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: D'Antonio, Guy J. and Rose Caruso, House
Other Names/Site Number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 2621 O'Reilly Street
City or town: New Orleans
State: LA
County: Orleans
Not for Publication: D
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

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
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register
- [ ] removed from the National Register
- [ ] other, explain:

[Signature of the Keeper]
[Date of Action]

5. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

|   |
|---|---|
| X | Private |
|   | Public - Local |
|   | Public - State |
|   | Public - Federal |

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

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

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<td>Objects</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Multiple Dwelling
7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
- foundation: concrete
- walls: stucco and wood
- roof: asphalt shingles
- other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph
The Guy J. and Rose Caruso D’Antonio (herein referred to as the D’Antonio House) was built by and for Joseph Caruso, Rose’s father, in 1929. It is a two story, wood frame, raised pier, rectangular plan, Spanish Mission Revival residence. It is covered in a traditional stucco with wood accent and trim. The architectural features of the property remain intact from initial 1929 construction and missing components have been replaced in kind. The house features identical floor plans on each floor and served as the home of the entire Caruso and D’Antonio families as Joseph and his wife, Angelina, lived in the bottom unit, and Guy and Rose lived upstairs. The building was recently rehabilitated and no floor plan changes were made. Minor cosmetic changes were made and are described in the narrative description. There is one non-contributing shed at the back of the property and it is non-contributing as it is of modern vintage. The house retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of materials has been affected to a degree as replacement material was needed during rehabilitation. However, overall, it is clear that the house would be easily recognizable to Guy and Rose D’Antonio as their longtime family home. Thus, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Narrative Description

The D’Antonio House is a raised pier, wood frame, 2 story residence located on O’Reilly St in New Orleans adjacent to the Fairgrounds and the Esplanade Ridge National Register Historic District. The building is a combination of two architectural styles common during its construction era. Originally constructed in 1929 by Joseph Caruso as his personal family residence, the structure incorporates late 20th century architectural styles of Spanish Mission Revival as well as some Craftsman details. Since construction, the structure has had minor alteration due to continuous occupation, modernization during the 1980s, and damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and subsequent vacancy.

The lack of change of ownership and neighborhood socio-economic social decline has oddly contributed to the preservation and unaltered nature of the building. The building was foreclosed upon and then purchased by the current owner in 2013.

Exterior Architecture
The front façade is primarily Spanish Mission Revival with an incorporated Craftsman styling. Spanish Mission Revival details include: white/cream stucco exterior (original); arched cypress (right side) front door with arched cypress canopy (original) with copper awning protective barrier; arched cypress front window (original) with balcony cedar planter box and black steel surround (original); arched stucco porch details (original); black steel railings (original); top floor balcony treated pine decking with front wood arch and design accents (alteration); top floor black steel railing (original); dual columns with Corinthian concrete capitals (original); Spanish tile detail on front steps; and original built in flower beds. Craftsman details include: cypress clap board ‘T’ bevel exterior (original) siding; 6/2 double hung cypress windows (original); exposed rafter tails and eave brackets; top balcony main doors are multi lite cypress wood doors with an additional cypress screen door; and top...
D'Antonio, Guy J. and Rose Caruso, House  Orleans Parish, LA

Name of Property                   County and State

balcony and bottom floor entry doors utilize dual multi lite sidelights (bottom floor sidelights replaced post-WWII c. 1950 with Douglas fir copies).

Façade (Southwest) see photos 1-3
The façade has only had minor changes since it was first built. These are the decorative woodwork that is the base of the second floor porch and the woodwork (arch over second floor front door and arched window) is not stained. It was previously painted white. The bottom of the second floor porch is now clad in unstained wood, but it still follows the original arch shape. The first floor unit is entered via a recessed front porch. The front door is a multi-paneled front door that is the original front door and was found under the house and rehabilitated and put back in place. The door and sidelights have an arched fanlight transom. The porch and side elevations are clad in wood siding while the main façade is stucco. To the right of the main entry, there is a door providing access to the interior staircase to the second floor. There is an arched canopy over the door. Directly above this is an arched multi-lite wood casement window with a planter box that is original. The second floor recessed porch has a triple arched detail with two Corinthian columns supporting the side arches. Diamond details are inset above the corners of the arches. This door matches the one on the first floor with sidelights and fanlight transom. A second door provides access from the porch to the upstairs stair hall. The roof is a cross gable with exposed rafter tails, eave brackets, and a gable vent.

