



LOUISIANA TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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2022 LIST OF LOUISIANA'S MOST ENDANGERED PLACES ANNOUNCED

Baton Rouge, LA - Louisiana is known for its rich history and cultural diversity. Louisiana's historic sites represent the past, but often these sites become neglected, abandoned, or ultimately demolished. The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation works statewide to help identify and advocate for our state's historic places. The organization announced **14 new additions to the Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List**. Since 1999, LTHP has maintained this growing list. Many sites have been saved while others remain stagnant. LTHP encourages creative approaches and valuable tools such as the National Register of Historic Places or state and federal tax credits to help save these endangered places.

This year's list represents a mix of sites ranging from rural schools, hurricane impacted areas, Civil Rights history, and more. Listing these places acknowledges their importance to the local community but also our statewide identity and economy.

The list is generated from nominations made by the public and aims to attract creative approaches and resources to see the sites saved and rehabilitated for future generations. Brian Davis, LTHP Executive Director said, "Getting a property added to the Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List can be a useful tool in the effort to save an important part of a community's history. It reinforces the significance of the site and the urgency for action, when applying for a grant or garnering support from the local community. It also increases the commitment of the Louisiana Trust and its resources in seeing a positive outcome for the site."

Selections to Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List are based on their historic significance; the critical nature of their threat; and the likelihood to bring about a positive resolution to their situation or to those of similar sites. More information about the program, including nomination form, and a complete list of sites may be found at <https://www.lthp.org/most-endangered/>.

2022 Additions to Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List:

Alphabetical by Parish

Grave Houses at Istre Cemetery (Morse, Acadia Parish, c. 1900) - Out of the forty that existed, only three historic grave houses remain in this cemetery. Due to this rare and unusual burial tradition, the cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008. The grave houses have been the subject of a book and a documentary in an attempt to raise awareness of the site. A skilled caretaker and restoration plan are needed to keep the remaining houses standing.

Hamburg Post Office/General Store (Hamburg, Avoyelles Parish, 1830s) - The site was originally the Hamburg commissary, an ancillary structure of Calliham Plantation. The Post Office opened in 1888 and the building remained in the same family for 8 generations. The front of the building was modernized with bricks in the 1950s/1960s. The building has remained vacant since a fire in 2000. It was the inspiration for creating the new Bayou des Glaises Cultural District.

Shreveport Friendship House (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, 1905) - This simple frame structure was built around 1905 but is significant as the only Friendship House established in the South. Friendship House was a national organization and an element of the social justice movement of the mid-20th century advocating for integration without regard to race or religion. This Friendship House was associated with Father Joseph Gremillion who founded and served as a pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shreveport, 1949-1958. He later took an academic role at the University of Notre Dame. The Shreveport Friendship closed July 31, 1955 after less than 2 years in operation.

Woolworth Building (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, c. 1908) - The F.W. Woolworth Dept Store occupied this building for much of the 20th century. It had several remodels and even a mid-century facade update (since removed). It is home to Louisiana's oldest operating escalator. It was last remodeled in the 1990s. The building currently sits vacant and suffers from demolition by neglect along Shreveport's main business corridor.

Grand Avenue High School Gym (Dequincy, Calcasieu Parish, 1955) - Built in the mid-1950s, this gymnasium was built to accommodate students of the DeQuincy Colored School (both elementary and high school aged). Physical education classes were held outside before this gym was built. It hosted basketball games, sports tournaments, proms, graduations, high school plays, and much more. It is the site of one of the highest recorded scores for a high school basketball game. The rest of the school buildings were demolished in 1990 but the surviving gym was listed on the National Register in 2017. Severe damage occurred to the structure in 2020. Active alumni hope to save the site for community orientated space for educational purposes or even a disaster relief and staging center.

