NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Louisiana Superdome
Other Names/Site Number: Mercedes-Benz Superdome
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 1500 Sugar Bowl Dr
City or town: New Orleans State: LA County: 071 Orleans
Not for Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets, meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

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

12-7-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: Phil Boggan, 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 Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

✓ entered in the National Register on 1-26-2016 due to weather-related govt shutdown
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

1-27-2016

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

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.)

x	Building(s)
	District
	Site
	Structure
	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	0	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	0	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Recreation & Culture: Sports Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Recreation & Culture: Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Other: Domed Stadium

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: concrete
walls: anodized aluminum siding
roof: steel, polyurethane, Hypalon coating
other: steel framing

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.)

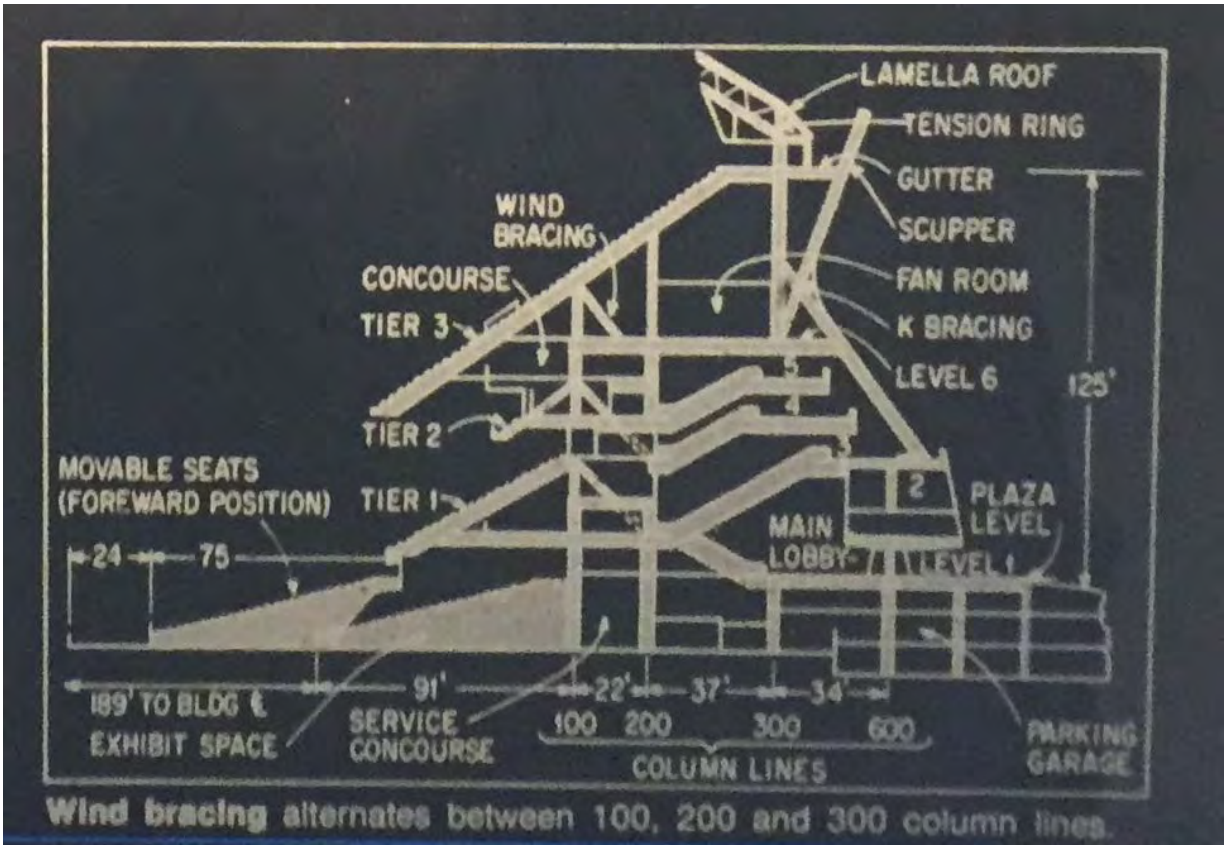
Summary Paragraph
The Louisiana Superdome (here in referred to as the Superdome) is located in the downtown Central Business District of New Orleans and is an icon of the city's skyline. The structure sits on 52 acres of land and the building itself covers 13 acres. It is a steel frame circular structure with a domed roof that is 273 ft. in height and 680 ft. in diameter - the largest single span dome in the United States. The foundation is poured concrete, the framing steel, and the roof is made of steel, polyurethane, and Hypalon waterproof coating. The sides are clad in champagne colored anodized aluminum siding, made specifically for the Superdome. The Superdome was designed by renowned modernist New Orleans architects Curtis and Davis in 1967, and resembles a giant spaceship. Completed in 1975, the Superdome has undergone several renovations, but has maintained its use as a stadium and entertainment complex as well as its overall historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Setting
The Superdome is located in downtown New Orleans, Louisiana. It is bounded on its own 52-acre site by West Stadium Drive to the northwest, Sugar Bowl Drive to the northeast, Dave Dixon Drive to the southwest and LaSalle Street to the southeast. Beyond these streets lie Poydras Avenue to the northeast, Claiborne Avenue/US Highway 90 to the northwest, and Interstate 10 to the southwest. The Superdome site is within walking distance of the Central Business District and the French Quarter. The stadium is joined on its site with the Smoothie King Center, a 17,000 sq. ft. arena, used for professional basketball and entertainment events. The remaining area of the site is reserved for access roads and parking for the two venues.

Structure (See Figures 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23, and 25)
The Superdome sits atop a multi-story rectangular plinth that houses parking for the stadium. The overall area of the property is 52 acres. The arena itself covers 13 acres, is circular in plan, and is set in a slightly bowed square base. It is constructed of concrete and steel with 680 ft. diameter steel lamella dome roof with a height of 273 ft. at the center. This Superdome was the largest single span domed structure in the world at the time of construction. The weight of the structure is supported by 2,100 pre-stressed concrete pilings, each consisting of two eighty-foot lengths joined by steel collars

and driven to a depth of 165 feet. Additionally, 5,000 eighty-foot pilings support the garage portion of the building and 65 foot-long pilings sit under the concrete floor, which form the support for the field. 169,000 cubic yards of concrete and 20,000 tons of steel were used in the construction of the Superdome. 96 support columns form a circle upon which the steel dome rests. Additional support columns form a squared circle ("squircle") within the circle that supports the seating decks. [1] The lower superstructure, consisting of columns, beams, joists, and slabs are constructed of regular weight concrete, and steel is used for the structure above 37 ft. The exterior steel frame is known as a "K-frame" design, which creates the curved exterior appearance. This design provides structural support as well as the architect's desired aesthetic. The main entry level and playing field are 25 ft. above grade due to the high water table in New Orleans. According to the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District (LSED) engineer, in 1973, because of the geographic location of New Orleans, "We couldn't excavate here because of the water table, so the playing field is at street level. However, a plaza level was created around the building at 25 ft about the street so that the flow of people to and from the seats still originates and ends at the middle of the structure."[2] A series of ramps allow vertical movement through the building along with 10 elevators and 32 escalators.[3]



Section drawing of the Superdome's structure. Image courtesy of *Engineering News Record*, March 22, 1973.

[1] Curtis and Davis, Architects, "Louisiana Superdome", unpublished documents, Held in Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, circa 1967-1976.
[2] "World's largest steel dome spans 680 ft over Superdome." *Engineering News Record*, March 22, 1973, pg. 67.
[3] Nathaniel C. Curtis, The Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans: CLG Productions, 1976.

The roof is constructed with 7 ft. 3 in. deep steel trusses in a diamond pattern, and the entire roof system is tied into a 9 ft. deep steel tension ring supported by the main columns at 22 ft. 6 in. intervals. The tension ring rests on 4 in. rocker bearings, which permit movement of structural members due to temperature fluctuations. The 9.7-acre lamella domed roof consists of 20 gauge steel roof decking, a 1 in. layer of polyurethane foam insulation, and 25 mm. elastomeric coating known as Hypalon, which gives the dome is bright white appearance. The engineers, Sverdrup &Parcel and Associates from St. Louis, said that the lamella roof was the most economical way to cover a structure as large as the Superdome based on engineering techniques at the time. The roof also holds water in a huge concrete gutter system that is 9 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep in order to prevent inundation of the city below from rainfall coming off the roof. Under the trusses is a ceiling of 22 gauge acoustical roof decking with fiberglass strips positioned in the perforated ribs of the deck sections.[4][5] The structure was designed to withstand sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts up to 200 mph, though this design did fail during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In a 1973 *Engineering News Record* article, states:

> "The roof was analyzed separately (from the rest of the building). According to Anderson, the worst possible condition would a suction effect on the roof. Helping to counter this, however, is a 124-ft-dia gondola hung at the center of the dome to support six 22 x 26-ft television speaker. 'The gondola added 150,000 lb of load to the roof and helped counteract uplifting suction forces,' says Anderson."[6]

This design of the gondola serving as a counterweight did work in that during Hurricane Katrina, the roof did not get sucked out, but rather individual sections of the lamella and foam insulation failed.

Exterior (see photos 1-24)
The vertical exterior is c-shaped in section, giving it the appearance of a mushroom or, as some have said, a space ship. The sides of the structure are clad in golden colored anodized aluminum siding. The white domed roof, which reaches a height of 273 ft. at the center and spans 680 ft. in diameter, is made of steel and coated in a white Hypalon plastic coating.[7]

There are 8 entrances (labeled A-H) in a circular pattern, starting at the Sugar Bowl Drive ramp and moving clockwise (see floor plan maps, Fig. 26-29). Landscaped plazas, many with native plants and trees, surround the building. Champions' Square, an outdoor arena off of LaSalle Street adjacent to the dome and connecting to Gate C, was constructed in 2010.[8]

Interior (see photos 25-37)
The interior of the stadium has 125,000,000 cubic feet of space, a height of 253 ft., and a total floor area of 269,000 square feet. Its capacity as of 2011 is 76,468 visitors. The interior features multiple levels including the field level, mezzanine level, plaza level, convention level, stadium club and press level, special boxes level, and terrace level. The original interior was designed to accommodate

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[4] "World's largest steel dome spans 680 ft over Superdome." *Engineering News Record*, March 22, 1973, pg. 67.
[5] Curtis and Davis, Architects, "Louisiana Superdome".
[6] "World's largest steel dome spans 680 ft over Superdome." *Engineering News Record*, March 22, 1973, pg. 67.
[7] Ibid.
[8] *Mercedes-Benz Superdome,* accessed Feb 24, 2015, http://superdome.s3.amazonaws.com/img/overall-full.jpg.

football, but baseball, basketball, hockey, boxing, conventions, concerts, and various other large-scale events have also occurred here. It had a seating configuration that could be changed according to what type of event the venue was hosting, using a special railing system for moving seats around. Lower tier seating was designed at such an angle that it did not block field views. The stadium was designed with skyboxes for the press and a special boxes level featuring 120 luxury suites. [9] Today, the press boxes remain and the stadium has expanded its luxury suites to 153.

Seating was designed so that colors and patterns varied from seat to seat, which helped to assist spectators in locating seats and also created the visual impression that all seats were full even if they were not. The color range of the seats and graphics were black, silver, magenta, red, orange, yellow, purple, and blue. Signage was created with architectural brown backgrounds. [10] Today the stadium still features multi-colored seats, but the colors have been scaled back to red and shades of green and blue in the middle and upper levels and black for the floor levels.

The original interior features a 75-ton gondola suspended from the ceiling containing a state of the art closed circuit television system consisting of 6 twenty-two ft. by twenty-six ft. color screens for televising events. This was the first stadium to use instant replay during sporting events via the television system. Four computerized super scoreboards, measuring 8 ft. by 88 ft. surrounded the interior.[11] Today the center gondola has been replaced by two flat screen LED jumbotrons in each end zone that serve as both scoreboards and television monitors.