Northwest Elevation see photos 3-4
This elevation features five sets of windows, with the 3rd and 4th ones being double sets, on each floor. The first floor windows are 6/2 and the second floor are 6/6. All are original wood windows. The middle bay of this elevation is a polygonal bay.

Northeast (Rear) Elevation see photos 4-8
The rear elevation features a bank of four 6/2 wood windows on each floor of the left side of the rear elevation. The right side projects out from the main form of the house. This projection has no doors on the ground floor and one door on the second floor providing access to the new porch. It is unknown what the original rear porch would have been, but more recently, it was a more modern steel staircase that was removed and replaced with the current two story wooden porch. Its design was modeled on the Government House in St. Augustine, FL (National Register of Historic Places, 13000812, Mission/Spanish revival, 1925-1949). A low deck surrounds the porch and wraps to the southeast elevation of the house.

Southeast Elevation see photos 1 and 9
The far right side of this elevation, which is the southeast side of the rear projection, has a door on the first floor and two 6/2 wood windows on the second floor. The rest of this elevation has a set of two windows, single window, two windows, and a single window on each floor.

Interior see photos 10-31
The interior is divided in two floors (each apartment was occupied by members of the Caruso and D'Antonio families, i.e. father on one floor, adult children on the other), effectively identical in room division, with an interior staircase by the front arched door. Interior details are predominantly Craftsman. Wood floors are found throughout both units as well. The living room fireplaces are original and have concrete moulded mantles with St. Joe's brick and white mortar chimneys. The chimney breast is exposed brick, which is likely an alteration, but was already in place before the current rehabilitation. The hallway on each floor is centrally located and has arched doorways. The wall between the living rooms and dining rooms also have arched doorways. All interior door frames, doors, and hardware are original and the only floor plan changes on the first floor are the removal of a portion of the wall dividing the last two rooms on the right side in order to make a larger bedroom and the addition of doors connecting the front two bedrooms to the bathroom. Some of the door frames on the ground floor had to be replicated and rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina damage. The door frames on the second
floor were used to make exact copies. There have been some material changes on the first floor including the addition of wood details in the hallway and bathroom.

A multi-lite door connects the front bedroom on the first floor to the staircase providing access to the second floor (see photo 17). The staircase is original. An arched doorway in the stair hall provides access to the second floor unit. The tiles located around the fireplace hearth on the second floor is the original square tile (see photo 25). This unit is in its original condition with the only changes found in the rear bathroom and doors added connecting the front two bedrooms to the bathroom. The front bathroom on this floor is in its original condition with built-ins and tile. The texture found on the walls throughout this unit is also original. The hallway finish is made to look like stone blocks with a stone texture. It is done with paint and a texturizing material (see photos 27-28). A small telephone alcove is located in the hallway.

**Alterations and Integrity**

During the recent rehabilitation, the majority of the original materials were repaired and retained. All doors and windows were repaired. A small number of doors, mostly on the first floor, were salvaged from other properties to match the original doors on the second floor. The front porch wood details were added and other wooden details around the front door had to be replaced in kind due to dry rot and termite damage. Other alterations include cosmetic changes such as the addition of wood to the hallway on the first floor and wooden tiles used as detail in the bathrooms (except for the front upstairs bathroom, which is original). The house retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of materials has been affected to a degree as there are replacement materials on the first floor and on the porch. While this is an alteration, it does not negatively impact the overall historic integrity of the home. The house would be recognizable to members of the Caruso and D’Antonio and for these reasons, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

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.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>x</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</th>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</td>
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**Criteria Considerations:**

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<td>Removed from its original location</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>A birthplace or grave</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>A cemetery</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>A reconstructed building, object, or structure</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>A commemorative property</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years</td>
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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Social History
D’Antonio, Guy J. and Rose Caruso, House
Orleans Parish, LA
Name of Property
County and State

**Period of Significance:** 1949-1955

**Significant Dates:** N/A

**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):** Caruso, Joseph

**Period of Significance (justification):** The period of significance encompasses the years that it is known, via documentation, that Mrs. D’Antonio was a member of the New Orleans League of Women Voters and used her residence as the Gentilly Unit’s meeting location. It is possible that the period of significance extends closer to 1960, but at this time, newspaper documentation from May 1955 is the latest date found. A newspaper article (see Figure 6) shows Mrs. D’Antonio as a member in 1949.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):** N/A