Palace Theater (Jonesboro, Jackson Parish, 1925) - This entertainment venue was built in 1925 and was updated to its current style of Art Deco (and some Spanish Colonial Revival) shortly after in the 1930s when stucco was applied to its facade. It became a popular gathering space for this rural north central Louisiana community. Entrances and seating were segregated by its original design. In 1965, the theater and two nearby restaurants were sued by the US Attorney General for refusing black patrons. It has been vacant for decades, but the Greater North Louisiana Community Development Corporation hopes to return it back to an entertainment attraction again. They are actively fundraising to make major renovations to the National Register landmark.

11 Mile Stretch (West Bank of St. John the Baptist Parish) - This area was settled in 1724, often known as the Second German Coast. It is the cradle of the Creole Culture of

Louisiana. Its unique history has been preserved through its agriculture, rural landscape, and cultural resources that has attracted thousands of annual tourists. Plans for a large-scale grain elevator, port and other industrial development will change this corridor's historic integrity and destroy the overall quality of life for local residents.

San Francisco Plantation (Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, 1856) - Among the many surviving plantations along River Road, San Francisco has one of the most ornate and opulent architectural styles often referred to as "Steamboat Gothic" in publications. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

Public tours ended permanently in September 2021. Concerns for its future include if the property would be relocated or allowed to deteriorate as the surrounding industry expands.

Baldwin School (Baldwin, St. Mary Parish, 1939) - This one-story school building opened in 1939 near Bayou Teche. It is a simple design constructed of standard cinder block with several windows in each classroom. This school housed students from grades 1-7 until a new school was built in late 1990s. The new vision for the school is to convert it to the Baldwin Town Hall with the town's post office and community space connecting it to the town's fire station located directly behind the former school building.

Daigleville Indian School (Houma, Terrebonne Parish, 1937) - This Neo-Classical style building represents the tripartite system of segregated education that existed in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes when Native American were excluded from white and Black schools. Houma Nation students continued to attend the school following desegregation in the 1960s. The United Houma Nation is working to acquire the property from the Terrebonne Parish School Board as well as repair damage from Hurricane Ida. It was listed on the National Register in 2020.

Trappers Store (Theriot, Terrebonne Parish, 1900) - This structure was built by John A. Marmande to serve the needs of the lower Dularge community and its seasonal population of fur trappers. It features original cypress construction. It later went on to become a general store and post office station. Today it sits vacant and exposed to the elements since Hurricane Ida with concerns of its longevity.

Sikes High School (Sikes, Winn Parish, 1929) - This school replaced an earlier one-room schoolhouse when it was completed in 1929. It took only four months to build at about \$40,000. Both the elementary school and high schools closed in late 1980s and have sat vacant ever since. The Sikes Wolf Creek Handicraft Guild and local Council on Aging are partnering to find ways to save this school. It needs major renovation and fundraising to restore it to a functional condition.

Winnfield Intermediate School (Winnfield, Winn Parish, 1928) - Originally built as the Winnfield High School, this educational landmark was constructed in 1928. It was designed by Herman J. Duncan and constructed by Tudor & Ratcliff, both of

Alexandria. Much of Winnfield's historic fabric has been lost and this school has become one of the last notable landmarks standing. Other modern schools have been built nearby and the last classes were held here in 2018. A building and community assessment are needed to determine its condition and potential new uses.

Louisiana Original Rosenwald School Buildings (Statewide, 1920-32) - In the early 20th century, Booker T. Washington saw the lack of adequate school facilities in rural areas of the South and proposed an affordable and efficient model. He gained the financial support of Julius Rosenwald, Jewish philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. Between 1920 and 1932, approximately 388 Rosenwald School buildings and 31 teachers residences were constructed in Louisiana. Some were used until the educational system in Louisiana was desegregated in 1971. The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation has been researching and documenting the status of remaining schools. As of today, 18 schools and 2 teacher residences are still standing - all in various conditions. These schools can be adapted into new uses and interpreted as a significant part of our state's history.

The Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation was founded in 1979 and works in all 64 parishes to advocate, promote and preserve historic places representing our diverse culture. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and for more information, visit LTHP.org or follow on Facebook ([@LTHPPreservation](https://www.facebook.com/LTHPPreservation)) and Instagram ([@LouisianaTrust](https://www.instagram.com/LouisianaTrust)).

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