Field covering was movable and removable AstroTurf by Monsanto, known in the Superdome as "MardiGrass". This turf could be unzipped and removed in large panels and stored away during events that required a hard, load-bearing surface. Utilities boxes containing electric power, water drainage, gas, and steam systems are contained within the concrete floor at 30 ft. intervals.
The Superdome also featured 150,000 sq. ft. of office space, a bank, restaurants, cocktail lounges, and shops, as well as 68 beer and concession stands, 52 meeting halls, 40 pre-game party & buffet rooms, 10 elevators, 75,000 yards of carpeted ramps and walkways, and 88 restroom facilities.[12]

Alterations

Renovations were made in 1996 that added a new entrance lobby and ticket offices, an additional concourse serving the upper level seats, refurbished ballrooms, additional accommodations for the disabled, and upgraded safety and security equipment. In 2002, the original artificial turf, known as MardiGrass, was switched to a more modern FieldTurf.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, the Superdome was used a shelter of last resort for as many as 30,000 of the city's residents. The storm damaged the exterior of the dome, shearing off parts of the roof and siding. Additionally the interior was not prepared to house that many people without running water or electricity for days, and was severely impacted.

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[9] Nathaniel C. Curtis, "The Louisiana Superdome".
[10] Ibid
[11] *Facts about the Louisiana Superdome,* New Orleans, Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, 1971, Tulane University Louisiana Research Collection.
[12] Curtis and Davis Architects, et al. "Master Plan For the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District New Orleans Louisiana". Unpublished report. Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University, New Orleans, La. c. 1973.

Between 2006 and 2011, renovations were made to the Superdome overseen by Trahan Architects of New Orleans. The first phase included repair of damage caused by the hurricane, including replacing the outer surface of the roof, installing a brilliant new video board-scoreboard-message board system, completely remodeling 38 permanent concessions stands and all three kitchens, and upgrading 8,000 Club Level sideline seats and 4,000 Box Suite seats. Additionally, 137 suites and 4 club lounges were upgraded and new state of the art technology infrastructure was installed. New windows were installed in club lounges on the second story to bring in natural light and offer views of downtown. In 2010, the aluminum siding was replaced with new siding that completely matched the original cladding and insulation returning the exterior to its original golden hue after it had faded throughout the years. A barrier system for drainage was added which allowed the dome to resemble its original façade. All restrooms were replaced, which doubled capacity.

On the interior, seating was reconfigured to allow more seating capacity, and all seats were either cleaned or replaced if damaged beyond repair. The turf was changed again in 2010 to the Speed S5M synthetic turf system created by UBU Sports. In 2011, Mercedes-Benz won the naming rights to the stadium and the name was changed to the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. [13]

Summary of Integrity

The stadium has maintained continuous use as a sports and entertainment venue for 40 years, and is a beloved landmark of New Orleans and a recognizable element to the city's skyline. While there have been several necessary alterations to both the interior and exterior of the Superdome, these alterations are cosmetic in nature and do not negatively impact the architecture or historical character of the building. Furthermore, the majority of the alterations, including the new replacement cladding and turf, were done either to match the original exactly or to mimic the original as close as possible. The overall form and design of this unique domed stadium is intact.

Despite the changes made to the Superdome, it remains largely intact with a high degree of integrity. Location, setting, materials, and original design concepts all remain intact, and due to the popularity of the site as the home of the locally beloved New Orleans Saints, it has maintained its significant features, character, and use over the years. It remains within the heart of the City of New Orleans just blocks away from the central business district and French Quarter. It also retains its integrity of feeling, association, and workmanship, as its original construction materials are intact as are the original design features of the building. For these reasons, the Louisiana Superdome is eligible for listing on the National Register as it is still a structural icon just as it was when it was completed in 1975.

8. Statement of Significance

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

x	**A**	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x	**C**	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or

[13] Trahan Architects. "Mercedes-Benz Superdome". 2014. Accessed March 2015. http://www.trahanarchitects.com/158624/4793249/featured-work/mercedes-benz-superdome

		represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations:

	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	B	Removed from its original location
	C	A birthplace or grave
	D	A cemetery
	E	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	F	A commemorative property
x	**G**	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Architecture, Engineering, Entertainment & Recreation, Social History

Period of Significance: Criterion A; 1975-2005; Criterion C: 1967-1975

Significant Dates: 1967, 1975, 2005

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

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

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Curtis, Jr., Nathaniel C., architect; Sverdrup & Parcel and Associates, engineers

Period of Significance (justification): The initial plans for the superdome were designed in 1967 and the building was completed and opened to the public in 1975. Thus, the period of significance for the building is 1975, the year of its completion.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): Though the Superdome is only 40 years old, it holds exceptional architectural significance for its architectural design and engineering feats as the largest single span dome in the country.

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 Louisiana Superdome is eligible for the National Register at the national, state, and local levels in the areas of engineering and architecture. It is also eligible at the local level under the areas of entertainment/recreation and social history. The Superdome is the largest single span dome in the nation and it is an example of Modernist architecture by a nationally recognized firm, Curtis and Davis. It is significant both architecturally and in engineering because of the design of the single span dome. The Superdome is also significant for the role it played as a shelter of last resort for the people of New Orleans during hurricane Katrina in 2005. In its forty years, it has also served as an exceptional multi-purpose entertainment venue, hosting the most Super Bowls of any stadium as well

as various sports and entertainment events ranging from basketball to pro-wrestling to a record breaking Rolling Stones concert, and the Republican National Convention. For this reason, it is also eligible under entertainment/recreation. Designed in 1967 and completed in 1975, the Superdome has achieved exceptional significance (Criterion Consideration G) in its 40 years for its engineering, architecture, social history, and entertainment/recreation, and remains eligible for listing on the National Register. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1967-1975 and under Criterion A is 1975-2005.

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

Criterion C: Engineering and Architecture

Modernist architects, Curtis and Davis, designed the Superdome in 1967. New Orleans was seeking a national football team, and giant domed stadiums were the vanguard of sports facilities at the time. Just after the city was awarded with the New Orleans Saints franchise in 1967, financing was granted for construction of the Louisiana Superdome. However, due to a political battle to stop the project, construction did not begin on the building until 1971. When construction was completed in 1975, the Superdome was the largest single span domed structure in the world.[14]

The inspiration for the Dome came from the Astrodome in Houston, and the man who put the idea into motion was Dave Dixon, a prominent New Orleans businessman and former tennis champion. He worked with the NFL to get the Saints franchise in New Orleans, and then sought to build a new stadium that would not only be home to the Saints, but also to multiple sports from high school to professional level, conventions, and concerts. Dixon earned the support of the city of New Orleans from Mayor Victor H. Schiro, and later, Governor John J. McKeithen enthusiastically supported the project. McKeithen was quoted as saying while attending a baseball game at the Astrodome, “I want one of those, only bigger.” in reference to the domed stadium.[15] In 1967, approval for construction of the stadium was passed by a constitutional amendment in the state of Louisiana.

The process of designing and building the stadium however proved to be wrought with scandal, the price tag going from $35 million to an eventual $163 million and some 22 lawsuits being brought to stop the plan. The Superdome became the first large construction project to be fully financed entirely by the southern region, and the city created a 4% hotel-motel tax in the New Orleans region to help raise capital for the project. The stadium was originally planned to be located near Lake Pontchartrain, but looking at the example of the Astrodome, located in suburban Houston and out of context with the rest of the city, Dixon sought to build the new arena in downtown New Orleans, where it would aid in drawing more tourism dollars to the city. The site c hosen, just north of the Central Business District had formerly been the site of the Girod Street Cemetery, whose graves were relocated to the Greenwood Cemetery on the edge of the city. It was also an area of railroad tracks and urban industrial blight, ripe for a makeover that would create a new image of the city.[16]

The Superdome opened to visitors and hosted its first NFL game against the Houston Oilers in August of 1975. The stadium proved to be a great success as a multipurpose venue and home of the much loved New Orleans Saints. It was considered an architectural and engineering marvel at the

[14] Dave Dixon, *The Saints, The Superdome, and The Scandal*, Gretna, La: Pelican Publishing Co, Inc., 2008.
[15] Ibid
[16] *Facts about the Louisiana Superdome,* New Orleans, Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, 1971, Tulane University Louisiana Research Collection.

time of completion and remains one today. Arthur Davis stated that, "Although it has been likened to a spaceship, the Dome is no doubt beautiful, and truly enhances and defines the New Orleans skyline."[17]

The Superdome and Domed Stadia

At the time of construction, the Superdome was the largest domed structure in the world, and today it remains the largest single span dome in the United States, making it significant in the areas of both architecture and engineering.

To get a better understanding and context of the phenomena of domed stadia in the United States, the following information on the history of domes and their use in the 20th century is taken from the recent 2014 Astrodome National Register Nomination:

> Domes have been of interest to engineers and architects for centuries because they can enclose a maximum amount of space with a minimum surface, thereby being economical in construction materials. Friedrich R. B. Zollinger, architect for the City of Dessau, Germany, first developed wood lamella roof structures in 1918 as a solution to the post-World War I housing crisis. First applied in workers' housing, the lamella design became widely used in schools, churches, and public halls. By the 1930s steel lamella roofs were utilized throughout Germany and England in aircraft hangars, factories, garages, ice rinks, sports arenas and market halls. The lamella system was imported to the United States in 1925 and was used in a wide range of projects requiring a clear span and low cost. This compressive structure, still in its arch formation, was efficient in its ability to span large areas without interruption of vertical support; it still required a secondary system of buttresses or tie rods, however, to resist the horizontal thrust of the arch. The design was lauded for its low cost, for the ease of its fabrication, and the simplicity of field construction with minimal need for form work or scaffolding. The typical method of erection involved the construction of one bay at a time, in which the lamella network could be woven upward from a supporting sill beam. The process would continue from both sides of the span, until each met at the apex of the desired arch. In early steel lamella systems, joints were fused by rivets; after 1950, bolts or field welds become more common. In the United States, the lamella system was typically executed in wood until the 1950s.
>
> Beginning in the late 1940s, Buckminster Fuller promoted the design of uninterrupted enclosures using the geodesic dome (a related framing system based on equilateral triangles), but the lamella system was infrequently utilized, and was generally overlooked in significant architectural publications such as the Museum of Modern Art's seminal Built in US.A: Postwar Architecture (1952). By midcentury, however, G.R. Kiewitt, an engineer working with Roof Structures, Inc., of Webster Groves, Missouri, endeavored to apply the basic system nationwide, and his efforts expanded the application of steel lamella systems in the U.S. Lamella units could differ in size and shape, as at the domed-roof formation of the 1957 Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena, Green Bay, Wisconsin (John Sommerville, architect), and the buttress-free system at the 1950 National Orange Show Exhibition Center, San Bernardino, California, in which the barrel form was pulled down to ground level (Harwell Hamilton Harris, architect).

[17] Arthur Q. Davis. "It Happened by Design: The Life and Work of Arthur Q. Davis." Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009. Pg. 50.

> Parallel lamella domes (including the Astrodome) are exceptional in withstanding excessive wind loadings and seismic disturbances. Lamella domes consist of a large number of similar units (lamellas) that are arranged in a diamond or rhombus pattern. Each lamella has a length that is twice the length of the side of a diamond. Roof coverings or purlins are used to triangulate the diamond and to complete stability requirements. In the 1950s and 1960s Fuller generated many protégé architects as well as publicity, leading to the general public's acceptance of the advantages of braced domes.[18]

The engineering firm of Sverdrup & Parcel and Associates out of St. Louis, Missouri, partnered with architects Curtis and Davis in the design of the single span domed roof of the Superdome.

The Engineering and Design of the Superdome

Architect Arthur Q. Davis, in describing his firm's design of the Superdome said:

> "Because the conceived dome was so much larger than the Astrodome, we had to invent a new way to create and support the enormous roof. The building was to be as large as the Coliseum in Rome, and the roof, spanning almost ten acres, would be the largest in the country. We had to solve the problem of horizontal thrust, the tendency of an arched roof to push outwards. Normally, such a design would require buttresses similar to those on the gothic cathedrals of Europe. But our engineers came up with the idea of a tension ring that went all the way round the building like a belt."[19]

Without this ingenious tension ring, the dome would collapse on itself. In addition to coming up with a unique engineering design, the Superdome also featured a distinctive architectural design.

The lamella steel dome has a diameter of 680 feet at the interior base. The dome is supported by 2,100 concrete piles, each 14 in. x 14 inches in cross sections with a capacity of 175 tons. These pilings are laid out in a circle that supports the steel dome. An additional, squared off circle of pilings within the outer ring supports the stadium's seats. Because of the soft soils upon which New Orleans sits, piles must be driven the 165 feet to bedrock in order to support large buildings. Construction of such large structures was impossible as recently as the 1950s, but new pile-driving technology (first used at the Plaza Tower, listed on the National Register in 2013) was developed that would allow piles to be driven to a point that would support the weight of the Dome.