**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 Guy J. and Rose Caruso D’Antonio House is locally significant under Criterion A: Social History for its association with the women’s rights movement in the City of New Orleans following World War II. The building’s role and its inhabitants engaged in law, civil rights, religious social organizations, and women’s rights/suffrage in the period of significance, 1949-1955. It was once the residence and home office of Louisiana Senator Guy D’Antonio, attorney, and his wife, Mrs. Rose Caruso D’Antonio, member of a multitude of social and religious organizations that were hosted at the residence. In particular the subject property was the ‘Gentilly Unit’ of the New Orleans League of Women’s Voters at a pivotal time in the League’s history in the 1950s. The D’Antonio’s opened their home to the community at large to inform and enable freedom and liberties for all regardless of class, origin, and race/ethnicity.

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

**History**

**Criterion A: Social History**

Women’s Rights Movement in Louisiana and New Orleans

While the movement really began in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, it wasn’t until after the Civil War that the women’s rights movement began in the south. In Louisiana, in particular, there were a handful of influential women who laid the groundwork for organizations such as the League of Women Voters.

Ann Firor Scott wrote that the Southern family members were “expected to recognize their proper and subordinated places and to be obedient to the head of the family. Any tendency on the part of any members of the system to assert themselves against the master threatened the whole, and therefore slavery itself.”¹ Not only was there a master in the world of slavery, but there was also a master in the household. This ideal was not challenged by Southern women until the Civil War when they began to take on new roles inside and

outside the home. Many served as nurses and took over the running of the household when their husbands went off to fight in the war. One woman, Caroline Thomas Merrick, took her experiences during the Civil War and essentially started the women’s rights movement in Louisiana.

As a child, she “early ascertained that girls had a sphere wherein they were expected to remain and that the despotic hand of some man was continually lifted to keep them revolving in a certain prescribed and very restricted orbit.” She married at 15 and spent the next 20 years raising her four children as her husband worked as the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Civil War separated her family with one son fighting in Virginia, her husband trapped behind Confederate lines in New Orleans, and she at her brother’s home on the Atchafalaya River. While at the plantation, she nursed soldiers, her family, and the slaves at the plantation. She is quoted as saying this was the “happiest epoch of her life,” likely because she was active and able to use her mind and body for good.

The Civil War created a generation of women who began to deal more actively with life outside of the home and these groups of women began to create Confederate Memorial Societies. These groups began to branch into charitable organizations and supported causes such as community improvement and fundraising. As long as the group stayed within this realm, they did not experience much push back. Once they tried to expand into other areas, they were rebuffed.

Caroline Merrick served on many charity committees and boards akin to the Confederate Memorial societies. One event in particular inspired her to become more politically active within the women’s rights movement. In 1878, an inmate at St. Anna’s Asylum, wanted to leave $1,000 to the asylum and her decision was written down and witnessed by Merrick and female staff of the hospital. However, when the will was probated, they were informed that the will was not valid as women could not be used as witnesses on a legal document. At the upcoming state constitution convention, Merrick and her friend, Elizabeth Saxon, created a list of disagreements with state law concerning women and put together a petition of over 400 signatures to present their ideas to the convention. Their efforts did not pay off in getting women the vote, but it did gain a minor victory in Article 232, which allowed for women 21 and older to hold a position of control or management under the school laws of the state. While they may not have achieved their ultimate goal, the work done by women in Louisiana from the Civil War through the late 1870s did show that Louisiana’s women were no longer afraid to speak out in public for causes they believed in.

Sophie Bell Wright, Eleanor McMain, Sara Tew Mayo, and the women of the Phyllis Wheatley Club made significant strides for the welfare of women and children around the turn of the 20th century following the initial influence of Caroline Merrick. Sophie Bell Wright founded a free night school for poor working boys, which she funded from profits from her girls’ day school. She also worked with many women’s clubs, which had perhaps the greatest impact on the overall women’s suffrage movement. She moved to improved human welfare and helped raise funds for disabled children at a local hospital, lobbied for bills to raise educational standards for nurses, and helped to create public baths and playgrounds.

Eleanor McMain studied at Jane Addams’s Hull House and came back to New Orleans and created the Kingsley House where she was director for 30 years. She also helped to support a campaign for laws regulating women and child labor and for a compulsory school attendance law. She helped to support many political campaigns and aimed at publicizing bad conditions in order to improve them.

