

*In accordance with ACT 302 of the 2020 Regular Session, the **National Register Review Committee** meeting on **Thursday, August 6, 2020**, at 11:00 a.m. was held via video conference. Matters on this agenda are critical to the continuation of the business of the **National Register Review Committee**.*

NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES
Thursday, August 6, 2020 - 11:00AM
Via Zoom

John Sykes called the August 6, 2020, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:02AM. In addition to Mr. Sykes, members present included Dr. Robert Carriker, Guy Carwile, Turry Flucker, Lynn Lewis, Peggy Lowe, Dr. Brian McGowan, and Dr. Rebecca Saunders.

Emily Ardoin welcomed the audience and committee members to the meeting. She also introduced all of the committee members.

Mr. Sykes then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Carriker so moved and Dr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sykes asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June's meeting. Lynn Lewis so moved and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, 4 nominations were presented to the committee.

McDonoghville Historic District, Jefferson and Orleans Parish
Presented by James Rolfe, co-nomination preparer

The McDonoghville Historic District is a working-class neighborhood spanning Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish on the west bank of the Mississippi River across from New Orleans in Louisiana. The district contains 761 resources, of which 622 resources are contributing buildings, 137 are non-contributing buildings, 1 is a contributing site, and 1 is a non-contributing site. Of the contributing buildings, one is individually listed: the Kerner House located at 1012 Monroe Street. It was built about 1865 and added to the National Register in the year 2000. The district boundary roughly follows both sides of Ocean Avenue from the Mississippi River (southwest) to river side of 4th Street extension (southeast) to both sides of Hancock Street/Hermosa Street (east) to the Crescent City Connection bridges (north); and Madison Street tracing along the Mississippi River levee (west), back to Ocean Avenue. The architecture styles that make up the McDonoghville Historic District were developed largely in three phases: first, the Creole Cottage, Italianate, Queen Anne/Eastlake, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival single-family homes and doubles from 1865 to 1910; second, the Craftsman, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Tudor Revival, Cape Cod houses and Commercial style from 1909 to 1950; and third, the Commercial style, Ranch houses, Brutalist and New Formalist institutions and Other styles from 1946 to 1969.

The McDonoghville Historic District is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level, as a late-19th to mid-20th century residential community. It illustrates how architectural housing forms popular in the greater New Orleans area, and in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, such as shotguns, double shotguns, bungalows and ranch houses were adapted to the spaciousness of McDonoghville throughout the periods of significance. This synthesis of traditional New Orleans housing forms, forward-thinking advancements and the stylistic trends of the late-19th through mid-20th centuries resulted in the character of the district. The integrity of architectural styles that came from three major periods of growth reacting to events of the greater New Orleans area and the Westbank –make the McDonoghville neighborhood eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Saunders asked about the overlapping significant date ranges. Kelly Calhoun explained that the architectural styles changed gradually, resulting in an overlap of time periods. Guy Carwile suggested technical corrections and requested counts of each architectural style in the nomination. James Rolfe noted that a public

meeting had occurred recently and the nomination was being updated to address comments made in that meeting.

Dr. McGowan then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Dr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lafayette Oil Center

Presented by Kelly Sellers Wittie, nomination preparer

The Oil Center Historic District is located approximately 1.5 miles south of downtown Lafayette, Louisiana. The development occupies the former nursery and gardens of Lafayette businessman Maurice Heymann at the intersection of West Pinhook Road and St. Mary Boulevard. It holds 40 buildings, one object, and one structure. The landscape and roadway pattern were developed specifically for the neighborhood. Of these, 27 buildings and the landscape and roadway pattern contribute to the historic district; 13 buildings, a statue of an oil derrick, and a canopied ATM structure, do not. Contributing resources were built during the Period of Significance (1952-1971), retain sufficient integrity to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and relate to at least one of the areas of significance. Contributing elements under Criterion C display the ideals of mid-century modern design, notably the functional rather than ornamental appearance, favored by developer Maurice Heymann and architect A. Hays Town when designing the neighborhood. Contributing elements under Criterion A served a retail, office, medical, social, or municipal function – the functions specifically nurtured by Heymann for the development. Limited modifications to buildings in support of the building's function – such as the changing of windows on a retail façade – were reviewed individually for integrity. Significant modifications to a building's footprint nearly always rendered a building non-contributing.