The lamella dome is constructed with steel trusses arranged in a pattern in which some are radial (ribs) and some are skewed (lamella members), which forms that diamond pattern distinctive to lamella roofs. The roof framing system is tied together by a 9 ft. deep steel tension ring, which absorbs stresses and is supported by 96 main support columns at 22 ft. intervals. The dome is designed to withstand sustained winds of up to 150 mph and gusts of up to 200 mph. The Superdome's lamella roof is larger than that of the Astrodome (642 ft.), which previously held the record at 200 feet larger than anything constructed before it. The dome is engineered to move with wind and expand and contract due to heat cycles. It is only actually completely round on calm nights.

The designers, both engineers and architects, had to factor in the local weather, including hurricanes, into the design of the roof. The unjointed lamella skin breathes and rises and falls as much as 3

[18] National Register of Historic Places, The Astrodome, Houston, Harris County, Texas, National Register #13001099.
[19] Arthur Q. Davis,. Pg. 49.

inches depending on the temperature and wind pressure present. The pinned connections linking the vertical roof columns to the tension ring also gives up to 8 inches.[20] When the 680 ft. dome was lowered down as a single unit onto the tension ring (temporary supports held the roof up until the tension ring was completed), the entire building settled 3 1/2" under the full weight of the roof.[21]

Another unique engineering and design feature of the Superdome is the roof gutter system, which was called "the world's first elevated reservoir".[22] The design came from the need to prevent runoff from the Dome from overtaxing the city of New Orleans storm drainage system. Rainwater was designed to flow into a 9 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep gutter system, capable of holding up to 350,000 gallons at a time.

In addition to its engineering significance, the Superdome exhibits architectural significance due to its unique modernist design by the renowned architecture firm of Curtis and Davis. To find a firm to build the Superdome, Louisiana Governor John McKeithen asked the deans of the architecture schools in Louisiana to provide recommendations on firms. The two that he had to decide between were Curtis and Davis of New Orleans and Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill of New York. Initially, McKeithen wanted to go with Skidmore, but first meetings with them proved to be disappointing as Skidmore wanted to do all the design work in New York with Curtis and Davis as their junior associates locally. Curtis and Davis were also not happy with this arrangement and let the governor know he needed to pick one firm to do the job. On August 11, 1970, McKeithen officially chose Curtis and Davis.[23] Their design featured a spaceship-like exterior and domed roof. The design, completed in 1975, incorporated many contemporary Modernist materials such as concrete, steel framing, aluminum siding, and Hypalon polymer-elastic coating. In designing a building like the Superdome, Curtis and Davis were tasked with creating a closed stadium "large enough to house the most spectacular extravaganza and small enough to accommodate a poetry reading."[24]

The Architects

The firm of Curtis and Davis was founded in New Orleans in 1946. By 1967 the firm had designed buildings in 24 states as well as internationally. The two architects established their office with a commitment to the modernist aesthetic and developing new technologies in building. They were known for creating designs that were sensitive to the particular climate and needs of the location in which they were building; for example the design of the field level of the Superdome was created at 25 ft. above grade while most stadiums at the time built field levels below grade. This designed was created to address the fact that New Orleans is below sea level and sits on reclaimed swamp soils, which require elaborate pilings in order to support the weight of large structures.

Some of the firm's more prominent projects include the Intermediate School 201 in New York, a Medical Center in West Berlin, Germany, the IBM Administration and Laboratory Building in Vermont, and the Forrestal Building in Washington, D.C. Locally they designed commercial and residential buildings, including the Automotive Life Insurance Company building and numerous schools, churches, hotels, and businesses. They also designed the Angola Prison, one of the first modernist

[20] *Buildings: Marvels of Engineering*. Washington DC: National Geographic Society, 1992, pg. 158.
[21] Ibid, pg. 159.
[22] Curtis and Davis, Architects, "Louisiana Superdome"
[23] Arthur Q. Davis, pg. 48.
[24] *Buildings: Marvels of Engineering,* pg. 156.

prison schemes, and went on to become a national leader in prison design, creating plans for over 50 facilities throughout the country.[25]

As project director, Nathaniel C. Curtis wanted to create "a classical amphitheater envisioned in modern terms".[26] With this in mind, the stadium was designed with the needs of spectators at the forefront, while the rest came from how to structurally support these needs. Computer analysis was used in the creation of the stadium plans, making this the first large domed stadium to use computers in its design. The stadium was unique in its design to accommodate multiple uses. Previously stadiums were designed as single sport venues. The Superdome, in contrast was designed as a venue for multiple sports, conventions, and events ranging from Mardi Gras balls to a visit from the Pope. This was accomplished through the adjustment of seats, which could be moved on rails in order to reconfigure field and seating arrangements. Additionally, the state of the art closed-circuit television system, which featured giant screens mounted on a gondola from the center of the roof, allowed visitors the new experience of close-up views from anywhere in the stadium and the ability to view instant replay during the game in a stadium for the first time ever. Giant screens would go on to be the norm in sports arenas.

The Superdome's Impact and Accolades

The Superdome can be compared to the Astrodome, which was at the time of construction, the largest single span dome in the world. Technology for this stadium was looked to as an example and then improved upon greatly with the help of computers. The result was that the Superdome trumped the Astrodome becoming the largest single span domed structure in the world, until the Millennium Dome (with a 1,050 ft. diameter) was built in London in 1999. It remains the largest single span dome in the United States. The Superdome influenced the design for the Kingdome in Seattle, completed in 1976, and the Metrodome in Minneapolis (both now demolished). Another domed stadium built after in 1975 was the Pontiac Silverdome in Michigan. The Georgia Dome in Atlanta, built in 1992, became the largest cable supported dome in the world. Reliant Stadium in Houston, finished in 2002, became the first United States football stadium to have a retractable domed roof.[27]

The Superdome was featured in several publications over the years including *Engineering News Record* in March of 1973 when it was the cover article 2 years prior to being completed, *Flooring* magazine in 1976 in an article titled, "Carpeting the Superdome," in *Sky* magazine in an article titled, "In Pursuit of the Dome," in 1985, and in a book called *The Buildings: Marvels of Engineering* published by the National Geographic Society in 1992.

In 1975, the Superdome was awarded the American Institute of Architects' Honor Award.[28] This award began in 1949 and recognizes achievements for a broad range of architectural activity to elevate the general quality of architecture practice, establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure performance, and inform the public of the breadth and value of their contributions.[29] In 2012, the Superdome won an "Excellence in Live Design Award," because of its state of the art lighting added following its 2006 renovation.[30]

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[25] Curtis and Davis, Architects, "Louisiana Superdome"
[26] Curtis, Nathaniel C. The Louisiana Superdome. New Orleans: CLG Productions, 1976.
[27] National Register of Historic Places, The Astrodome, Houston, Harris County, Texas, National Register #13001099.
[28] Arthur Q. Davis, pg. 50.
[29] "Honor Awards History." The American Institute of Architects: www.aia.org. Accessed July 10, 2015.
[30] "Update: Superdome Lighting Wins International Award."

The Louisiana Superdome is eligible for National Register listing for its significance at the national, state, and local levels for its state of the art engineering and for its unique architectural design.

Criterion A: Entertainment & Recreation

The Superdome is significant under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation at the local and state levels of significance. The building's local and statewide significance under this criterion is due to the fact that the Superdome has played an important role in the cultural and civic life of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana as a whole. The building has been a venue for professional, college, and high school sports, concerts, conventions, and many other important gatherings.

Originally conceived as a stadium that would house football, the Superdome has also hosted baseball, basketball, and other sports and entertainment events. These events range from boxing, a visit from the Pope, the Republican National Convention, WrestleMania, and the Essence Music Festival, but now the venue is primarily used for football and occasionally other entertainment events. Perhaps most notably, the Superdome has hosted the most Super Bowls of any arena in the United States with seven of these events held in 1978, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1997, 2002, and 2013. [31] Its size, iconic look, and downtown New Orleans location make it a top choice as a sports and entertainment venue at the local level.

The following are a sampling of the events held at the Superdome since its construction in 1975:

- In 1981, the Rolling Stones set a record for the largest crowd at an indoor event with 87,500 attendees. [32]
- When Pope John Paul II visited in 1987, 80,000 people were in attendance.[33]
- The NCAA Men's Final Four has been held here 5 times, in 1982, 1987, 1993, 2003, and 2012. It also set the Final Four record at the time of 64,959 fans in 1987.[34]
- The Dome has hosted the Essence Music Festival every year since 1995 (with the exception of 2006 when the stadium was under repairs from damage sustained during Hurricane Katrina), and has included world famous acts such as Aretha Franklin, The Roots, Prince, and Beyoncé.
- The Republican National Convention of 1988 was held at the Superdome.
- In 1978, Muhammad Ali won his last professional fight here against Leon Spinks
- The U.S. Gymnastics National championships were held here in 1995.
- New Orleans Jazz (now Utah Jazz) played here from 1975-79 and set a then record in attendance for an NBA game for the Jazz, led by Pete Maravich, versus the Philadelphia 76ers, led by now Hall of Famer, Julius Erving
- College football bowl games including the Sugar Bowl and New Orleans Bowl as well as the Bayou Classic
- WrestleMania XXX was held in the stadium in 2014.

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www.solomongroup.com/news/dome_live_design_award. Accessed January 22, 2016.

[31] *Mercedes-Benz Superdome Homepage.* Accessed Feb 24, 2015. http://www.mbsuperdome.com/about-us/event-highlights.

[32] Arthur Q. Davis, Pg. 50.

[33] Ibid.

[34] Ibid.

- Performances by acts such as Bob Hope, Johnny Cash and June Carter, the Allman Brothers, the Isley Brothers, the Temptations, Tim McGraw, Jay Z, One Direction, and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus[35]

In addition to these events, the Superdome also included several firsts for technological innovations in domed stadia. As mentioned before, instant replay was first used at the Superdome on its many large screens throughout the building. The 75-ton center gondola displayed six giant TV screens to all spectators in the stadium and was the first of its kind. Unlike the earlier Astrodome, the Superdome became the first domed stadium to be designed using early computer technology. Computer modeling assisted in creating the unique system of movable seating arrangements, allowing the stadium to be truly multi-purpose.

While the Superdome was certainly important locally and statewide as a sports venue, it also greatly impacted the economy of the city. From 1975 to 1990, the economic impact of the Superdome was $3.93 billion. The 1988 Republican National Convention alone had a $140 million impact on the city at a time when overall, the city's economy was depressed.[36] For all of the above reasons, the Superdome is significant at the local and state level under Criterion A in the area of entertainment and recreation.

Criterion A: Social History

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, and the Superdome became a shelter of last resort for almost 10,000 of the city's residents who could not evacuate. As floodwaters inundated the city, between 15,000 and 20,000 more people were brought to the Superdome by rescue teams. Many people arrived with limited belongings or only the clothes on their backs, expecting to be in the Dome for only a day or two. The stadium was not prepared to handle such a large number of people and without electricity or running water, sanitary conditions soon broke down.[37] The Superdome made national news in the aftermath of the storm as the desperate situation was brought to the attention of the entire country. Stories were documented in national television and print media coverage all over the country.[38] Several holes were torn in the roof and the stadium flooded at field level. A makeshift dam had to be created in order to protect emergency generators from floodwaters, which would have left the Superdome in total darkness and likely resulted in even more tragedy.

Left in sweltering heat with limited supplies of water and food, people began to panic, especially when they were informed that they could not leave. While first aid stations were set up, many people were forced to go without medications and treatment. People inside claimed to have heard or seen gunshots, and several rapes were reported, along with seven deaths before the stadium could be fully evacuated on September 4. Throughout the evacuation process, people continued to arrive at the Superdome, hoping to get on a bus out of the city, but eventually people were turned away. By the

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[35] *Mercedes-Benz Superdome Homepage.* Accessed Feb 24, 2015. http://www.mbsuperdome.com/about-us/event-highlights.

[36] Davis, pg. 51.