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2 LaDart. “Caroline Merrick and Women’s Rights in Louisiana.”
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Pamela Tyler. “Silk Stockings & Ballot Boxes: Women & Politics in New Orleans, 1920- 1965”, Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1996: pg. 15. NOTE: This source is used and cited several times throughout this nomination. It is the only concise and cohesive documentation of the women’s rights movement in New Orleans and thus, was used as the main source for information.
7 Tyler, pg. 16.
Sara Mayo attended the Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania because Tulane Medical School refused to accept women and in 1898, she returned to the city and started a practice. She ran a free clinic at Eleanor McMain’s Kingsley House and served as staff physician at St. Anna’s Asylum for destitute women. She also worked with six other female doctors and opened the first hospital for women and children, which operated in the same location until the 1980s. In 1913, her goal of women being admitted to the Orleans Parish Medical Society came to be.

While Wright, McMain, and Mayo did face constraints because of their sex, they did not face the restrictions that their black counterparts did. The Phillis Wheatley Club, which had more than 100 middle-class African American women, created the Phillis Wheatley Sanitarium in 1896. This later grew into Flint-Goodridge Hospital, the only private hospital for African Americans in New Orleans during most of the 20th century. Because they did not hold direct political influence like McMain, Wright, and Mayo, the African American women of New Orleans could not overcome as many hurdles. Despite this, they did make significant strides in improving healthcare for their community.8

Following the work of these influential women, the benevolence of one women led to a change in entire generations of New Orleans’ young women. Josephine Louise Newcomb was a wealthy widow who lost her only child and in her memory, she established the Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University, the first coordinate college for women associated with a men’s college in the United States. It opened in 1887 and Newcomb College became the preeminent university for the daughters of New Orleans’ elite. It instilled in many of its students confidence, self-esteem, and identity in a changing world. The majority of its faculty were also women, which further helped to educate an entire generation of capable women who would go on to challenge roles that were typically male.9

The First Women’s Suffrage Association and the Road to the League of Women Voters
Caroline Merrick formed the first women’s suffrage association, the Portia Club, in 1892. The Portia Club split in 1895 and an offshoot became the Era Club (Equal Rights Association) in 1895. The Portia Club and Era Club cooperated to form the Louisiana Woman Suffrage Association. Merrick became the head of the Era Club and ran the club along with Jean and Kate Gordon. The Gordon sisters would go on to figure prominently in the next few decades of the women’s rights movement in Louisiana. Kate would serve as the head of the LWSA from 1904-1913 and even addressed the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in 1900 and served as its secretary from 1901-1909. She also took over the presidency of the Era Club from Merrick in 1914. While Kate initially pushed for women’s suffrage throughout the state, at a time when the national organization was pushing for a Federal amendment for the vote for women, she supported each individual state’s right to creating an amendment. Her reason for this was that she did not support the votes for African American women. In 1913, she split from NAWSA to form the Southern States Woman Suffrage Convention (SSWSC). Those who supported the Federal amendment formed the Woman Suffrage Party (WSP). Kate Gordon and other members of the Era Club began to kick out any members who were associated with WSP. In 1920, the Federal amendment passed and the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote.10

Kate Gordon’s work in the state and city of New Orleans concerning a state versus Federal amendment created a confusing arena for Louisiana women and she delivered contradictory messages in that she supported the vote for women, but not all women. This led to not many women actually registering to vote after the 19th amendment passed. In 1920, white women accounted for 25% of the registered voters (22,299; there were 1,800 African American women who registered). In 1924, only 28% of the registered voters in Louisiana were women as compared to Rhode Island, where women represented 50% of the registered voters.11

8 Tyler, pg. 16-17.
10 Ibid, pg. 22-26
11 Ibid, pg. 27.
The New Orleans League of Women Voters Short Lived
The same year that the 19th amendment passed was also the year that NAWSA morphed into the League of Women Voters. Elizabeth Thomas Werlein became the first president and the membership was small. There were not many significant strides made that year and in 1921, Werlein resigned and the next decade of the organization included high turnover and little communication with the National League.12