The Oil Center Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level in the categories of Industry, Community Planning & Development, and Criterion C: Architecture at the local level for its intact collection of mid-century modern architecture, notably the contributions of architect A. Hays Town. The Oil Center was a mid-twentieth century development specifically intended to draw the growing Louisiana oil/petroleum industry to establish regional offices in Lafayette rather than New Orleans, Lake Charles, or other cities. Lafayette businessman Maurice Heymann financed and constructed the Oil Center away from downtown because "most of the companies do not want downtown locations but prefer to locate at the edge of the city." Initially only office space for petroleum companies, the Oil Center quickly grew into a retail, banking, and medical complex. By 1959, the Oil Center contained nearly 40 buildings measuring 350,000 square feet of office space for more than 250 different companies. The development had grown to 90 buildings with approximately 3,000 persons employed in the area by 1967.

Lafayette businessman Maurice Heymann (1885-1967) began his retail career as a peddler in New Orleans as a small child. Heymann saved his money and purchased a store in Lafayette in 1916, eventually expanding his Lafayette holdings into a large department store, movie theater, drug store, nursery, supermarket, and real estate. In 1952, Heymann invested hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own savings and approximately 100 acres of land into the Oil Center development, a planned office and commercial complex. Heymann hired architect A. Hays Town; marketed to early lessees; financed the original buildings and roadways; and oversaw the initial construction projects. Heymann is credited with realizing the potential of the Oil Center as a medical complex, selling a tract of land adjacent to the original Oil Center area to the Lafayette Medical & Surgical Group in 1958 and he donated six acres of land for an auditorium, today the Heymann Performing Arts Center, near the hospital tract to further elevate the Oil Center as the center of modern Lafayette.

Due to its development in the 1950s and 1960s, the Oil Center is Lafayette's largest collection of mid-twentieth century architecture. With limited exceptions, the buildings of the Oil Center display the hallmarks of modern design including the use of steel and glass alongside brick; flat roofs; and emphasis on functionality, rather than ornamentation. Although not the only architect whose designs are extant in the Oil Center, A. Hays Town was the first hired by Heymann and was responsible for the initial office space design.

Guy Carwile made recommendations for technical corrections and adding Richard Neutra and A. Hays Town's role as a HABS regional director in the Statement of Significance. Dr. Carriker asked how many buildings in the

district were designed by Town. Ms. Sellers Wittie noted that more than 25% of buildings in the district were designed by Town. She also noted that additional Town-designed buildings are located outside of the district boundaries in portions of the Oil Center that do not have sufficient integrity for listing. Roxana Usner of the Lafayette Consolidated Government spoke in favor of the nomination. She noted that the boundary was smaller than originally expected due to integrity but that the buildings within the final boundary were good representatives of the architectural style.

Dr. Carriker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Husser School and Community Center, Tangipahoa Parish
Presented by Ethan Dunn, nomination preparer

The Husser School is a one-story, L-shaped building located on Highway 445 in the rural community of Husser. The school has a cross-hipped roof and a wood pier-and-beam foundation; it is oriented toward the west. It was constructed between 1920 and 1921 by citizens of the community under the direction of Hypolite Husser, Jr. The plan consists of two symmetrical classrooms flanking a central hall with a utility closet at its rear. The north classroom was enlarged during the period of significance to encompass either a rear addition or a previously separate third classroom. A small restroom addition is present at the rear of the building. Despite minor alterations through the years, the building has a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association and remains eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Husser School is located in the rural community of Husser, approximately 18 miles northeast of Hammond in southeast Louisiana. The school is situated on Highway 445, which runs generally north to south from Ponchatoula to Amite. The area has been predominately known as a dairy and farming community since its beginnings but has seen more residential development over the last twenty years. The school property occupies approximately 2 acres and is bounded by a horse pasture to the northeast, a residence to the southeast, Highway 445 to the southwest, and the Husser Fire Department to the northwest. The site itself is relatively flat with a large open yard that gradually slopes to a gully. The school is set back approximately 140 feet from the street, and the front faces directly west instead of facing the street. During its use as a school, a detached lunchroom building sat approximately 50 yards to the northwest of the main building, an outhouse for girls sat approximately 50 yards to the north, and an outhouse for boys sat about 50 yards to the northeast. These three outbuildings were removed some time after the school was closed in 1942.