[37] Jeff Duncan, "The Superdome: Refuge of Last Resort, parts 1-5." *Times-Picayune*. Aug. 27-30, 2006. Accessed through nola.com. March 2015. http://www.nola.com/katrina/index.ssf/2006/08/refuge_of_last_resort_1.html#incart_story_package

[38] Scott Gold, "Trapped in the Superdome: Refuge becomes a Hellhole". *The Seattle Times*. Sept. 1, 2005. Accessed through online archive, March 2015. http://old.seattletimes.com/html/hurricanekatrina/2002463400_katrinasuperdome01.html

end of the evacuation, an estimated 41,400 people were bussed from the Superdome to the Astrodome in Houston. The Superdome became a symbol of the breakdown and failure of government at the state and local levels in disaster preparedness, and a symbol to the nation of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath in New Orleans. While it was a symbol of breakdown and tragedy, many lessons have been learned from this disaster and aftermath, helping to hopefully prepare our cities, states, and nation for any future disasters. Speculation arose that the stadium would have to be demolished, but the State of Louisiana chose to renovate and repair the arena beginning in 2006. [39] Because of the role it took on following Hurricane Katrina, the Superdome is also eligible under Criterion A: Social History at the local and state levels.
Architect Arthur Q. Davis summed up the Superdome's impact in a book on his life and work by saying:

> "The Louisiana Superdome has stood the test of time. Many domes have been built since, but I don't believe any has a better design, and that includes those with retractable roofs. They are trendy and theatrical, but I don't think they make for a better building. The Dome personified New Orleans even before August 29, 2005, but now, thanks to Hurricane Katrina and the Saints' remarkable 2006 season, the Dome is known the world over as a symbol of great tragedy, and of almost unbelievable triumph. I never doubted that the Dome could survive even the strongest hurricane…The whole world knows what happened to the roof during the storm, and what happened when angry and frustrated evacuees took out their emotion on the interior of the Dome. But through it all, the building itself stood firm.
>
> The cost to rehabilitate the Dome exceeded what it cost to build it, but it is hard to question the economic and emotional necessity of reopening the stadium. On September 26, 2006, when the Saints rushed onto the field, the crowd shook the Dome with shouts of joy, and there was not a dry eye in the house. Almost four months later, the Saints won another playoff game in the Dome. As a result, the Dome became a symbol once again, of a city rising up from its darkest hour."[40]

Exceptional Significance in Forty Years
Though the superdome is currently only 40 years old, it should be considered for exceptional significance under Criterion C: architecture for its distinctive design and for its engineering feats as the largest single span dome in the country. The engineering used to create the Superdome opened the door for all future stadiums and helped to make our large scale entertainment venues function at a higher level. In an almost democratic nod, all seats within the stadium would now have the same unobstructed view of whatever event was going on, further enhancing the visitor's experience. Furthermore, it is exceptionally significant locally and statewide within the area of entertainment and recreation and social history. Though it is a relatively young building, it has played an exceptional role in the architectural, social, and entertainment history of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, and the United States.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

[39] Duncan, "The Superdome: Refuge of Last Resort, parts 1-5."
[40] Arthur Q. Davis, pg. 51.

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"World's largest steel dome spans 680 ft over Superdome." *Engineering News Record*, March 22, 1973, pg. 67.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_____ previously listed in the National Register
_____previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
_____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:
_x___ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
_____ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_x__ Other
Name of repository: __Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University_____

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 52 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 29.952967 Longitude:-90.082674
2. Latitude: 29.951477 Longitude:-90.078534
3. Latitude: 29.949128 Longitude:-90.079684
4. Latitude: 29.950809 Longitude:-90.083764

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The property is located on Square # 398 and is bounded by Sugar Bowl Dr. to the northeast, LaSalle St to the southeast, Dave Dixon Dr. to the southwest, and West Stadium Dr. to the northwest. See submitted boundary map for clarification.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
These boundaries were selected because they are the boundaries shown on the New Orleans Assessor's map for the property and are the historic boundaries associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amanda Keith
organization: Tulane University Masters of Preservation Studies Program
street & number: 2809 St Charles Ave Apt H
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code:70115
e-mail: akeith@tulane.edu

telephone: 618-420-5117
date: March 3, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Louisiana Superdome
City or Vicinity:	New Orleans
County:	Orleans
State:	Louisiana
Name of Photographer:	Amanda Keith
Location of Original Digital Files:	2809 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70115
Date of Photographs:	March 3, 2015 & June 19, 2015
Number of Photos:	37

Photos # 1 & 2 of 36: Superdome from S. Claiborne Ave at Second St.; Camera View to NE

Photos # 3 & 4 of 36: View to Erato Street & Interstate 10 ramp; Camera View to NE

Photo # 5 of 36: View from intersection of LaSalle and Dave Dixon Dr; Camera View to NW

Photos # 6 & 7 of 36: View from Smoothie King Center Box Office; Camera View to N-NE

Photos # 8-10 of 36: View from Smoothie King Center parking lot; Camera View to NW

Photos # 11-19 of 36: Views from top of Champions Square parking garage; Camera View to NW

Photos # 20 & 21 of 36: View from Sugar Bowl Drive at Interstate10 and Poydras; Camera View to S

Photos # 22 of 36: View from Poydras; Camera View to W-SW

Photo # 23 of 36: View from press box looking towards the end zone; Camera View to S

Photo # 24 of 36: View from press box looking directly across to seating; Camera View to E

Photo # 25 of 36: View from press box to end zone; Camera View to the N

Photo # 26 of 36: View of the seats looking down to the floor from the press box; Camera View Down

Photo # 27 of 36: View of the domed ceiling from the press box; Camera View Up

Photo # 28 of 36: View along press box towards end zone; Camera View to N

Photo # 29 of 36: View from center of the floor looking to center of the domed ceiling; Camera View Up

Photo # 30 of 36: View from floor of the stadium; Camera View to NE

Photo # 31 of 36: View from floor of the stadium; Camera View to W

Photo # 32 of 36: View from floor of the stadium; Camera View to S

Photo # 33 of 36: View from middle seating section showing open sight lines; Camera View to N

Photo # 34 of 36: View from middle seating section showing luxury suites and press boxes; Camera View to NW

Photo # 35 of 36: View from middle seating section of floor without turf; Camera View to S

Photo # 36 of 36: View from middle seating section of floor and stands; Camera View to S

Figures Log

Figure 1. Dave Dixon, driving force behind the creation of the Superdome in front of the structure in 1975; Source: Times-Picayune archives, nola.com

Figure 2. Color photo of the Superdome c. 1970s; Source: www.bigbluehistory.net

Figure 3. The Superdome during construction of the lamella roof, View along Poydras from Baronne; Source: www.nutrias.org

Figure 4. Aerial shot of the Superdome c. 1970s; Source: www.stadiafile.com

Figure 5. Aerial shot of the Superdome adjacent to the Smoothie King Center and in relation to downtown New Orleans; Source: photo courtesy http://philip.greenspun.com.

Figure 6. Interior fish-eye view of the Superdome from third tier, end zone seats; Source: www.stadiafile.com

Figure 7. Roof damage caused by Hurricane Katrina; Source: www.media.npr.org

Figure 8. USGS Aerial satellite view of Hurricane Katrina damage to Superdome's roof, including flooding; Source: USGS

Figure 9. USGS Aerial satellite view of renovated Superdome just before hosting the 2013 Super Bowl; Source: USGS

Figure 10. Original plan drawing Louisiana Superdome, overall site plan; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 11. Cross section at North end zone, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 12. Cross section showing pilings supporting seats, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 13. Gutter system, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 14. Lamella dome, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 15. Floor plan, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 16. Construction of lamella dome, c. 1974; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 17. Construction photo of pilings and walls; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 18. Aerial view of construction; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 19. Construction photos of roof; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 20. Lamella dome construction; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 21. Cross section illustration showing stands; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 22. Construction photo with tension ring for lamella dome; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 23. Plan view of the Superdome with garages. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

Figure 24. Plan view of field. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

Figure 25. Seating chart of Plaza Level (floor) seating. Mercedes- Benz Superdome website.

Figure 26. Seating chart of Loge level (Club) seating. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

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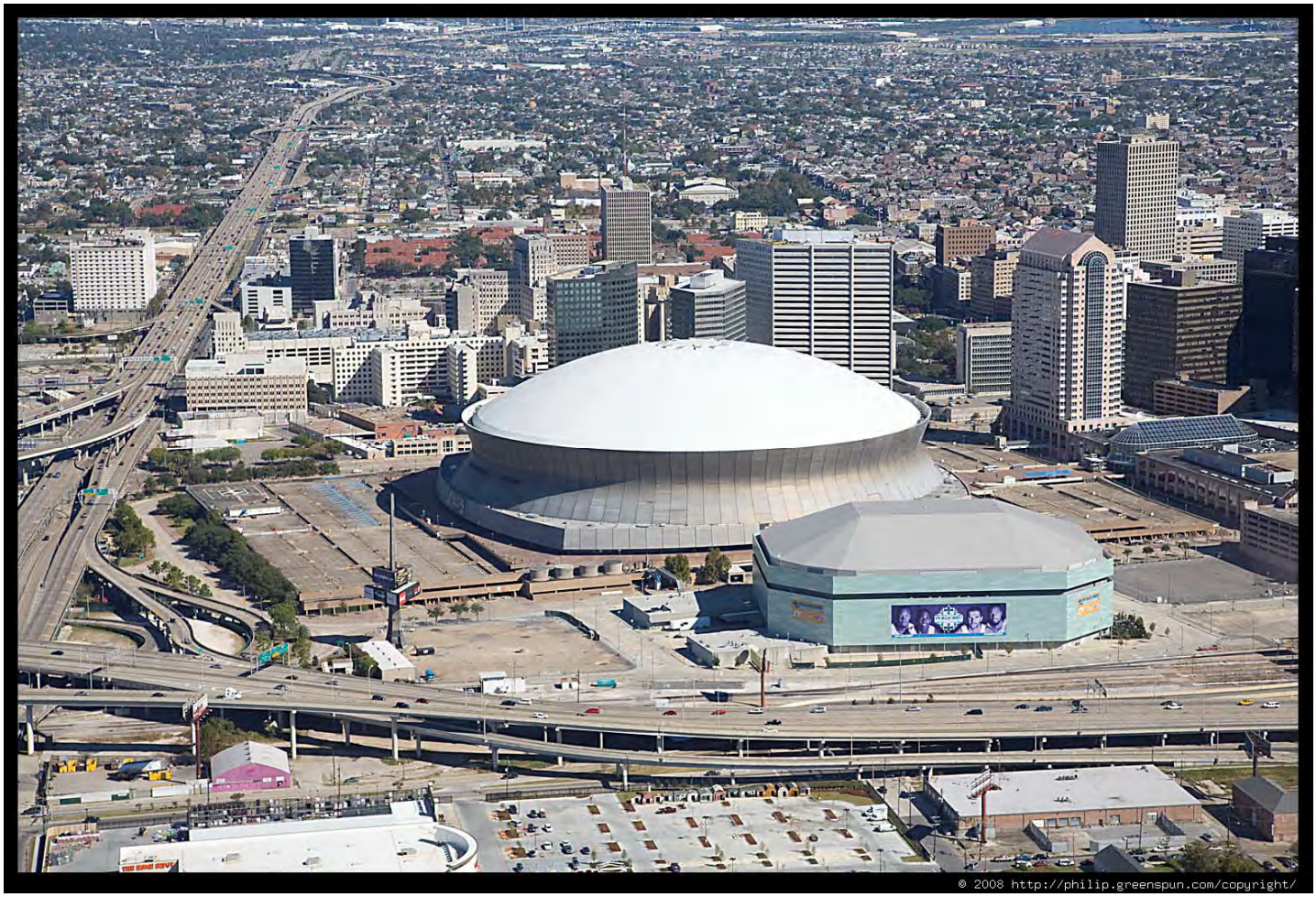