The 1930s, Anti-Longism and Women’s Rights
The 1930s in Louisiana centered on the era of Huey P. Long and it was this focus that helped to revive the women’s rights movement in the state. Hilda Phelps Hammond was born and raised in New Orleans and her husband served as the legal counsel for the New Orleans Dock Board and the Levee Board. When Huey P. Long took office, he handpicked members for the dock board who were loyal to him (as he did with government offices statewide) and while he initially allowed Mr. Hammond to stay on, he later fired Hammond for disobeying the law concerning double dipping. The attorney general ruled that Hammond had not broken any state laws, but as Huey Long was apt to do, he still kicked him out of his position. This event helped to spur Hilda’s disdain of Long and led her to lead a campaign against Long and his corruption.13

During the 1932 election, Huey Long chose John Overton to challenge Edwin Broussard for a senate seat. Overton won as most branches of the state government were under Long’s control and he told them who to vote for. Broussard challenged the win citing voting irregularities and an investigation was done. This set the stage for the birth of a women’s political movement. Hilda attended the hearings of the investigation where the Senate Committee found the Long machine had subverted the system. This helped to support growing anti-Longism in New Orleans. Despite the growing anti-Long group, Overton was still allowed to assume the Senate seat he had “won” and this further inspired Hilda Hammond and 29 other women to do something. They began a letter writing campaign to each senator on the reviewing committee and they formed the Women’s Committee of Louisiana. Their goal was to get the word out about Long and his chokehold on Louisiana politics. Hilda even went to DC, leaving her children and husband in New Orleans, to petition the Senate committee in person. Her work paid off in that the Senate Committee did eventually come back to the city to investigate Long. Ultimately, the committee did find that Long and his machine were corrupt, they declined to make any recommendation to the full Senate.14

The battle against Long and his corrupt system continued until Long’s death in 1935. The committee gradually unraveled, but Hammond’s work did not go unrecognized:

“Hammond did leave a legacy to New Orleans women, however. Her gift to women was the development of an independent women’s movement in New Orleans politics. The women who had first become aware of issues through the Women’s Committee, who had gained experience in lobbying and petitioning there, formed the nucleus of large and effective local organizations such as the Woman Citizens’ Union, the League of Women Voters, and the Independent Women’s Organization and took the leadership roles in them.” They consistently saluted Hilda Phelps Hammond as their inspiration.”15

The League of Women Voters Reborn
As the 1930s continued, upper middle class to upper class women began to spend more of their leisure time by participating in social clubs such as the parent/teacher organizations with their children’s schools. This allowed them to do work within their current sphere but also to expand their work into more of the public arena.16 There were not many political groups for women at that time and the people who remained members of the New Orleans chapter of the LWV, the majority were associated with the successors of the Long regime and corrupt politics. In 1936, the National League of Women Voters withdrew the New Orleans chapter

12 Tyler, pg. 30-31.
13 Ibid, 35-36.
14 Ibid pg. 41-54.
15 Ibid, pg. 77.
16 Ibid, pg. 79.
because of this political association and because they had not been following national guidelines and rules for the organization. As the 1930s progressed, more and more women began to register to vote. By 1936, 70,000 white women had registered (the number of African American women registered had dropped dramatically in the era of Jim Crow from 1800 to 116).  

The NOLWV was reborn out of the Woman Citizens’ Union in October of 1942 and it was allowed to be renamed and reaccepted to the National League. These early years obviously coincided with World War II and many women, who were already taking part in war work, considered the work that the league did as additional war work. They aimed to keep the citizens educated about important issues related to the war, often using the idea of good versus evil to motivate the women of New Orleans. Following a trend of more women registering to vote nationally, the NOLWV began voter registration drives and increased the numbers of white women (they did not target African American neighborhoods at this time) by 6%.  

Throughout the war, the group gained stature in the city and their president, Martha Gilmore Robinson, would go on to become the president of the Louisiana League of Women Voters. Following World War II, the NOLWV began to look at the issue of race, but no great strides were made to include African Americans in the group. This and schisms with other social organizations led to some of the more liberal members of the league to leave. 1948 became a year for the group when very little was accomplished, due to race discussions and disagreements with other groups, and it signified a shift in the organizations itself.  

The membership began to change as it was no a “provincial, inbred organization,” and it began to represent the entirety of the city’s population, not just a small slice. During the time from 1942 to 1950, membership expanded from 80 members to over 500. One reason for this is the inclusion of more outsiders, women who had been educated elsewhere and had moved to New Orleans after college. This allowed for new blood and ideas to be pumped into the group.  

Perhaps most importantly, in reference to the D’Antonio House, the NOLWV expanded out of its traditional neighborhood, Uptown near Tulane and Loyola Universities, to establish unit groups in Algiers, Gentilly, Lake Vista, Central Business District, Carrollton, and the Garden District. The Garden District remained mostly upper class, but all of the other units were distinctly middle class:  

“The new units acknowledged members’ needs by scheduling night meetings for the first time, a tacit recognition of the fact that not every member had household servants or was a full-time homemaker.”  

The D’Antonio House & Gentilly Unit during a Pivotal Time for the New Orleans League of Women Voters  
It is within this context and significant era of the NOLWV that the D’Antonio house became the meeting location for the Gentilly Unit. Locations such as the subject property were instrumental in gender, class, and racial confluence, advancement, and egalitarianism. The D’Antonio House was a cross spectrum social class meeting center focused on improving and advancing social, family, racial, gender, and class acceptance, rights, and prosperity:  

“Members for many years had held general informational meetings and workshops at nonsegregated places, and they vowed to continue this practice as well as to make public notice of these meetings  

17 Tyler, pg. 81.  
18 Ibid, pg. 82.  
19 Ibid, pg. 106.  
20 Ibid, pg. 115.  
21 Ibid, pg. 116.  
22 Ibid, pg. 117.  
23 Ibid, pg. 116.
throughout the New Orleans community. One member pointed out that black women had been attending unit meetings in the Gentilly area of New Orleans, an integrated neighborhood.”

In the early days, as described on the previous pages, women’s rights groups consisted of upper echelon socials. New Orleans League of Women Voters ‘units’ served to advance social causes through appealing to all social strata in a local, home style grass roots locale:

“By the 1940’s there were two distinctly different organizations for New Orleans women interested in political issues, the League of Women Voters and the Independent Women’s Organization. The League of Women Voters changed its composition by broadening its membership and becoming more representative of the city as a whole. The Independent Women’s Organization, by contrast, was a stronghold of New Orleans elitism.”

The following table includes information obtained from the social section of the Times-Picayune for a selection of years to show when unit meetings of the NOLWV would be held. This table helps to show the consistency with which NOLWV-Gentilly Unit meetings were held at the house and also shows that it appears this was a very active unit with regular meetings scheduled while other units held meetings are larger spaced intervals. The other units listed were not consistently found in the same meeting announcements as the Gentilly Unit. Also, one of the meetings, in December of 1953, included two other units meeting at the D’Antonio House.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>October 1950</th>
<th>June 1952</th>
<th>December 1953</th>
<th>March 13, 1955</th>
<th>May 18, 1955</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gentilly</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly*</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Park</td>
<td>925 Walnut</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>6931 Colbert</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algiers</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2621 O’Reilly</td>
<td>210 Brunswick</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>6971 Vicksburg</td>
<td>459 Crystal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uptown</td>
<td>5828 Fontainebleau</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>7836 St. Charles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rose D’Antonio served as the president of the Gentilly Unit and from the above table, it is clear that her home remained the unit’s headquarters during the 1950s, particularly from 1949-1955. The years coincide with the history of the NOLWV and its creation of neighborhood units. Some of her work with the NOLWV can be seen in a photograph from a 1949 photograph in the Times Picayune where she is assisting a 97 year old women in registering to vote (see Figure 6).

In addition to the work she did with the LWV, Mrs. D’Antonio was also involved in several other social organizations including: Italian Flood Disaster Committee Fund (1966); Democratic Elections Commission Precinct 16, 7th Ward (1958); president and founder of St. Leo the Great Mothers’ Club; founder, president, and legislative chairman of the Council of Catholic School Co-op Club (CCSC) (1942-1958); founder of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women; member of the board of trustees of the Louisiana Landmark Society; member of the Louisiana Organization for State Legislature; member of the New Orleans Citizens’ Committee; member of the American Association of University Women; member of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans; member of the board of St. Elizabeth’s Guild; member of the Vieux Carré Property Owners Association; and member of the Friends of the Cabildo. She also received honors including the Regina Matrum “Queen of Mothers” award from the Council of Catholic School Co-op; Certificate of Merit from the City of New Orleans; and the Carilere of the Order of the Star of Italy by the Italian government for her relief efforts during the Florence, Italy floor of 1966.

