Stone Arch Bridge, contributing, facing northeast.
- 8 of 16. – View of the lagoon from the stone arch bridge, facing south.
- 9 of 16. - View of the lagoon from the stone arch bridge, facing north.
- 10 of 16. - View of the Wisner Stone Monument, contributing, facing northwest.
- 11 of 16. – Shade pavilion on the northeast side of the park, contributing, facing southwest.
- 12 of 16. – North circulation path with shade pavilions along the path, facing west.
- 13 of 16. – Shade pavilion on north side of site, facing northeast.
- 14 of 16. - Detail of shade pavilion construction on north side of site, facing north.
- 15 of 16. – Beaux Arts Balustrade on west perimeter of park, contributing, facing west.
- 16 of 16. – View of remains of Fitzgerald's Restaurant, facing west.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

USGS MAP



STATEWIDE / PARISH MAP



Image Souce: Wikimedia Commons.

BOUNDARY MAP/COORDINATES

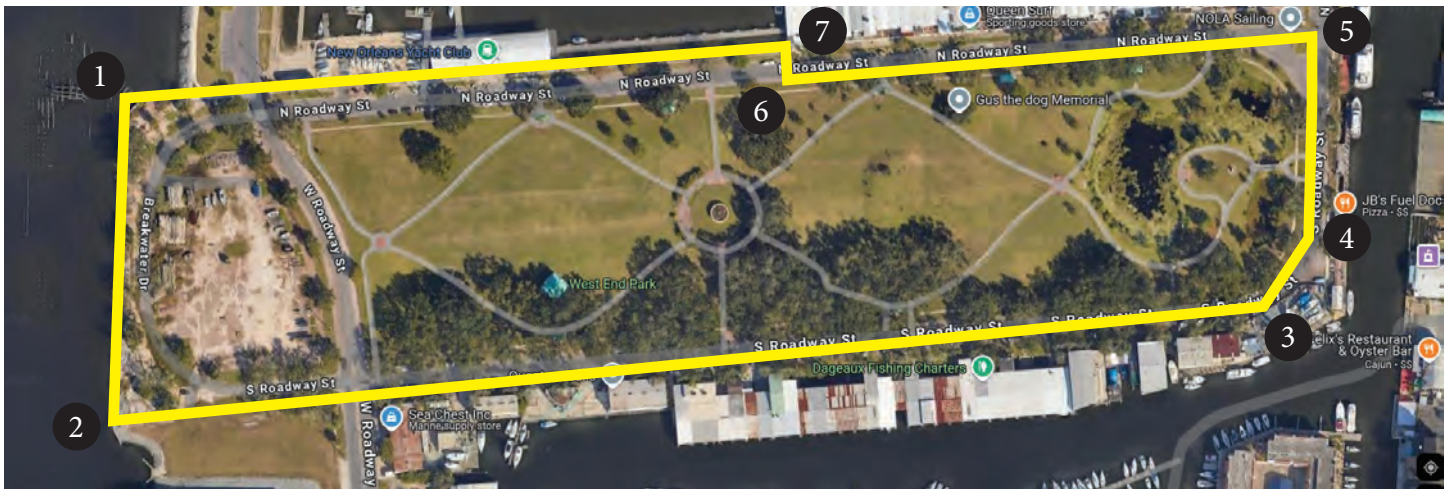


Image Souce: Google Earth, with annotations by MKS.

SITE PLAN / RESOURCE MAP



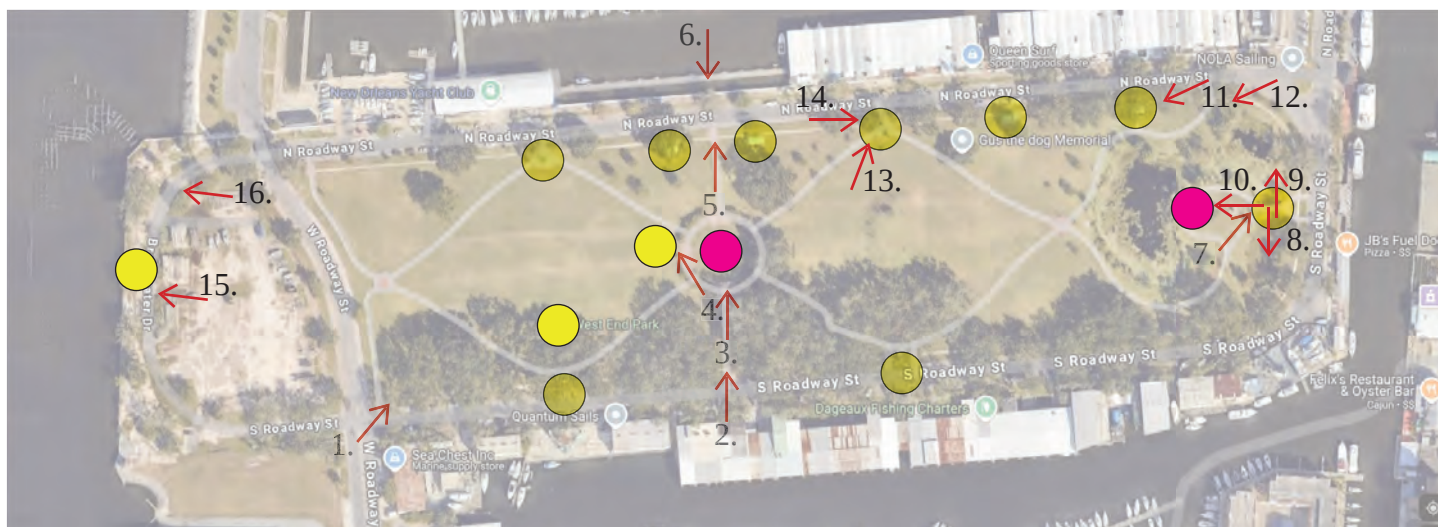
Image Source: GOOGLE EARTH. Markups by Mia Kaplan/MKS.

Contributing Resources:

1. Shade Pavilion 1, 1939
2. Bandstand Pavilion, 1939
3. Darlington Prismatic Fountain, 1906
4. Shade Pavilion 2, 1939
5. WPA Stone Arch Lagoon Bridge, 1939
6. Shade Pavilion 3, 1939
7. Shade Pavilion 4, 1939
8. Shade Pavilion 5, 1939
9. Shade Pavilion 6, 1939
10. Shade Pavilion 7, 1939
11. Shade Pavilion 8, 1939
12. West End Park Site, 1906 - 1939

Drawings Not to Scale. For Reference Only.

PHOTO KEY



Drawings Not to Scale. For Reference Only.

Background Image Souce: Saint Tammany Parish Assessor's Office.



WEST END PARK

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS MUNICIPAL YACHT HARBOR





