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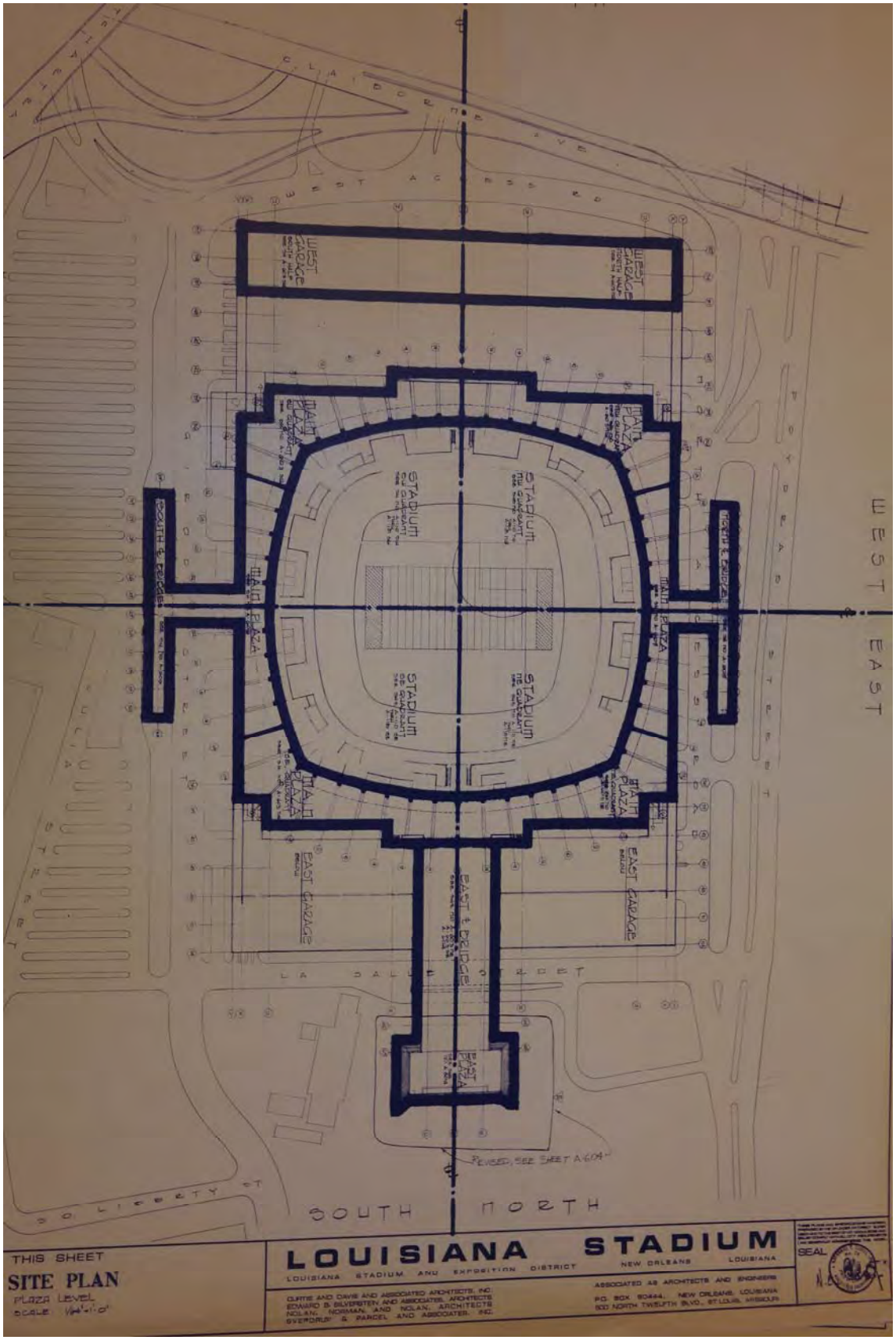

Figure 10. Original plan drawing Louisiana Superdome, overall site plan; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

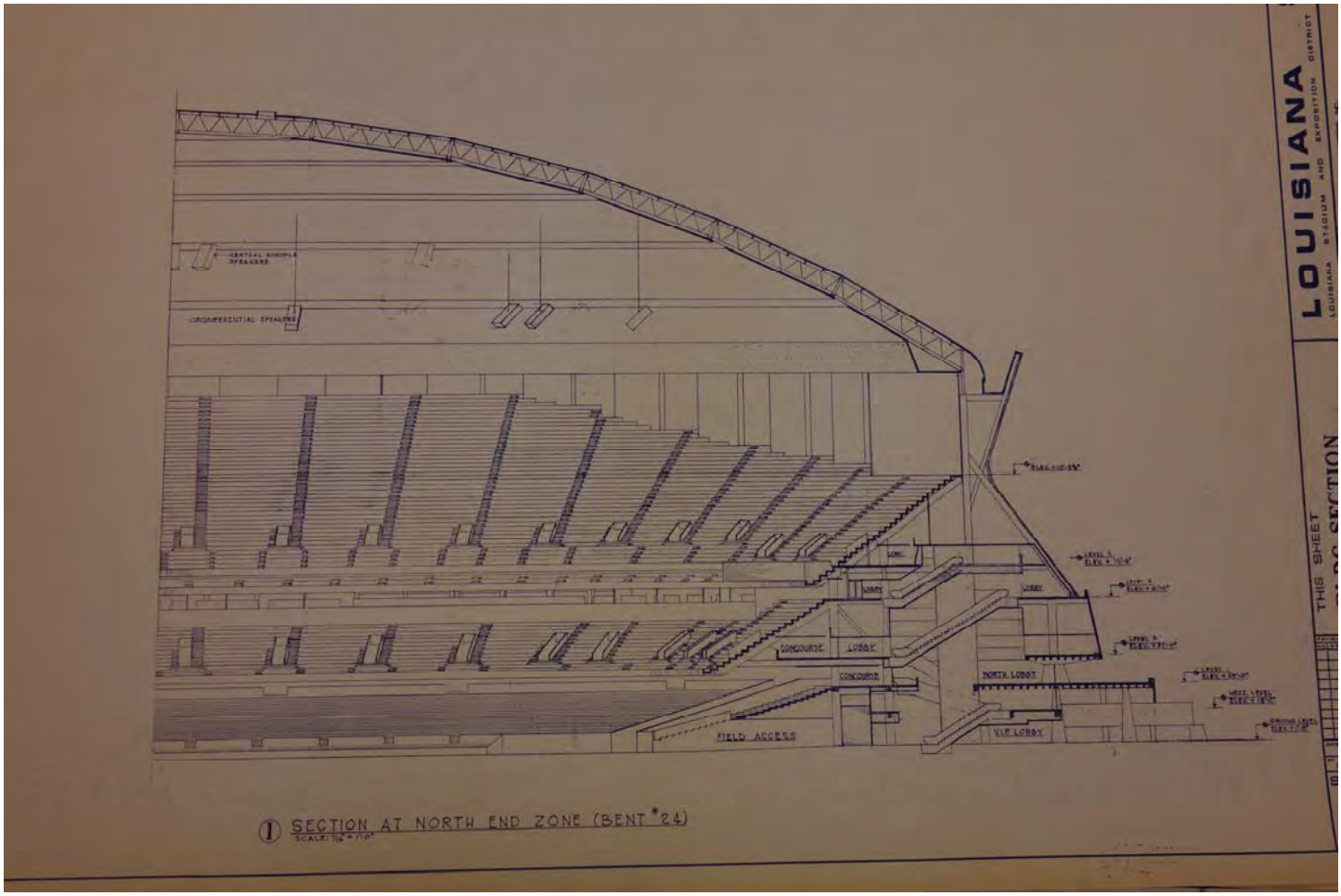

Figure 11. Cross section at North end zone, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

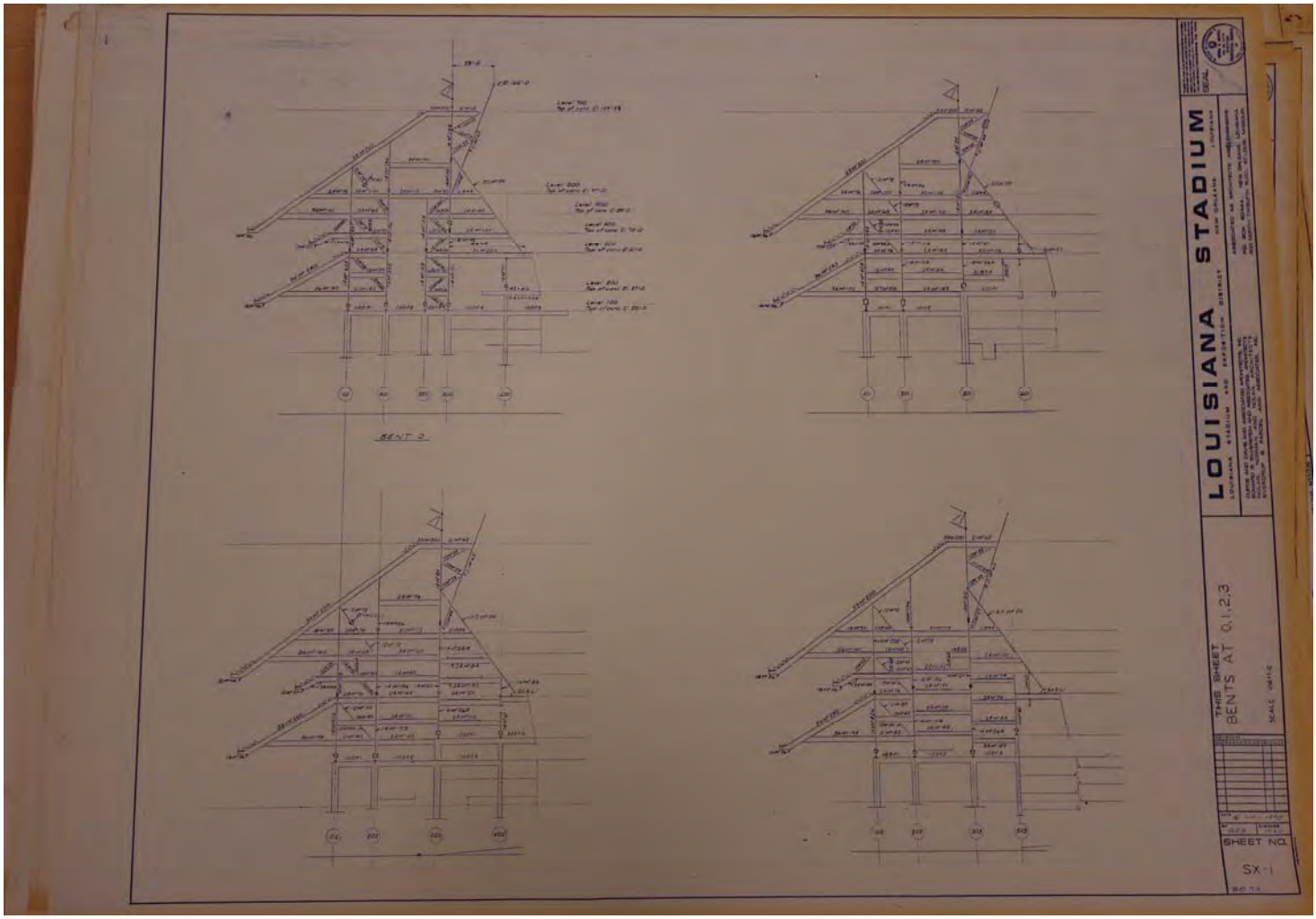

Figure 12. Cross section showing pilings supporting seats, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

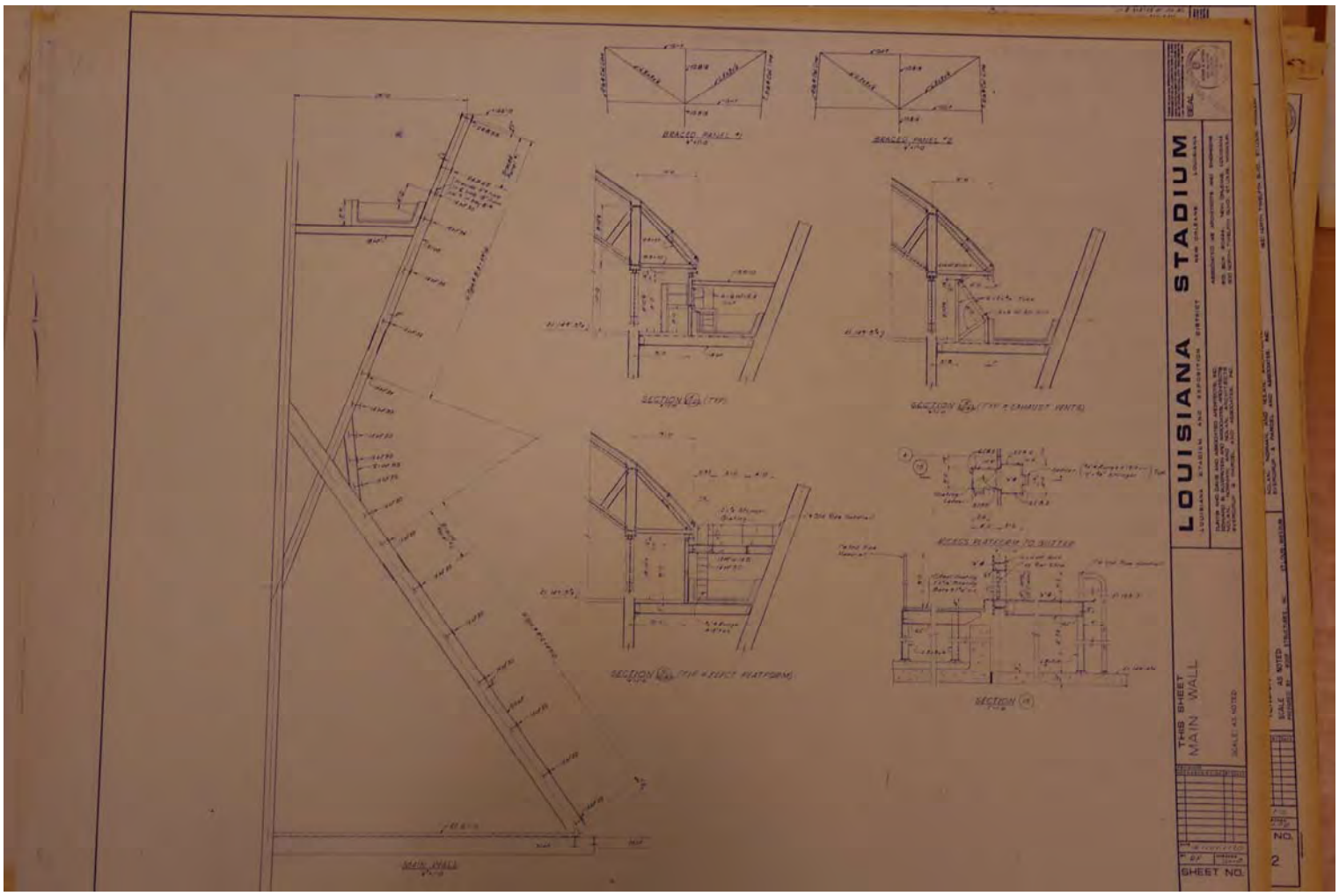

Figure 13. Gutter system, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

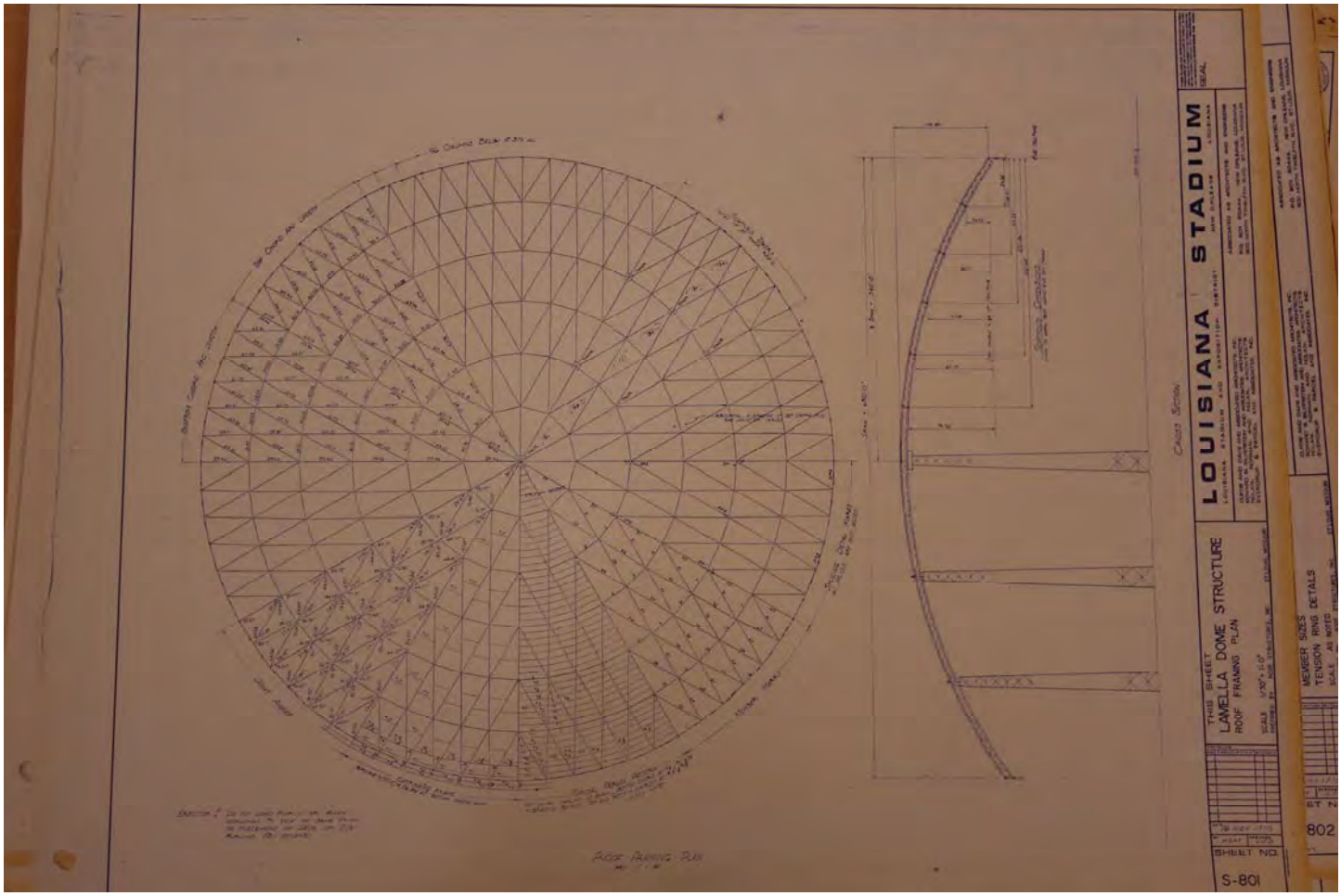

Figure 14. Lamella dome, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 15. Floor plan, original architectural drawing; Source: Edward B. Silverstein Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

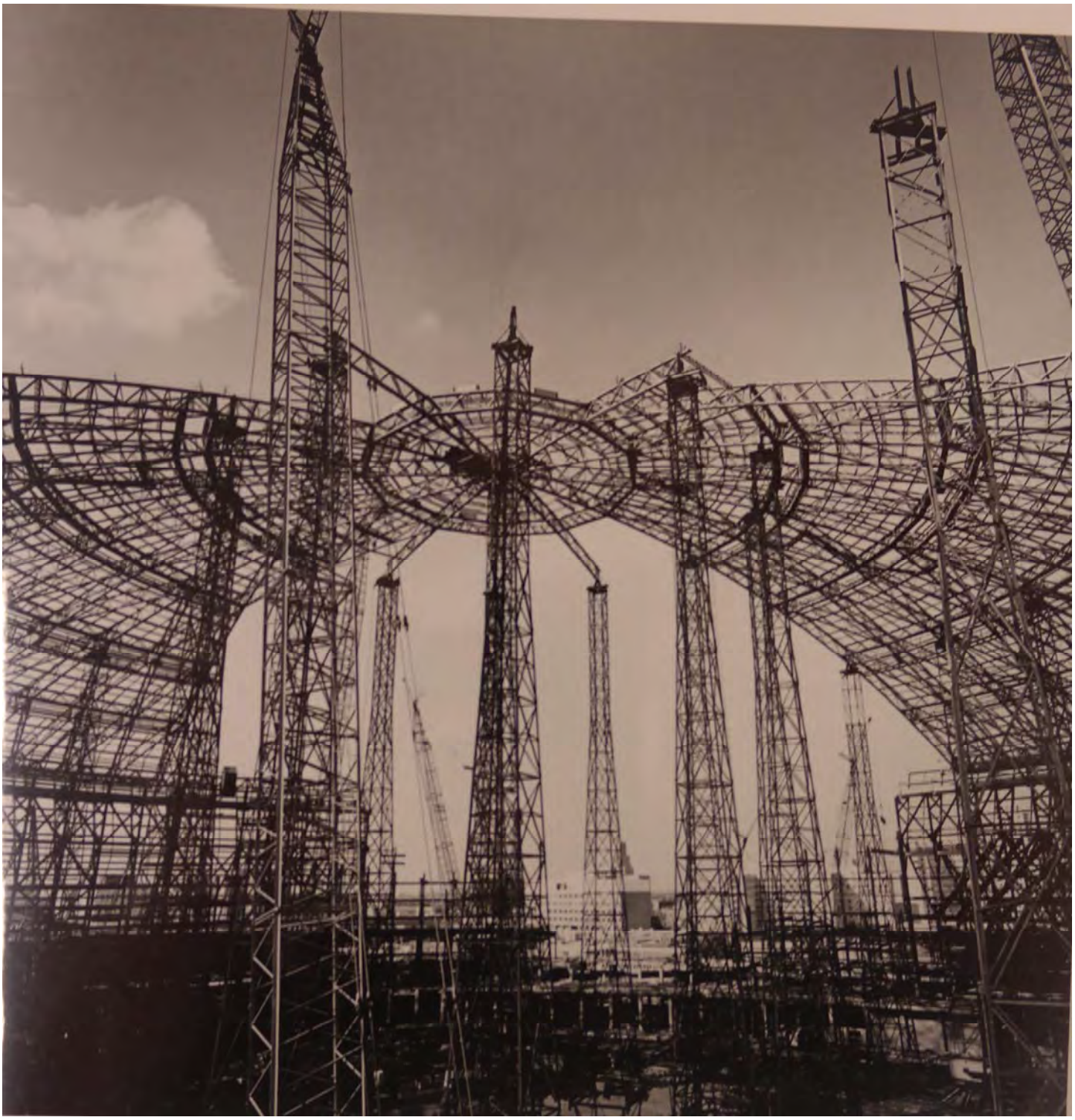

Figure 16. Construction of lamella dome, c. 1974; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 17. Construction photo of pilings and walls; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 18. Aerial view of construction; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 19. Construction photos of roof; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 20. Lamella dome construction; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

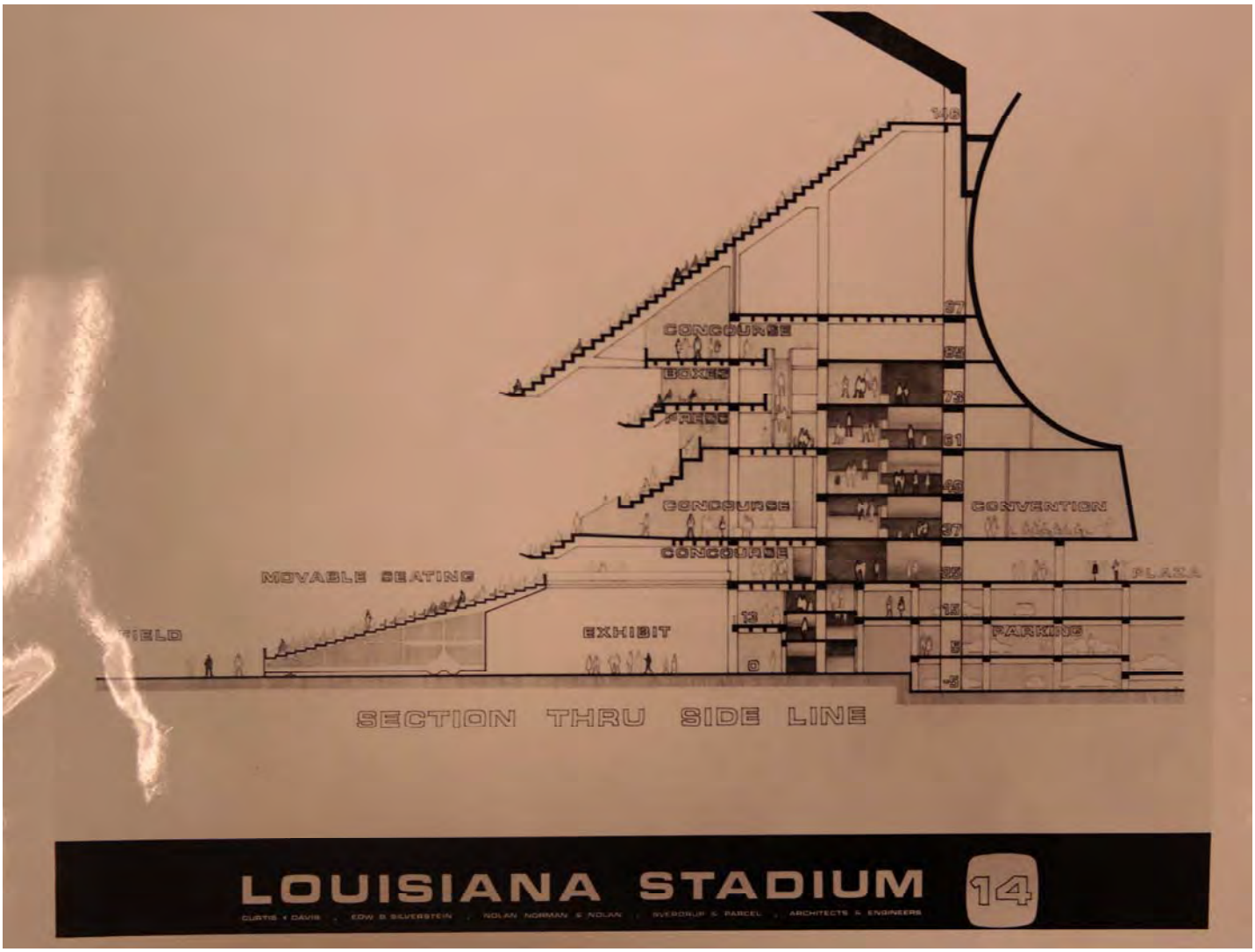

Figure 21. Cross section illustration showing stands; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