From the above references it is easy to see that Mrs. Rose Caruso-D’Antonio was an active member of the social, religious, cultural, and legislative action advocate for the greater New Orleans community. As is

25 Tyler, pg. 121.
mentioned above, many meetings, gatherings, and subsequent grassroots legislative action was worked on, and performed at the D’Antonio House. As was common in the time period, it was quite acceptable for a woman of social standing to entertain, rally, and encourage social and cultural issues in one’s residence.

The work done and planned at the D’Antonio House was important to the mission of the New Orleans League of Women Voters and the women’s right movement in the city of New Orleans. The meetings at the house focused on law, civil rights, child welfare, and voting rights from 1950-1960. As the headquarters for the Gentilly Unit, it served as the outpost for women of all classes and races to have a political voice and equal rights during the women’s suffrage, women’s rights, and civil rights movements post WWII.

League of Women Voters today
The League of Women Voters nationally and locally is still active and has continued to help women and men become informed participants in politics. The organization still sticks to the goals described in a 1919 pamphlet: “The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms, and to support needed legislation.”

Conclusion
The D’Antonio House is locally significant under Criterion A: Social History for the role it played as a meeting location for the Gentilly Unit of the New Orleans League of Women Voters. The public role of women in New Orleans expanded through the work of various women’s organizations, including the NOLWV, which was formed in 1921, but didn’t really take its current shape until after World War II. After 1950, the League changed to include African American women as members and “engineered a fairly smooth transition from segregation to desegregation by the mid-1960s. This change, coupled with the significant demographic shifts in league membership begun in the late 1940s, rendered the New Orleans League of Women Voters an association considerably less dominated by the local elite than it had been earlier in its history.”

The differing point of views that were found in the NOLWV by the 1950s and 1960s helped the organization thrive and grow. For the role it played in this larger women’s rights movement in the city of New Orleans, the D’Antonio House is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Accomplishments and Honors for Guy D’Antonio:
- Loyola Law School graduate. (Loyola Law School. 1924. Yearbook.)
- 1948 US Supreme Court ruling in Georgie Reagon v. Guy J. D’Antonio. D’Antonio defended his landlord/owner legal rights of rental property in the US Supreme Court. Arguments and final US Supreme Court decisions in this case paved the way for modern landlord-tenant law. Legal lease/rental documentation used today cites ‘legal terms of art’ defined and/or updated with this landmark tenant-landlord case: Occupancy, occupied, tenant, tenancy, and refinements of Eviction and Sub-lease agreement law. (Graham and Scharff 1948)
- LA State Bar Association committee on Family and Juvenile Courts (Bolton 1965)
- Committee on Law Reform (Bolton 1965)
- Chairman of the Louisiana Youth Commission (Times Picayune 1960)
- Member of Board of Trustees of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (Bolton 1965)
- Advisory Committee of Juvenile Court of New Orleans (Bolton 1965)
- Orleans Parish Notary 1/1/1926 to 12/31/1967. 19 Novols ‘Volumes in Collection’ (Orleanscivilclerkcom. c. 2013)

27 Tyler, pg. 243.
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


“Aid For Art Rescue”. Times Picayune. November 25, 1956


“Guy D’Antonio services set”. March 05, 1982. Section 1, Page 23.


Loyola Law School. 1924 Yearbook.


New Orleans City Directory, 1956. Page 315


PTA Board to Plan Program for the Year.” Times Picayune. September 15, 1946. Section 3.


“Women’s Organizations Active in City in 1942; Several State Groups Hold Convention Here.” *Times Picayune*. December 27, 1942.


**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**x** preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

____ previously listed in the National Register

**x** 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
D'Antonio, Guy J. and Rose Caruso, House  Orleans Parish, LA
Name of Property                   County and State

___ 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: Less than an acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 29.982989  Longitude: -90.072919

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundaries can be found on the submitted plat map and are as follows: SQ 1512 Lot D Pts 15-17 and SQ 1512 Lot 3. See submitted plat/boundary map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries chosen are the historic boundaries of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dain Marlais and Jessica Richardson, National Register Staff
organization: N/A; Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
street & number: 3436 Magazine St, #206
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70115
e-mail: dain.marlais@gmail.com
telephone:
date: June 22, 2016

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 photo log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Guy J. and Rose Caruso D’Antonio House  
City or Vicinity: New Orleans  
County: Orleans  
State: Louisiana  
Name of Photographer: Jessica G. Richardson  
Date of Photographs: June 15, 2016

