



### Orpheum Theater

The Orpheum Theater opened on Feb. 7, 1921, as a vaudeville theater, and in the 1930s it was renovated to accommodate motion pictures. Designed by renowned American theater architect G. Albert Lansburgh in conjunction with local architect Samuel Stone, the Orpheum is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style and is one of the grandest structures in the city. Before Hurricane Katrina, it was home to the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, but the historic theater suffered extensive flooding, as well as wind and rain damage. Little to no progress has been made on repairing or restoring this significant building.



### LaSalle Elementary School

The former New Orleans Center for Creative Arts at the corner of Perrier and Webster streets in the Uptown Historic District was built in the Italianate style circa 1900. In 2000, NOCCA moved out of the building, and it has been vacant ever since. Due to neglect and deferred maintenance, the building's condition continues to worsen, although the structure is still viable and would function well in a variety of public or private uses.



### Downtown Riverfront Neighborhoods

The preservation of the downtown riverfront neighborhoods (French Quarter, Faubourg Marigny and Tremé) as active residential and tourist areas was threatened by the Port of New Orleans' plan to construct a heavy industrial plant on the Governor Nichols and Esplanade Avenue Wharfs. A site removed from historic residential neighborhoods would better serve the community.

# Louisiana Landmarks Society Names New Orleans' Nine Most Endangered Sites

Text and photos courtesy of the Louisiana Landmarks Society

Modeled after the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Eleven Most Endangered" list, the Louisiana Landmarks Society's "New Orleans Nine" seeks to educate the public about the merits of our unique built environment by bringing attention to the city's most historically significant and threatened sites.



### Overseer's House – New Orleans Adolescent Hospital

The United States Marine Hospital Service purchased the present site of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) in 1883. At that time one of the oldest buildings on the site was retained, known informally as the Overseer's House. The original Creole cottage, which is no longer in use and has been allowed to deteriorate, is believed to date from the early 1830s. The governor has moved to close NOAH and relocate its services to the Northshore. If this happens, it is unclear what would become of the property and all the historic buildings on it.



### New Orleans Center for the Education of Adults (formerly McDonough 16)

This former elementary school owned by the New Orleans Parish School Board is located in both the historic Seventh Ward and the New Marigny Historic District. Designed in 1908 by E. A. Christy, it exhibits his distinctive multi-light windows on all elevations. It was still functioning as an active adult education center prior to Hurricane Katrina, and this portion of St. Claude Avenue was not affected by floodwater. It never reopened and according to the 2008 School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish, the building (1815 St. Claude Ave.) is slated for demolition, although it would be an excellent candidate for public or private reuse. There do not appear to be any other threats to this property.



### Charity Hospital

A premier example of Art Deco architecture in New Orleans, this massive 20-story structure opened its doors in 1939. One of the three most important structures built by the local architectural firm Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth, Charity Hospital is a major part of our architectural heritage. The hospital, once one of the leading teaching facilities in the Southern region, was the best source of diagnostic medicine and trauma care in the area prior to Hurricane Katrina. Following the hurricane, the military, local doctors and volunteers pumped out the basement, cleaned and sanitized the lower floors, and restored power, but Charity was never reopened. While a feasibility study, authorized by the state legislature, determined that Charity Hospital was structurally sound and capable of housing a state-of-the-art hospital, the building has been neglected and is threatened with potential demolition.



### Hubbell Library

The historic Carnegie library at 725 Pelican Ave. first opened in December 1907. For almost sixty years, it was the only public library on New Orleans' West Bank. It survived massive hurricanes in 1915, 1965 and 2005. The library did not sustain damage from the August 2005 storms and reopened in October 2005. In May 2008, city inspectors deemed the roof in imminent danger of collapse and ordered the library closed. The promised immediate actions to repair and renovate the library in 2008 have yet to be completed.



### Myrtle Rosebella Banks Elementary School

This three-story, 40,000-square-foot former elementary school building owned by the Orleans Parish School Board is slated for demolition. Designed by prominent architect E. A. Christy in the early 20th century, it offers tremendous redevelopment potential and is critical to the revitalization of Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard and the Central City Historic District.



### 400 Block of South Rampart Street

Three buildings significant to the history of jazz are threatened with demolition by neglect: 401-03 S. Rampart, the Odd Fellows Ballroom/Eagle Saloon; 413-15 S. Rampart, the Iroquois Theater; and 427-31 S. Rampart, the Karnofsky Tailor Shop and residence. For example, the Eagle Saloon is well known as a favorite haunt of early jazz musicians.