Figure 22. Construction photo with tension ring for lamella dome; Source: Curtis and Davis Office Records, Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University

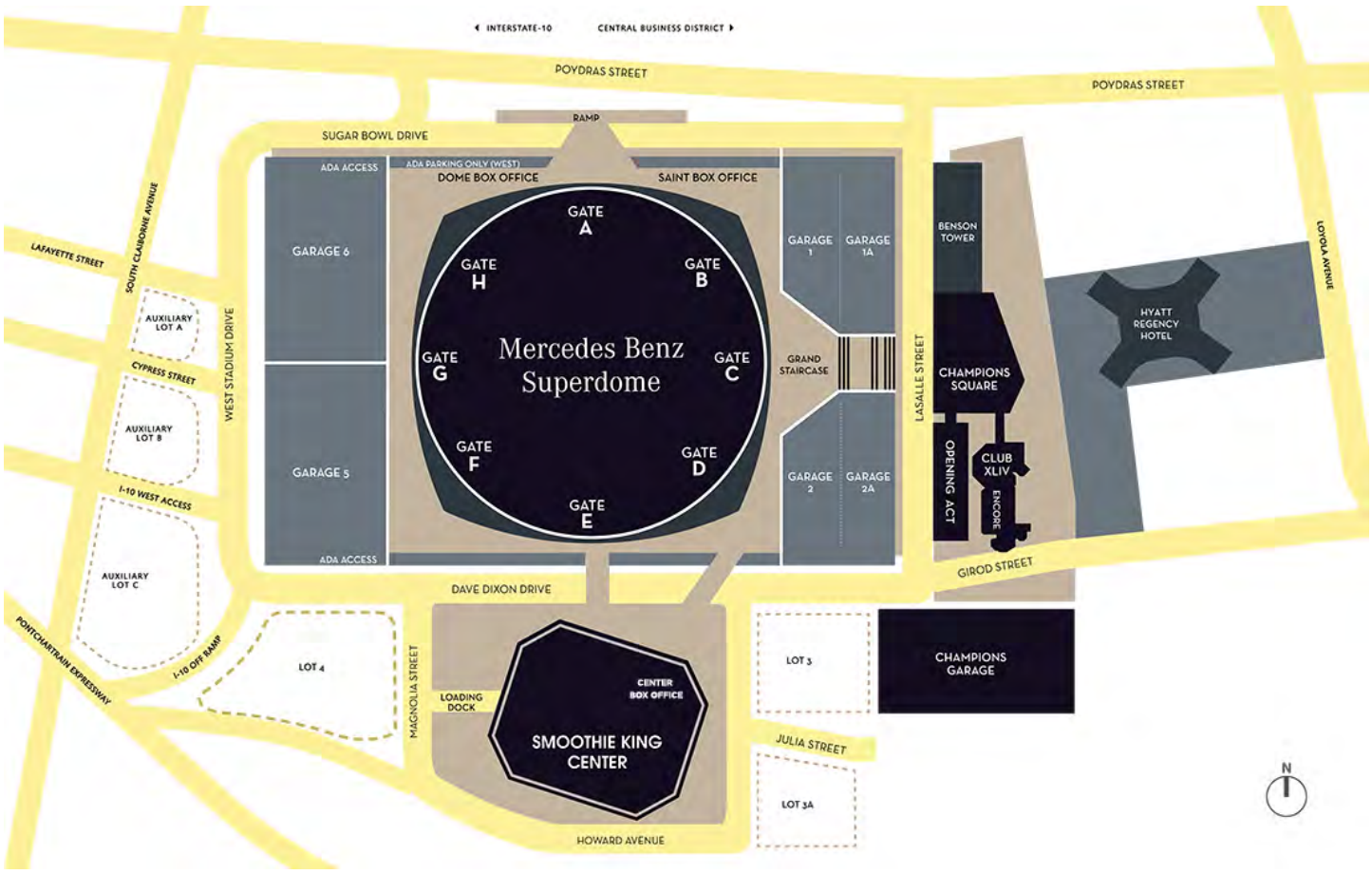

Figure 23. Plan view of the Superdome with garages. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

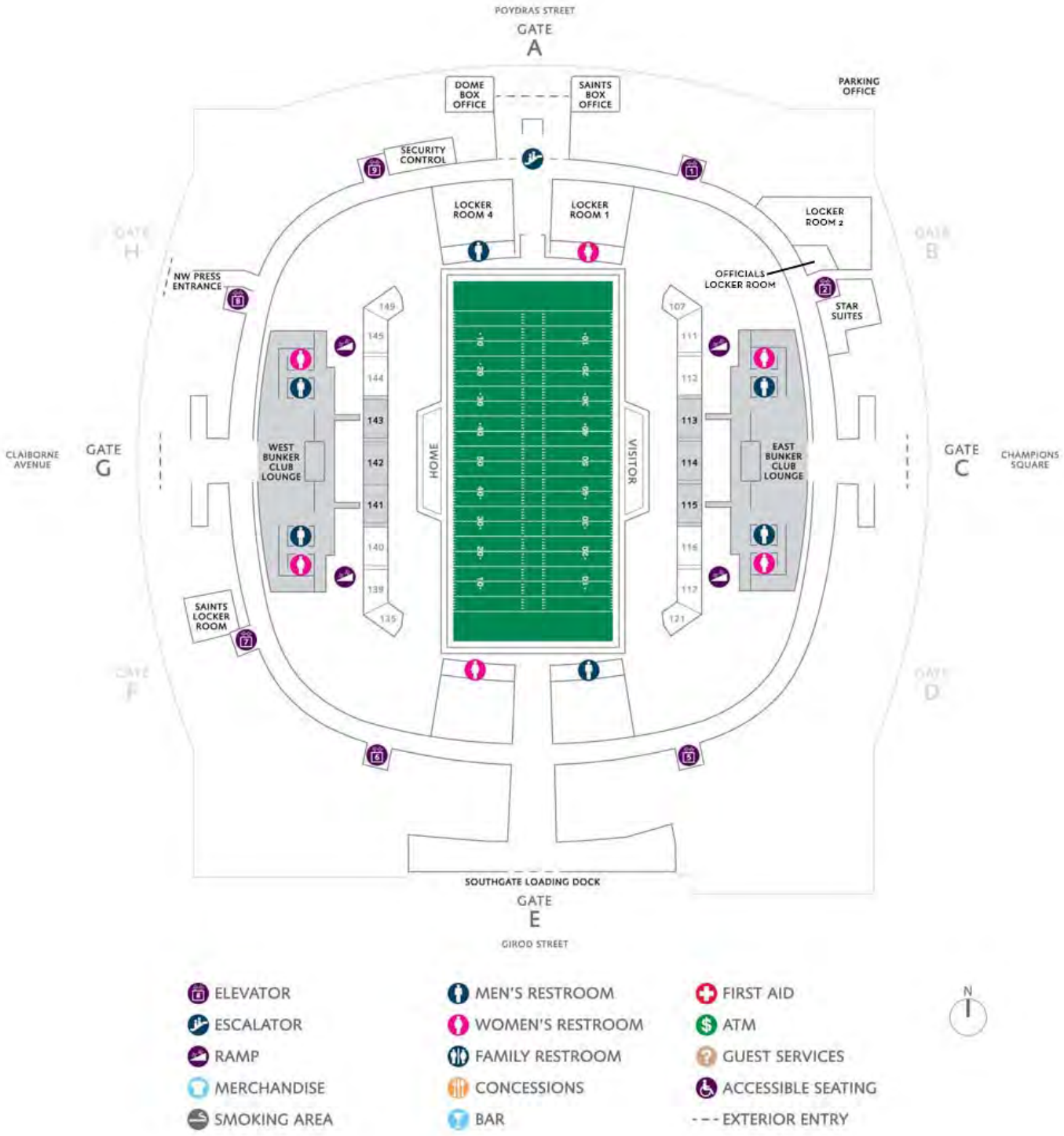

Figure 24. Plan view of field. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

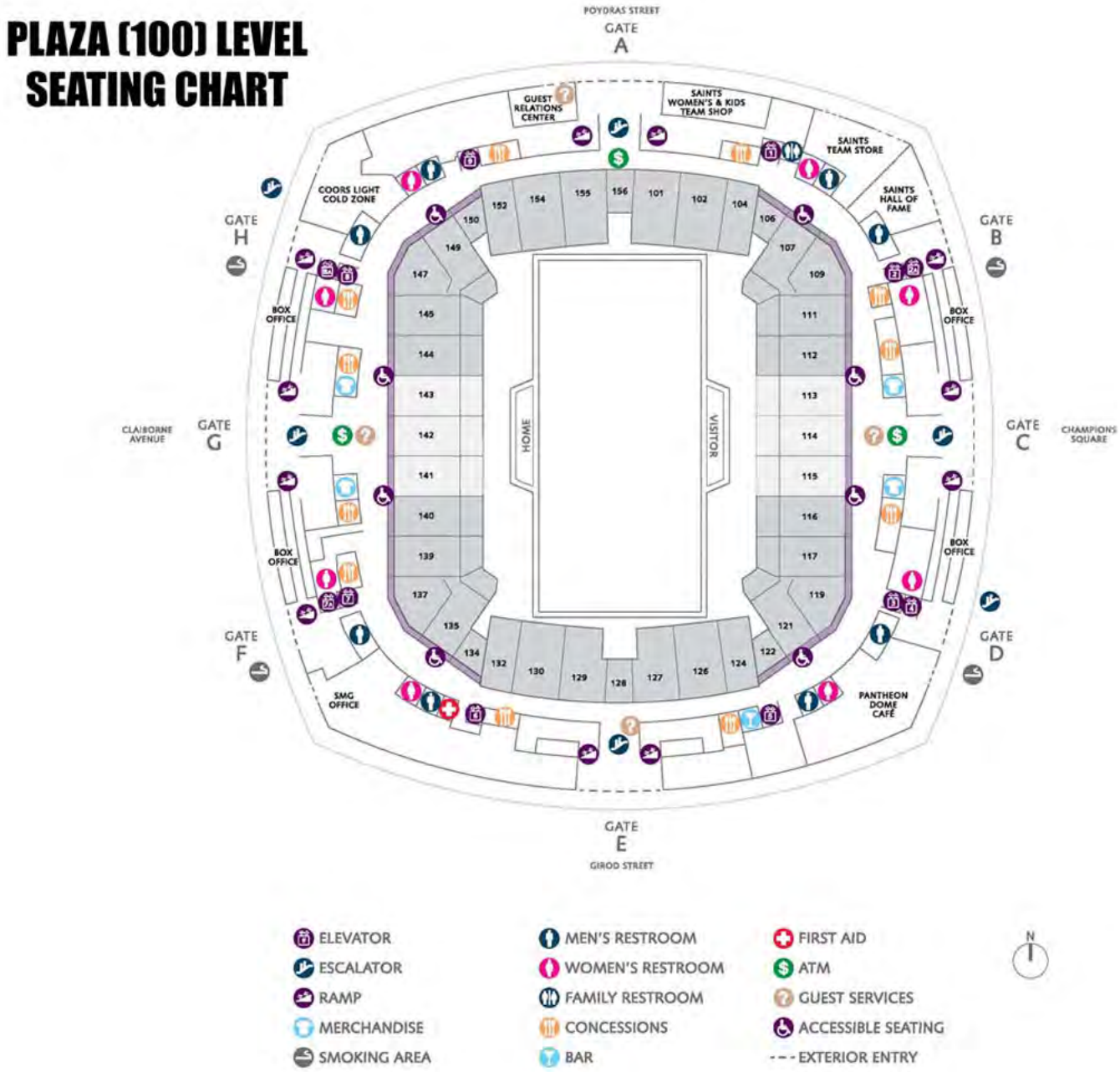

Figure 25. Seating chart of Plaza Level (floor) seating. Mercedes- Benz Superdome website.

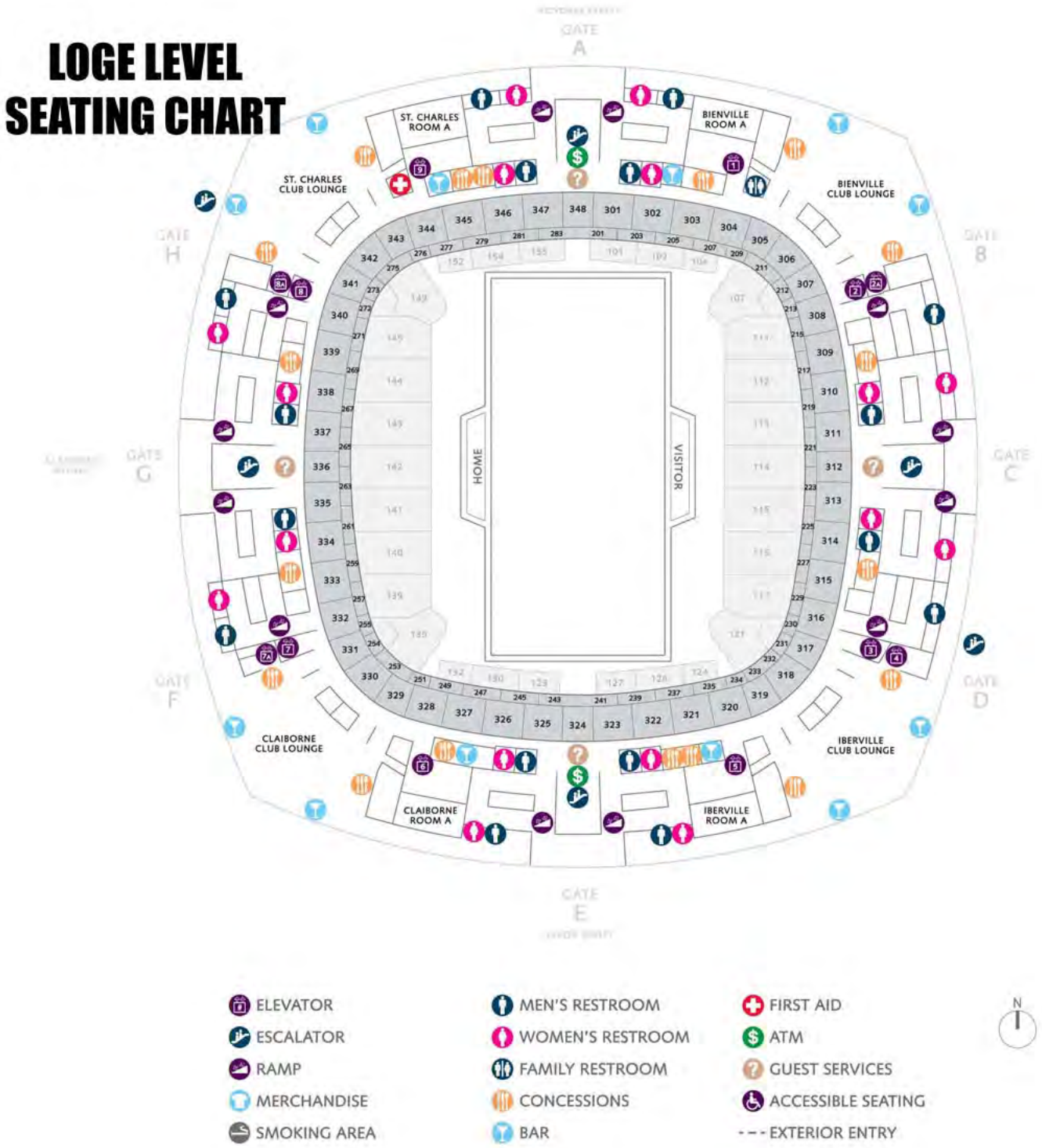

Figure 26. Seating chart of Loge level (Club) seating. Mercedes-Benz Superdome website.

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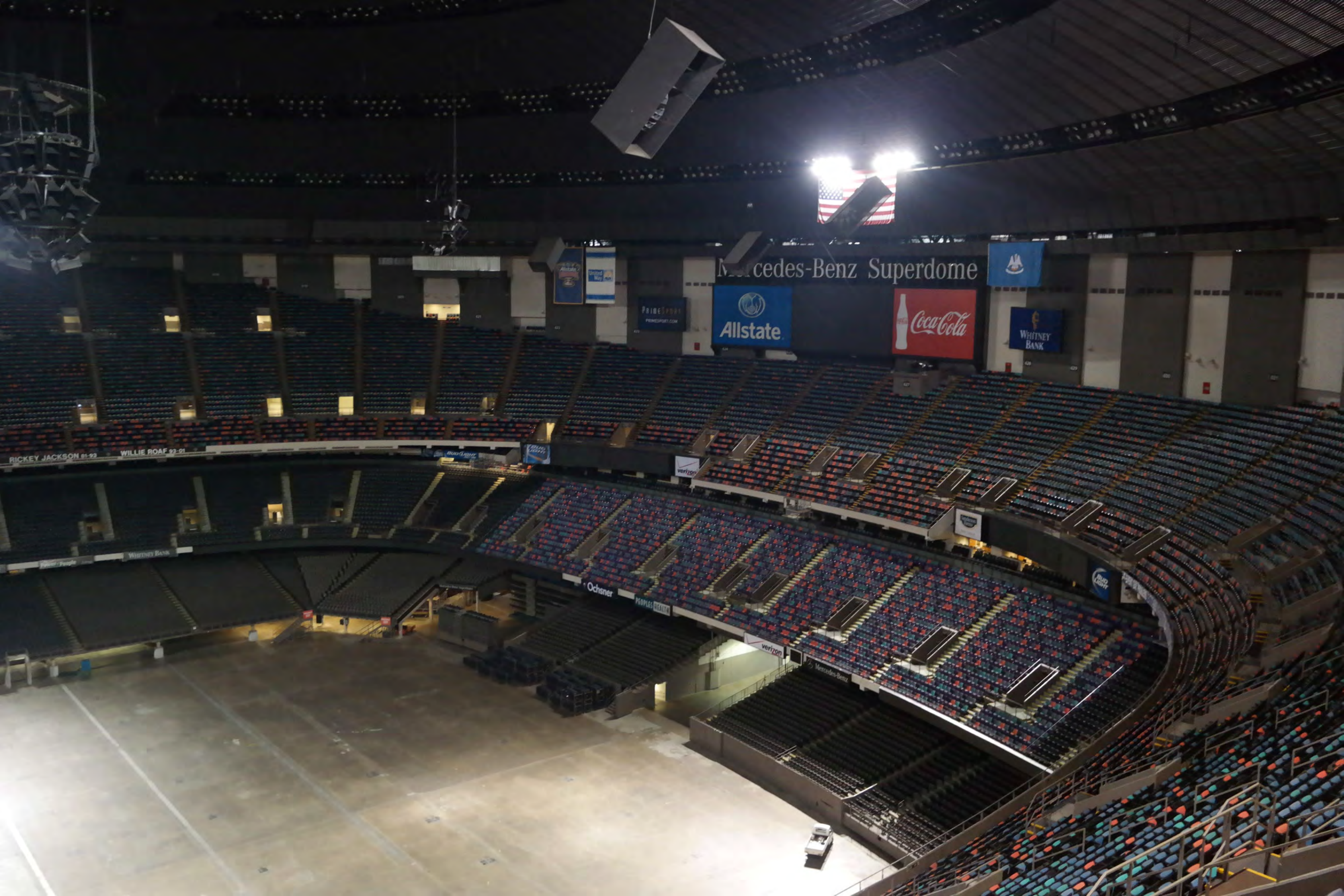
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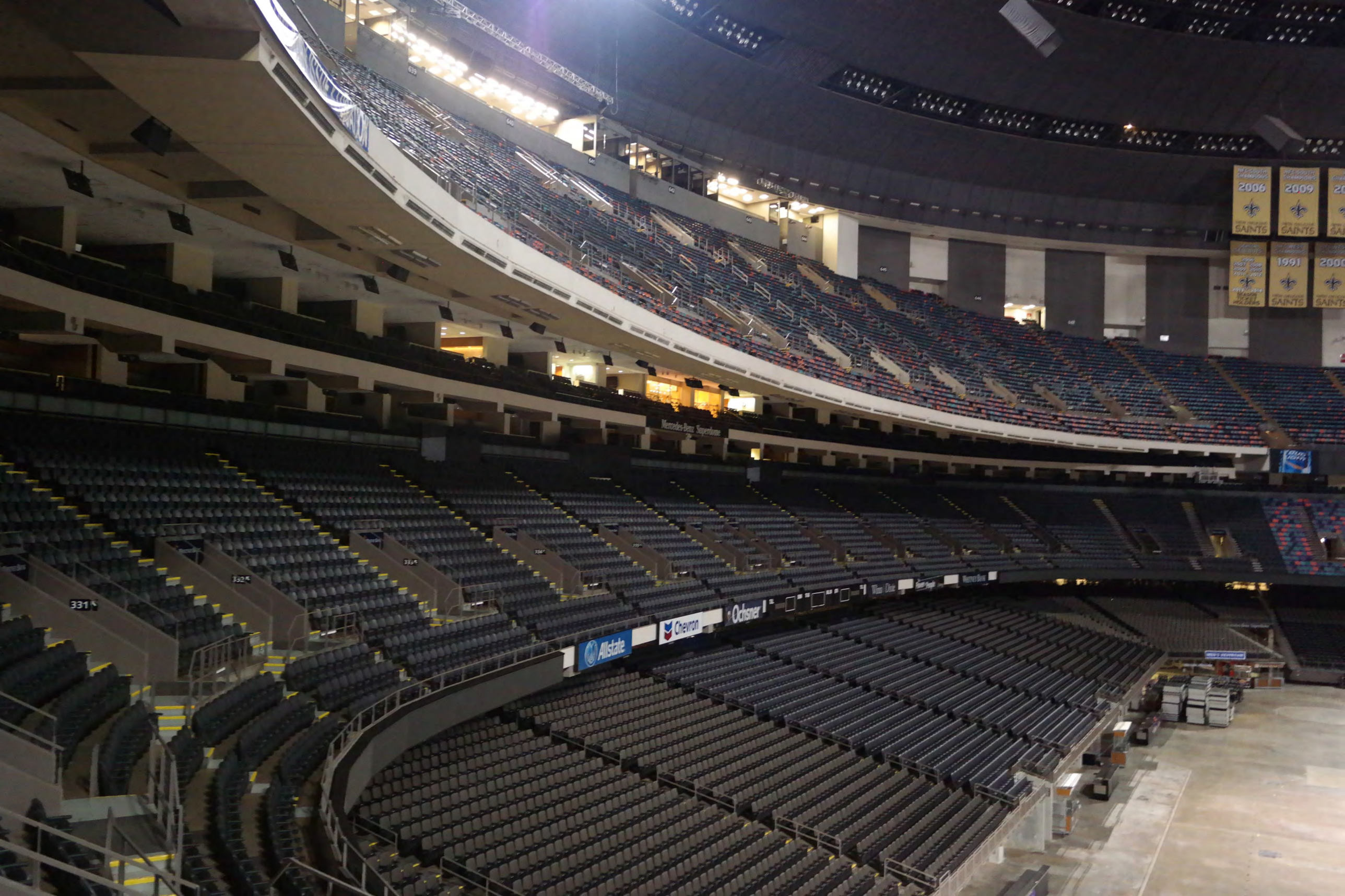
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