



Office of the Planning Commission

City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge
 Post Office Box 1471, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
 or
 1100 Laurel Street, Suite 104, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
 Phone (225) 389-3144 Fax (225) 389-5342

Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP
 Planning Director

March 4, 2021

TO: Planning Commission
 THROUGH: Ryan L. Holcomb, AICP, Planning Director *RH*
 FROM: Collin Lindrew, Planner I *C2*
 SUBJECT: HL-3-21 502 North Boulevard

Application Summary					
Applicant	Fairleigh Jackson on behalf of Preserve Louisiana		Submittal Date	December 3, 2020	
Site Area	± 49,300 sf				
Location	South side of North Boulevard, east of Saint Charles Street (Council District 10 Coleman)				
HPC Meeting Date	February 10, 2021	Planning Commission Meeting Date	March 15, 2021	Metro Council Meeting Date	April 21, 2021
Request					
Proposed Landmark	Old Governor's Mansion				
Site Characteristics					
Historic District	Beauregard Town National Register District				
Historic Information	Built in 1929 under the governorship of Huey P. Long as the primary residence of the Governor of Louisiana. Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Renovations made multiple times.				
Existing Zoning	Transition (B1)				
Existing Use	Institutional				
Findings					
Staff certifies the request meets the criteria for designation as a Local Historic Landmark					

Case History – This Site

- Individually listed on the National Register in 1975
- Included in the Beauregard Town National Register District in 1980
- Building survey done as part of the Beauregard Town Historic District Survey in 2020
- Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval on February 10, 2021

Case History – Surrounding Area

- None

Design Elements

- Originally constructed in 1929-30 as a neoclassical, or “Georgian-style” mansion
- The sun porch on the west end of the mansion was originally screened. It was replaced in 1950 with glass, and an exterior awning was added at the same time
- The south patio, or solarium, was originally screened as well. The screens were replaced with glass in 1946 under Governor James H. Davis
- Two metal fire escapes added to the rear of the structure in 1965
- Additional metal fire escape added to the east side of the structure in 1974
- Building underwent restoration in 1996-1998 in preparation for its conversion into a house museum in 1999

Regulatory Issues

- Consistent with FUTUREBR Community Design and Neighborhoods Action Item 2.4.3: Expand historic designation program to protect additional areas
- Consistent with Unified Development Code Section 3.7.1 A, exhibiting cultural significance
 - Built in 1929-1930 as the official residence of the Governor of Louisiana. The construction was overseen by Governor Huey P. Long, the building’s first resident
 - The Old Governor’s Mansion served as a residence to nine governors until 1962, when a new mansion was constructed just east of the New State Capitol building
 - In 1964, the Old Governor’s Mansion became the home of the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum (then, Louisiana Arts and Science Center) and served as the headquarters for the museum until 1976
 - The Old Governor’s Mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and the National Parks Service waived the 50 year age limit for the building – a “nod to its significance”
- Application has written consent of the property owner

Community Outreach/Notification







- Public notification cards mailed to all property owners within a 300-foot radius on February 26, 2021
- Subject property posted on February 26, 2021
- Staff reports available online on March 4, 2021 at <http://la-batonrouge.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/12>
- Legal advertisement published in the Advocate on March 5, 9, and 11, 2021

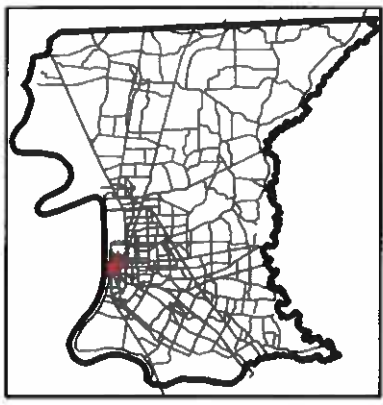
Findings

Staff certifies the request meets the criteria for designation as a Local Historic Landmark



Legend


-  Current Case
-  Previous Relevant Cases
-  Notified of Public Hearing
-  Zoning Graphic
-  Lot Graphic
-  Special Flood Hazard Area
- A1** Zoning Labels



HL-3-21

0 150 300 450 600 ft




SCALE

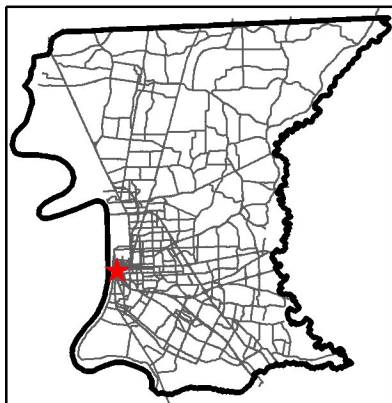







Legend

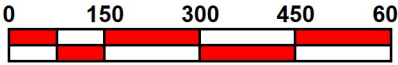
-  Current Case
-  Zoning Graphic
-  Lot Graphic
- A1** Zoning Labels



HL-3-21



N



SCALE





Local Landmark Nomination
The Old Governor's Mansion
502 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 707802

12. Physical Description: Describe the historic and current condition of the property/district on one or more continuation sheets. Include style(s) of architecture and relationship to surrounding fabric. Elaborate on pertinent materials used and style(s) of architectural detailing, embellishments, site details, and major alterations.

The Old Governor's Mansion was built in 1929 under the Governorship of Huey P. Long, and many of its features are reminiscent of those in the more ornate White House in Washington D.C. The Mansion, a neoclassical mansion (also referenced as "Georgian-style Mansion", and antebellum architecture), was designed by the well-known architectural firm Dreyfus, Weiss & Seifert. The Mansion sits on North Boulevard between Royal Street and Saint Charles Street in Historic Beaugard Town. The grounds slope from the front of the house to North Boulevard, and the only addition to the front grounds was an addition of a jet fountain.

The Old Governor's Mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and the National Park Service waived the 50 year age limit for the building – a nod to its significance.

The west wing is accentuated with eyebrow windows, and the first floor windows are topped with bracketed segmental pediments.

The building has two floors, a full basement and an attic. The mansard roof is slate with fourteen dormers and open balustrades. The Mansion boasts 4 large 30 foot Corinthian columns, a pediment adorned with a pelican feeding her young – a design based on the seal of the state of Louisiana.

The Sun Porch on the west end of the mansion, was originally screened. It was replaced in 1950 with glass and an exterior awning was added at the same time.

The South Patio or Solarium, was originally screened as well. The screens were replaced with glass in 1946 under Governor James H. Davis.

The two metal fire-escapes on the south side were added around 1965. The east end fire escape was added in 1974.

The Mansion retains its original character and aesthetic, with only minimal exterior alterations over the past 90 years. Designating the Mansion as a Local Landmark will protect its authenticity for generations to come as it remains one of the premier tourist destinations of Baton Rouge and Louisiana.

The Mansion is currently owned by the State of Louisiana, under the control of the Division of Administration. The Division of Administration is aware of, and in support of, this nomination.

We are grateful for the consideration of the Historic Planning Commission to designate the Old Governor's Mansion as a Local Landmark.

14. Statement of Significance:

The Louisiana Old Governor's Mansion was built in 1929-1930 under the governorship of Huey P. Long, its first resident. Building the Old Governor's Mansion cost almost \$150,000, plus an additional \$22,000 (a princely sum during the Great Depression years) for the finest damask and velvet drapes, crystal chandeliers, hand printed French wallpaper, and other fine appointments.

The Old Governor's Mansion served as a residence to nine governors until 1962, when a new mansion was constructed just east of the New State Capitol building. In 1964, the Old Governor's Mansion became the home of the Louisiana Arts & Science Museum (then, Louisiana Arts & Science Center) and served as the headquarters for the Museum until 1976.

In 1975, the Mansion was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Mansion underwent restoration from 1996-1998, and opened as a historic house museum in 1999.

The Louisiana Old Governor's Mansion is reported to be inspired by the White House as it was originally designed by Thomas Jefferson. It is said that Long wanted to be familiar with the White House in Washington when he became president, so he had the White House duplicated in Baton Rouge.

Many of the features of Louisiana's Old Governor's Mansion are reminiscent of those in the ornate White House in Washington, D.C. Both structures have a portico supported by four smooth columns; both have similar entrance rooms, east rooms, west wings for office spaces, and state dining rooms on their first floors; both have oval rooms on their second floors, as well as east wing guest bedrooms; there is a stairway with a beautiful, large curving marble staircase with a fancy wrought iron banister; and the floor of the stair hall is black-and-white checked marble).

The Old Governor's Mansion served as a residence to nine governors between the years of 1930 (its completion) and 1962 (the completion of the new governor's mansion).

In 1963, Governor Jimmie Davis moved into the present governor's mansion near the State Capitol, ending the Old Governor's Mansion's 32 years as the official residence of Louisiana's top executive.

The governors who lived in the Old Governor's Mansion and their terms of office are:

Huey Pierce Long 1928-1932

Alvin Olin King 1932

Oscar Kelly Allen 1932-1936

James Albert Noe 1936

Richard Webster Leche 1936-1939

Earl Kemp Long 1939-40; 1948-52; 1956-60

Sam Houston Jones 1940-1944

James Houston Davis 1944-48; 1960-64

Robert Floyd Kennon 1952-1956

The significance of the Mansion spans decades. It's significance is in its architecture, the story of its erection, its place in Louisiana politics and history, and its contribution to the state and city as a tourist destination.



The San Diego State Board
of Education
Case HL-3-21
 Staff Level
 Public Hearing
on **Jan. 13, 2021**
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: 500 Laurel Street
Planning Conference Room
For Information Call:
360-5348
www.sdsu.edu/education