The Husser School and Community Center is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of education and social history. From 1921 to 1946, it served as the only known school for the community of Husser, and it is one of the few school buildings of its era that remains standing in the parish. Following the school's closing in 1946, the building became the permanent home of the Husser Community Organization, which utilized the building for community functions through the remainder of the 20th century.

Guy Carwile made recommendations for technical corrections in the architectural description. Roger Husser spoke in favor of the nomination.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Lynn Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Medard Nelson Home and School, Orleans Parish
Presented by John Reed, nomination preparer

Located near the northern edge of the Vieux Carré in New Orleans, the Medard Nelson Home and School property consists of two buildings (one previously listed in the National Register) separated by a courtyard. An additional rear courtyard contains a swimming pool (non-contributing structure) and a small storage building (non-contributing building). The La Rionda-Correjolles House was built circa 1810 by Antonio La Rionda. It was

first described in the 1812 act of sale to its second owner Jeanne Quessart as a “new brick house of four apartments, and a rear gallery with two closets and a cellar, the whole roofed with tiles.” It is a classic example of an early Creole cottage. It is located in the lower (northeast), historically more residential, end of the New Orleans Vieux Carré. Of masonry construction, stucco over brick, with wooden shutters; it reflects a Spanish colonial influence. The single-story cottage, 30 ft wide and 40 ft deep, is composed of four square interconnected rooms with an open loggia across the rear flanked on each side by a small “cabinet”. An alley runs along its southwest side. Its double pitched slate roof is gabled at its sides; the ridge is parallel to the street; an abat-vent extends over the banquette. Two chimneys, one on the front slope of the roof, one on the rear, serve fireplaces in each of the four principal rooms. The simple grace of its form, proportion, and decoration distinguish it from later more elaborate renditions of the Creole cottage.

Behind the cottage is an open courtyard 40 feet deep arranged in a traditional parterre, with a fountain at the center. Across the rear of the courtyard is a typical one-room-deep, two-story dependency, with a one-room-deep, one-story extension across its rear. At the second floor a cantilevered covered balcony overlooks the courtyard. The dependency is also of masonry construction with stucco cladding, with a slate roof on the two-story portion, and a metal one on the one-story extension. To the southeast of the dependency a narrow alley leads to the rear courtyard which extends 90 feet to the end of the property. Some of the buildings present during the period of significance are no longer extant, and the property has seen other modifications including alterations to the buildings and the addition of a swimming pool behind the dependency. Despite these alterations, the property has a sufficient degree of integrity to remain eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Médard Nelson home and school is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of education. From 1887 and continuously until his death in 1933, Médard Hilaire Nelson, a Black man born of free people of color, and an educator esteemed within the Creole community, ran a rigorous private academic school that admitted students of both races. He did so in the buildings at 1218 Burgundy Street where he lived with his wife and 7 children, and where he died. Médard Nelson conducted his school at a time and in a place when political, social, and legal forces were arrayed against and hostile to the education of African-Americans, and during which defiance of Jim Crow and segregation courted danger and death. Médard Nelson’s school is the only identified extant African-American private school building from post-Reconstruction New Orleans, and the only school known to have admitted both black and white students. The school’s uniqueness, and Médard Nelson’s success in sustaining it, reflects the racial oppression in the post-Reconstruction south but just as importantly the resilience and accomplishment of one man who fought to maintain the dignity and promote the equality of Black Americans.

Turry Flucker commented on the significance of the connection with A.P. Tureaud having attended the school for a short period of time. Guy Carwile asked whether Mr. Reed was the property owner. Mr. Reed noted that he and his wife were the owners. Mr. Carwile requested a photo key and noted that the HABS records include a rear photo that is not a photo of this building as indicated. Mr. Carwile also made recommendations for technical corrections and noted that the Norman truss system in this building is also significant and rare for a building in Louisiana. Amy Stelly, a great-granddaughter of Medard Nelson, spoke in favor of the nomination.

Turry Flucker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Guy Carwile seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Emily Ardoin announced that the next Review Committee meeting would be held Thursday, December 3 and that the format, whether virtual or in person, would depend on COVID-19 guidance at the time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM.