1125

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.

RECEIVED 2280
DEC 14 2013
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Baker High School Auditorium

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3200 Groom Rd

City or town: Baker State: LA County: East Baton Rouge

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

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:

___**A** ___**B** _X_**C** ___**D**

Pam Breaux 12-2-13

Signature of certifying official/Title: 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**

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: 1.29.2014

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	X
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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.)
Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Roof: Concrete; Walls: Brick: Roof: Tar and Gravel

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

Baker High School Auditorium, built in 1959, dominates the eastern end of the Baker High School campus in Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The dramatic bowed front elevation and angled sides of the auditorium's fan-shaped form boldly announce its plan and function. The building defies assignment to a single stylistic classification and may best be understood as the product of many influences of mid-century modernism. It utilizes steel and decorative concrete, as well as brick in its construction and is capped by a flat roof with a deep front overhang. Although it appears two stories tall from the exterior, it actually contains one story with very high ceilings. It has experienced some deterioration but no direct alterations. Thus, its integrity and National Register eligibility remain intact.

Narrative Description

The classroom and offices of Baker High School, constructed in the 1950s, are overwhelmed by a 1972 addition that renders the main part of the school presently ineligible for the National Register. Because the auditorium stands alone and maintains an individual architectural presence, it is being nominated individually.

Located in Baker, a small, bedroom community located about 20 minutes north of Baton Rouge, Baker High School sits on a flat site facing Groom Road to the north and is separated from this thoroughfare by the school's driveway and parking spaces. On the north side of Groom stands a mixture of commercial and institutional twentieth-century buildings and one small nineteenth-century house. Across Epperson, (the road that forms the campus' eastern boundary) are modest one-story, twentieth-century frame houses. To the auditorium's west sprawl one-story classroom and administrative buildings punctuated by two tall, rectilinear gymnasiums. All of the buildings are connected by covered walkways. The land directly south of the school serves as its track field and baseball diamond.

The Baker High School Auditorium presents a confident and unabashedly modern design, but it does not fit neatly into any one stylistic category. While it embraces the "form follows function" edict of early twentieth-century modernism, the building's windowless, curving textured brick front façade clearly demonstrates the post-World War II shift of abstract modernism away from the smooth, squared lines of the International Style. Unlike the campus' 1950s classroom and office buildings, which take obvious cues from the International style with their stretches of windows, the auditorium eschews the ribbon windows, smooth surfaces, and right angles of that modernist paradigm or of Miesian architecture.

The Baker High School Auditorium presents a broad, windowless, curved front elevation pierced only by two double-door entrances. This potentially severe façade is softened and enlivened by brick laid in a Flemish single stretcher bond with projecting headers. The front elevation is divided into five sections by four slightly recessed steel columns. The two entrances are composed of double doors flanked by sidelights; all with glass on their top portions and solid aluminum on the bottom. These entrances are approached by canopied steel and concrete ramps that angle out from the center of the building, echoing the angle of the side elevations and the interior seating. The main floor level is indicated by a metal ledge extending between the ramps and across the rest of the front façade. It, the bottom half of the doors and sidelights, and the canopy posts and ramp railings are painted red.

The entire sidewalk in front of the auditorium is also covered by a flat-roofed steel canopy that connects to the rest of the school and is believed to have been erected simultaneously with the auditorium. This is not being nominated with the building as it is considered a separate built feature of the campus and is excluded from the nominated property by the designated boundary.

The east and west side elevations of the Baker High School Auditorium are identical. The side elevations meet the front elevation at acute angles and follow the narrowing of the building's plan to the point where the stage occupies the interior space. At this rear portion, the building is squared off, accommodating the fly tower and minimal off stage space. The angled portions of the side elevations are completely smooth, laid in a stretcher bond. The exterior of the fly tower is also laid in stretcher bond, but this portion features the same vertical divisions of slightly recessed steel columns found on the front elevation. Side entrances to the stage are screened by decorative concrete grilles framed by steel columns that support a sheltering flat porch roof. These grilles add architectural interest to the otherwise plain and functional side elevations.

The auditorium's rear elevation, which faces a separate band building close behind it, is the least distinctive side of the building, but still possesses subtle attention to detail that indicates the skill of its creator. Recessed steel columns like those found on the front divide the elevation into four sections that break its potential visual monotony and lend a human scale to its mass. The tall rear wall of the fly tower is flanked by the two lower stage entrance rooms and porches. Another covered walkway extends from the rear door to the adjacent band room.

Inside, the auditorium is divided into three main spaces: the lobby, the seating area, and the stage. Like the exterior, the interior benefits from a mid-century modernist aesthetic created through the contours of the spaces, the selection of materials, and craft details. The front wall of the lobby is finished with the same Flemish stretcher bond with projecting headers that appears on the exterior. The other walls are composed of plain concrete blocks laid in header rows with stacked joints to the tops of the doors. Above the concrete blocks, a metal grille divides the auditorium space from the

lobby and plaster covers the upper part of the side walls. In the auditorium seating area, the concrete block and plaster treatment carries throughout, but the concrete blocks boast a decorative diamond pattern. Original features include pendant light fixtures and the auditorium seating, which has wooden backs and upholstered seats. The floor slopes up away from the stage while the ceiling above gently curves to give the interior a modified parabolic section that completes the acoustical design.

Unused since the student body outgrew its 900 person seating capacity in the 1980s, the Baker High School Auditorium retains an extremely high level of integrity in terms of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association on both the interior and the exterior and displays only minor deterioration.

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.
- [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
(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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_Architecture_____

Period of Significance
_1959_____

Significant Dates
_1959_____

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
__N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation
__N/A_____

Architect/Builder
_____B. G. Buquoi___

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance is the year of construction.

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 Baker High School Auditorium is significant at the local level under Criterion C: Design, in the area of Architecture as a rare example of mid-century modernism in Baker, Louisiana. In this small, bedroom community setting, the Baker High School Auditorium is a remarkable landmark of abstract modernist architecture. Its period of significance is its 1959 date of construction.

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

Note

It was originally suspected that the designer of the Baker High School Auditorium was the well-known twentieth-century Louisiana architect A. Hays Town based on a bronze wall plaque from 1950 that attributes the main part of Baker High School to him. After the nomination was approved by the Review Committee and a newspaper article was written, a gentleman who interned for B.G. Buquoi contacted the newspaper discussing how he had worked in Buquoi's office and had actually worked on the architectural drawings for the auditorium.

Criterion C: Design

The Baker High School Auditorium does not fit neatly into any one stylistic category, but beautifully demonstrates the evolving modes of architectural expression in the post-World War II era. In the two decades following 1945, the modernist buildings constructed across Louisiana – as well as across the nation – displayed characteristics derived from many different design theories. There were holdovers of 1930s International and Art Deco styles as well as avant-garde Miesian, New Formalist, Wrightian, Neo-Expressionist, and Brutalist creations. Louisiana was not home to any of the top nationally known modernist architects, but does possess works by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Edward Durrell Stone, and Richard Neutra. Notable Louisiana architects working in the modern styles included Samuel and William Wiener; Curtis and Davis; A. Hays Town; John Desmond; Charles Colbert; Burk, Le Breton and Lemantia; and Neild-Somdal-Associates.[1]

Baker High School Auditorium's departure from cubic massing and its textured brick walls reflects the trend toward a more organic design basis, yet its rigorous symmetry precludes its designation as Neo-Expressionist. In fact, its strict symmetry, the exposed steel columns that divide the front façade, the delineation of the elevated lobby floor with a projecting metal ledge, and the prominent front overhang of the roof are vaguely suggestive of New Formalism. The use on the side elevations of decorative concrete grilles so favored by New Formalist Edward Durrell Stone adds another touch of this style, yet the auditorium is emphatically not New Formalist. In the brick façade, one might sense a kinship with Wright's experiments with surface textures, but it cannot be called Wrightian. Many buildings of the late fifties pulled bits and pieces from different styles without achieving a cohesive aesthetic. In contrast, the Baker High School Auditorium displays an elegance and attention to detail that stands on its own in defiance of pat stylistic explanation**.**

Baker possesses few architecturally significant buildings of any era. Although the community was founded in the 1880s in conjunction with the arrival of the railroad, the majority of the community's architecture is that of a mid-twentieth century suburb. There are few professionally designed, architecturally distinctive buildings within Baker. The town's only two architecturally significant National Register-listed properties are the 1905 Baker Presbyterian Church and the 1906 Cushman House. The Baker Presbyterian Church is a one-story clapboard structure in the Gothic Revival style. The Cushman House is a one-and-one-half story, frame transitional residence showing strong influences from both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Business needs in Baker are met by strip shopping centers typical of commercial development between the 1950s and 1980s. Most of the city's public buildings and churches also are typical of this period. With very few exceptions, the dwellings are unpretentious and date no earlier than the 1940s. Most of the city's homes are modern slab on grade ranch houses which resemble those found in any other city. Thus, there is nothing comparable to the auditorium in the community.

The Fan-shaped Auditorium

At the time the auditorium was built, there was no municipal center in Baker, so the auditorium was designed for use by the community as well as the school. The design of the building facilitates performance, with special emphasis upon excellent acoustics. Thus, its design incorporated some of the

[1] Jonathan and Donna Fricker, "Louisiana Architecture 1945-1965: Modernism Triumphant – Commercial and Institutional Buildings," Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2010, http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/modernismtriumphantfinalrevised.pdf (accessed January 23, 2013); Karen Kingsley, *Buildings of Louisiana* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 358.

latest developments in architectural acoustic theory. At the same time the International Style was maturing in Europe, there was a reconsideration of volumetric conditions affecting concert hall acoustics. As Michael Barron explains, "In the heady early days of the Modern Movement, science had to provide the logical basis for much design."[2] A musician-engineer named Gustave Lion conceived elaborate experiments to test the transmission of sound by reflections. Based on his findings, he created an interior design for the 1927 Salle Pleyel concert hall in Paris with a parabolic ceiling and a "modest" fan plan. That same year, Le Corbusier proposed a like plan for the League of Nations Debating Chamber in Geneva. Use of the Salle Pleyel immediately revealed multiple issues with the sound transmission in this particular concert hall design. Experimentation with fan-shaped halls continued in the following decades.

In many concert halls and auditoriums, fan-shaped seating arrangements were employed, concealed within conventional rectilinear building plans. For modernist architects interested in exploiting new construction methods for the creation of innovative building forms, the boxing in of the fan's curves and acute angles would have been a lost opportunity to express the building's function in an artistic and truthful manner. Therefore, renowned modernist architects like Eliel and Eero Saarinen and Alvar Aalto celebrated the fan-shape plan with expressive envelopes. Among the most famous of the buildings that articulate a fan shape with their exterior design are Eliel and Eero Saarinen's 1940 Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, New York; the twin 1957 Alberta Jubilee Auditoriums in Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta, Canada designed by the Alberta Department of Public Works; and Alvar Aalto's 1958 Kulttuuritalo (House of Culture) in Helsinki, Finland.[3]

The Kleinhans Music Hall was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989 for its architectural significance as one of the Saarinens' finest works. This building is uniquely composed of a large auditorium and a smaller one. The large auditorium has rectilinear rooms off its stage to the rear and a gently curving lobby at its front like the Baker High School Auditorium. Unlike the Baker High School Auditorium, however, Kleinhans features the distinctive elliptical volume of the smaller auditorium extending from the front of the lobby. The use of brick on the exterior of the large auditorium and limestone on the smaller one, further articulates these two spaces. Acoustics were a primary concern in the design of the Kleinhans and careful consideration was given to every feature that would affect sound. The Saarinens consciously strove to achieve a building that would perform as well and be as pleasing to the eye as the finest violin.[4] The result was a technically and aesthetically superb concert hall.

As a small town, school plant building, the Baker High School Auditorium did not employ all of the advanced materials of the Kleinhans or other famous venues, but its architect's careful use of the fan shape plan with a parabolic ceiling curvature and sloped seating floor made it an acoustical success. For many years, Baker's Children's Theater brought productions like *Hansel and Gretel*, *Alice and Wonderland*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* to the stage of the auditorium.[5] All who remember these and other performances in the auditorium attest to the excellent acoustics the design provided.[6]

In Louisiana, another example of an auditorium that displays its fan-shaped plan on its exterior is Lafayette's Municipal Auditorium (now the Heymann Center for the Performing Arts). It was designed by Louisiana architect A. Hays Town in 1957 and completed in 1960. It is certain that Town would have

[2] Michael Barron, *Auditorium Acoustics and Architectural Design* (New York: Taylor & Francis, 2009), 92.
[3] Barron, 96.
[4] Carolyn Pitts, National Register Nomination for the Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York (History Division, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1989).
[5] Caillouet, 105.
[6] Pete Heine, Jack Milton, Margie Milton, Cheryl Ory and Betty Skinner Tucker, interview by author, Baker, LA, March 6, 2013.

been familiar with the form of the Kleinhans Music Hall when he conceived his plan for Lafayette. During his studies at Tulane School of Architecture, he found Eliel Saarinen to be one of his favorite modernist architects.[7] The fact that he designed a fan-shaped auditorium for the Town of Lafayette at approximately the same time the Baker High School Auditorium was constructed again suggests A. Hays Town as its likely architect. Town's design for the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium is a clear example of the International style. It features a smooth façade with an expanse of glass wrapping the gentle bow of its front elevation. The Baker High School Auditorium, on the other hand, demonstrates a greater commonality with the Kleinhans Music hall through its use of brick, vertical division of the front elevation, windowless façade, and pronounced front roof overhang.

Conclusion

When the Baker High School Auditorium was constructed, as Pete Heine recalls, "It was really something in Baker. . . . It was unusual architecture and it caught the eye of everyone."[8]

Heine, who served as the mayor of Baker for over twenty years said, "At first it was a shock, but we were all proud of the fact of the architecture and how it was designed because it was so unusual; especially for a little sleepy town like Baker."[9] The Baker High School Auditorium's unapologetically bold modern aesthetic stands in stark contrast to much of the architecture of Baker. Its architectural and acoustical design is a remarkable example of mid-century institutional modernism and the use of the most up-to-date acoustical theory in the context of the small community. When the auditorium was completed in 1959, it was the architectural crown of the school's campus and a landmark and beacon for the community. It is for this that it is being nominated to the National Register.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Baker was established as a town in the 1880s. It began as a railroad stop deriving its name from a plantation in the area and in 1888, the post office of a nearby plantation was relocated to the new village.[10] Homes were soon built around the railroad stop and post office. By the end of the nineteenth century, residents were also seeking locations for a school and church. According to local history, in the 1890s some children of Baker attended school in area homes. Subsequently, classes were held at several different sites including the original one-room Presbyterian church. It seems that Baker High School was established at its present site in the 1910s.

The first buildings on the site were wood frame, but in the early 1920s, an impressive, two-story brick school was constructed.[11] For rural communities in Louisiana, such buildings signified a "coming of age" in local education. In the 1910s and 1920s, these buildings were the apex of educational architecture. It should be understood that the progress in education promised by these schools was generally available only to white children. Schools in Louisiana did not become fully integrated until the 1970s. African-American children of the Baker area attended classes on the campus of Leland College, a black college founded during the Reconstruction era that moved to Baker in 1923.

By the end of the 1930s, progressive educational ideals combined with abstract modernist aesthetics affected new directions in school plant design and the grand edifices of the previous generation were quickly perceived as inadequate. Baker's own proud brick school and accessory buildings received a

[7] Sachs, 24.
[8] Pete Heine, interview by author, Baker, LA, March 6, 2013.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Caillouet, 49.
[11] Ibid., 86-90.

rather scathing assessment in a 1941 survey of the parish's schools. The investigators reported, "This school plant consists of one main two-story brick building, a gymnasium, and a three-room frame cottage used for home economics. Out of a possible 100 points, the plant scored 45. To the average person this building appears to be fairly well planned. In many respects, however, it is lacking in essential features which make a good school plant."[12] The surveyors went on to complain about the poor orientation of the windows for natural lighting and several fire hazards, among other topics.

The school plants of the late 1930s to 1960s ushered in a specialization of spaces accompanied by conscious architectural articulation of such. In this atmosphere, auditoriums slowly gained a new prominence in the school plant. The historic context "Louisiana Architecture 1945-1965: Modernism Triumphant – Commercial and Institutional Buildings" sums up the overall picture of mid-century schools in Louisiana thusly: "The majority (perhaps the vast majority) might best be termed 'no style.' Typically they are brick veneer, flat roofed buildings defined by ranges of classrooms with big groupings of metal windows. Auditoriums are articulated as larger squared-off spaces."[13]

The part of Baker High School begun in 1949 and attributed to A. Hays Town fits into this ubiquitous mode of school design. It is now overwhelmed by a 1972 addition, but the character of the 1950s buildings can still be perceived. In 1949-1950, the first building of Baker High School's modern campus was completed and additional acreage was purchased so that the site included twenty-two acres. In subsequent years, an industrial arts building, gymnasium, cafeteria, six classrooms, and a band room were added. The decade's construction culminated with the expansion of the library and breezeway, the erection of covered walkways and the completion of the choral room and auditorium.[14] The classroom and office spaces are one-story brick buildings with large banks of windows located on the preferred north and south elevations for the classrooms. The gymnasium rises above these low buildings and features a low pitched gable roof. For many schools, such a building also served as the auditorium. This was the case at the Zachary Colored Junior High School that A. Hays Town designed in 1950 for Baker's neighboring town of Zachary. Even dedicated auditorium buildings were often given little more exterior design detail than the gymnasium, so the sophistication of Baker High School Auditorium's architectural composition is particularly striking for a small town like Baker.

Historical Note

Former Baker mayor, Pete Heine remembers serving as the Master of Ceremonies when Ernest Tubb played in the Baker High School Auditorium. Baker residents also note that one of the community's most important annual events, the carnival ball, was held in the auditorium.[15] As mentioned above, the local Children's Theater presented musicals and plays in the auditorium.[16] For the town of Baker, the Baker High School Auditorium is a place of many shared memories. As part of a plan to renovate Baker High

[12] Division of Surveys and Field Studies, George Peabody College, *The Public Schools of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana* (Division of Surveys and Field Studies, George Peabody College, 1941), 145.
[13] Jonathan and Donna Fricker, "Louisiana Architecture 1945-1965: Modernism Triumphant – Commercial and Institutional Buildings," Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2010, http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/modernismtriumphantfinalrevised.pdf (accessed January 23, 2013).
[14] Elida Caillouet, ed. *Baker: The First 200 Years, 1776-1976* (Baton Rouge, LA: The City of Baker, 1976), 102.
[15] Pete Heine, Jack Milton, Margie Milton, Cheryl Ory and Betty Skinner Tucker, interview by author, Baker, LA, March 6, 2013.
[16] Caillouet, 105.

School, the auditorium is to be restored to use and it is hoped that it will soon again be a place where many new memories will be created for the students and the community alike.

Although this social history indicates the auditorium has local significance in this area as well, not enough supporting documentation was found during the research for this nomination to make this case satisfactorily. There is no archive of Baker newspapers from the period of significance in Baker. Only an incomplete collection of papers is held in another parish and it was beyond the scope of this nomination to search through these. Baker High School yearbooks of this period are likewise dispersed and none were available for study during the preparation of the nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Barron, Michael. *Auditorium Acoustics and Architectural Design.* New York: Taylor & Francis, 2009.

Caillouet, Elida, ed. *Baker: The First 200 Years, 1776-1976.* Baton Rouge, LA: The City of Baker, 1976.

Division of Surveys and Field Studies, George Peabody College. *The Public Schools of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.* Division of Surveys and Field Studies, George Peabody College, 1941.

Frampton, Kenneth. *Modern Architecture: A Critical History.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Fricker, Jonathan and Donna. "Louisiana Architecture 1945-1965: Modernism Triumphant – Commercial and Institutional Buildings." Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2010. http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/modernismtriumphantfinalrevised.pdf (accessed January 23, 2013).

Heine, Pete, Jack Milton, Margie Milton, Cheryl Ory and Betty Skinner Tucker. Interview by author, Baker, LA, March 6, 2013.

Kingsley, Karen. *Buildings of Louisiana.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Baker Presbyterian Church, Baker, Louisiana. Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1990.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cushman House, Baker, Louisiana. Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1991.

Pitts, Carolyn. National Register Nomination for the Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York. History Division, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1989.

Sachs, David H. *The Life and Work of the Twentieth-Century Louisiana Architect A. Hays Town.* Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2003.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles.* Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

____ 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:
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ___N/A_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___.25 acres_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__n/a_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 30.587646	Longitude: -91.164159
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

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.)

The southern boundary line of the property nominated runs along the midpoint between the candidate building and the building behind it to the south. The northern line of the boundary runs along the southern edge of the sidewalk in front of the candidate building. The eastern line of the boundary runs along the western edge of the sidewalk that parallels Epperson Street. The western line of the boundary runs between the adjacent high school building and the candidate building. See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses the entirety of the subject of this nomination, the Baker High School Auditorium and excludes the remainder of the Baker High School property that was not determined to be eligible for the National Register at this time.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Ewen Blokker
organization: Southeast Preservation
street & number: 11627 Hwy 37
city or town: Greensburg state: LA zip code: 70441
e-mail lblokker@sepreservation.com
telephone: 985-514-7835
date: Spring 2013

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Baker High School Auditorium

City or Vicinity: Baker

County: East Baton Rouge State: LA

Photographer: Laura Blokker

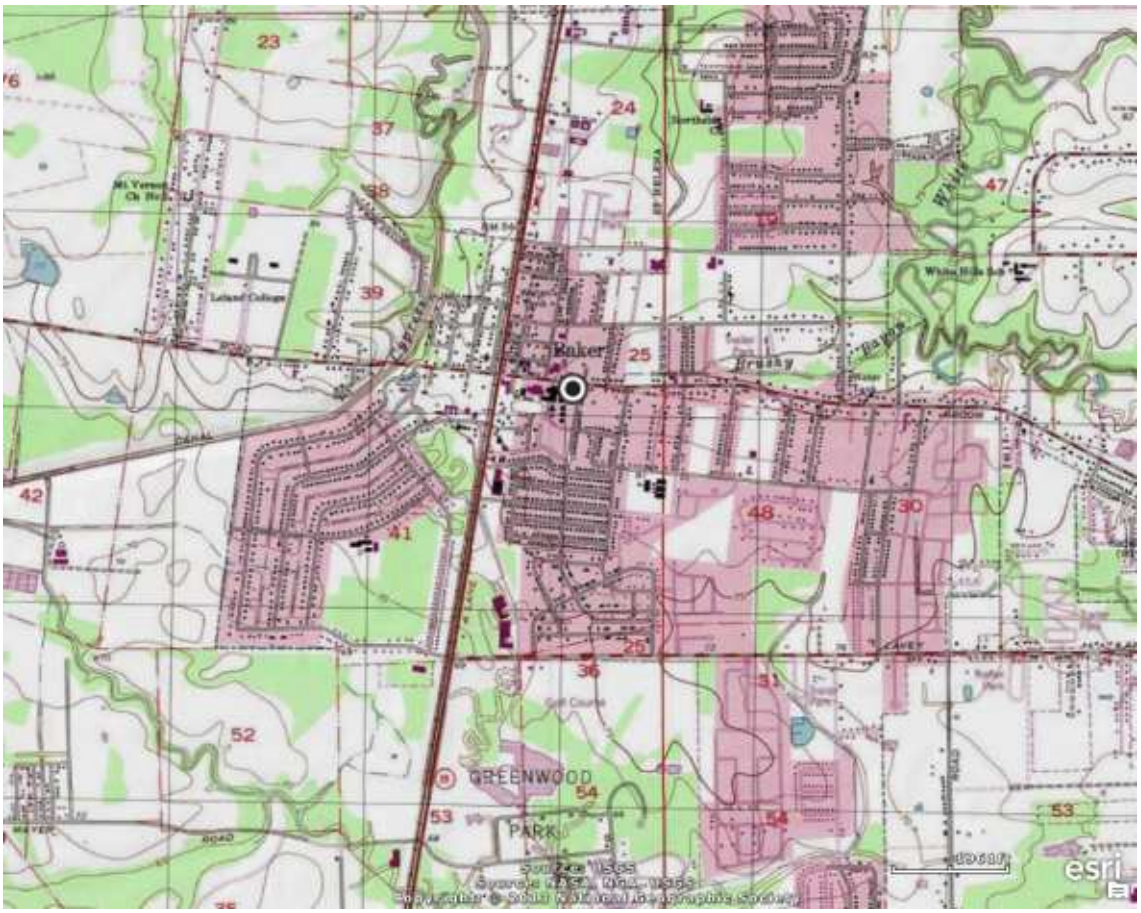
Date Photographed: January-May 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 9: Camera facing south and showing view of front (north) façade.
2 of 9: Camera facing south and showing view of left (eastern) portion of front façade.
3 of 9: Camera facing northwest and showing east elevation.
4 of 9: Camera facing northwest and showing rear (south) elevation and rear portion of east elevation.
5 of 9: Camera facing northeast and showing west elevation and rear (south) elevation.
6 of 9: Camera facing west and showing interior view of lobby.
7 of 9: Camera facing east and showing interior view of lobby.
8 of 9: Camera facing south and showing interior view of stage.
9 of 9: Camera facing northeast and showing interior view of auditorium from the stage.

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.

Baker High School Auditorium, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



Latitude: 30.587646 Longitude: -91.164159

Baker High School Auditorium, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Latitude: 30.587646 Longitude: -91.164159

Scale: 1 inch = 25 feet
Boundary: ———————

Baker High School Auditorium, Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

EXIT

BHS