1 of 31: Southeast and southwest (façade) elevations; camera facing north.  
2 of 31: Façade, camera facing northeast.  
3 of 31: Northwest and southwest (façade) elevations; camera facing east.  
4 of 31: Northwest and northeast (rear) elevations, including new rear porch; camera facing southwest.  
5 of 31: Rear elevation and new rear porch; camera facing southwest.  
6 of 31: Rear elevation; camera facing southwest.  
7 of 31: View of south elevation of rear projection and new rear porch; camera facing northwest.  
8 of 31: View of south elevation of rear projection; camera facing northwest.  
9 of 31: Southeast elevation; camera facing west.  
10 of 31: First floor living room and dining room; camera facing northeast.  
11 of 31: First floor hallway view from living room; camera facing northeast.  
12 of 31: First floor living room fireplace; camera facing northeast.  
13 of 31: First floor front door; camera facing southwest.  
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15 of 31: First floor front bathroom; camera facing southeast.  
16 of 31: First floor front bedroom; camera facing northeast.  
17 of 31: First floor front bedroom looking towards stair hall; camera facing southwest.  
18 of 31: First floor rear bedroom (now connected to second bedroom); camera facing north.  
19 of 31: Stair hall; camera facing south.  
20 of 31: Stairs and second floor façade window; camera facing south.  
21 of 31: Second floor door to porch from stair hall; camera facing northwest.  
22 of 31: Second floor entry into unit; camera facing northwest.  
23 of 31: Second floor living room fireplace; camera facing north.  
24 of 31: Second floor living room and dining room; camera facing northeast.  
25 of 31: Second floor fireplace details; camera facing north.  
26 of 31: Second floor door to front porch; camera facing southwest.  
27 of 31: Second floor hallway; camera facing northeast.  
28 of 31: Second floor hallway; camera facing southwest.  
29 of 31: Second floor second bedroom; camera facing southeast.  
30 of 31: Second floor second bedroom; camera facing south.  
31 of 31: Second floor rear bedroom; camera facing southeast.
LIST OF FIGURES

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Figure 2. 1930 Census showing Joseph and Angelina Caruso living in the first floor unit and their daughter and son-in-law, Rose and Guy D'Antonio, living upstairs. Image courtesy of the United States Bureau of the Census.

Figure 3. 1940 Census showing Joseph and Angelina Caruso living in the first floor unit and their daughter and son-in-law, Rose and Guy D'Antonio, living upstairs. Image courtesy of the United States Bureau of the Census.

Figure 4. Rose Caruso, center, in her 1925 Newcomb College yearbook. Image courtesy of Tulane University Digital Archives: [https://archive.org/details/jambalayayearboo30edit](https://archive.org/details/jambalayayearboo30edit).

Figure 5 Guy D'Antonio, top. In his 1924 Loyola University yearbook. Image courtesy of Loyola University Digital Archives: [https://archive.org/details/wolfyearbook1924loyo](https://archive.org/details/wolfyearbook1924loyo).

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GUY JOSEPH D'ANTONIO
LL.B.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
“For thy sake, tobacco, I will do anything but die.”

GEORGE DASTE
LL.B.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
“I am in earnest. I will not retreat a single inch, and I will be heard.”

FRANK J. DELAHOUSSAYE
LL.B.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
“The soul of this man is in his clothes.”

JOSEPH G. DEMPSEY, JR.
A.B. Georgetown,
LL.B.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
“Divinely tall, and most divinely fair.”

Figure 5 Guy D’Antonio, top. In his 1924 Loyola University yearbook. Image courtesy of Loyola University Digital Archives: https://archive.org/details/wolfyearbook1924loyo.
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**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.
Guy J. and Rose Caruso D'Antonio House, Orleans Parish, LA

Latitude: 29.982989   Longitude: -90.072919
Latitude: 29.982989   Longitude: -90.072919
SQUARE 1512
THIRD DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS
ORLEANS PARISH, LA.

CASTIGLIONE STREET (SIDE)

PAUL MORPHY STREET

NORTH BROAD STREET (SIDE)

O'REILLY STREET

APRIL 29, 2015

SURVEYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR BOUNDARY SURVEYS FOR A
CLASS C SURVEY, MADE AT THE REQUEST OF
DALMA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION.

DUFRENE SURVEYING
& ENGINEERING INC.

Guy J. and Rose Caruso D'Antonio House
Orleans Parish, LA
Boundary Map