

# LANDMARKS' PRESERVATION



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*Pictured Above: 1521 S. Carrollton Avenue: Keith & Supreeya Scarmuzza; Daniel Samuels; Ashton Avegno*

Louisiana Landmarks Society 2020 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation were announced today to honor outstanding achievements in historic restoration, renovation and new design. It is a juried competition and the awards selection committee reviewed a near record-setting number of entries. Among the 17 winners this year are four residential projects, eight commercial projects and five institutional buildings.

Traditionally, these prestigious awards are presented during a ceremony that features one of the winning commercial projects as the venue. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for this year's event were shelved in early March. The organization opted instead to produce a virtual tour of the winning projects in a three-episode mini-documentary series that is available online. As an added feature, the group is promoting a self-guided driving tour

with a comprehensive map and digital catalogue that provides detailed background information on each winning project. "We encourage those interested in the preservation of New Orleans' architectural heritage to drive the city and see first hand the positive impact these award-winning buildings are making in neighborhoods across the city," says president Sally Reeves. "We'd like to congratulate the winners and say thanks to the many sponsors who worked with us in support of this digital initiative."

"This year's group of award-winning projects encompasses a wide variety of nominations from all parts of the city," says awards committee chair Sandra Stokes. "I'm impressed with the talent and innovation they represent along with the significant investment these teams have made in the preservation of the architectural landscape of our city. They have set a great example for others to move forward with confidence in the value of similar opportunities."



The documentary series was sponsored by GBX Group LLC



and is available online along with the comprehensive map and digital catalogue at

[www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org).

Before and after photos are available upon request.

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## The Hour Upon the Stage

### *Outgoing President's Report*

Macbeth's well-known melancholy lament about life, with references to walking shadows, petty places and tales of meaningless sound and fury, is at least partially right – the part about the brief time on the stage of life. But in his embittered gloom he drew the wrong judgment about the purpose of it all. Hard work and good deeds do not signify nothing, as the fictional King of Scotland concluded.

Organizations like Louisiana Landmarks Society are founded to do public good, within the scope of its mission and in its small corner of the world. However, for a variety of reasons preserving historic buildings has never been easy, especially at times when such efforts may be seen as swimming against the current, as in the short-sighted urban renewal era of the early 1950s when Louisiana Landmarks was founded, and even today, with widespread social unrest and violence that

threatens our cities and built environments.

Louisiana Landmarks Society and the New Orleans community that it serves has over the course of its 70 years been blessed with many talented leaders and volunteers, men and women who embraced the historic preservation mission with zeal and dedication and who worked that cause tirelessly to the best of their ability. That New Orleans can be said during those years to have inculcated preservation practices in its planning, public policies and decision-making is due in no small measure to citizens like these, selflessly giving of their time, treasure and talent during their hour on the stage. Those hours do add up over time, such that the stage itself can at times be changed for the better. Those changes must be cherished, especially during difficult times like the present.

My opportunity to be on the Louisiana Landmarks stage was most gratifying. While not all hoped for resolutions came to be, given the hard work of the officers, board, staff and volunteers, it may be concluded upon reflection that unlike Macbeth's brief candle, the strutting and fretting on the stage these past two years signified something real, a meaningful sound and fury, yielding something good for historic preservation.

**Michael Duplantier**

*Immediate Past President*



## Louisiana Landmarks Society

### *President's Remarks, June 2020*

To some of you, all the busy comings and goings at the historic Pitot House must seem long ago and far away. The house was usually brimming with activity, whether visitors were dropping in to tour the house, staff and volunteers busily preparing events, board committees pondering subsequent steps, or members coming in to enjoy Vinos on the Bayou, book sales, or events like the Fall Fete or the Heritage Fair. Those events are admittedly dark now, but our loyal staff and board have continued their work. While the board grapples with current financial challenges, staff, especially Historic House Manager Jenny Dyer and Special Events Coordinator Cherry May, have continued to fulfill our obligations and commitments to our members and sponsors. In addition, grants coordinator Karen Kern has submitted proposals to the board for enhanced program types that may improve our success with funding requests.

Downtime anywhere provides an organization time and a slowing rhythm to ponder the future. In light of accelerating trends, the board must contemplate where we might wish for Louisiana Landmarks Society to be over the next three years. Clearly, we wish to have a stronger digital footprint, our online *2020 Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards and Virtual Tours* program, set to launch in mid-July, standing as a prime example. Conceived and directed by Cherry May, the program will reach a widening audience as a permanent online presence. Fund-raising events will also change while adapting to the health-related needs of society; and once the nation is able to open more completely, we hope to capture our market share of the increased regional tourism that could develop as vacationers remain closer to home.

More fundamentally, the Louisiana Landmarks Society is committed to remain faithful to its mission to educate the community about the value of our built environment. We will continue to offer a respectful narrative about our history and shared heritage; and we will stay the course in explaining the importance of holding on to truth and beauty over good times and bad.

**Sally Reeves**

*President*

## New Officers and Board Elected

The 2020 Louisiana Landmarks Society election of officers and board is now completed. While new officers and board have always been voted on at the annual meeting of the membership of Landmarks, this year, in what is believed to be the first time in its 70 year history, Louisiana Landmarks was unable to hold its annual meeting due to a public health crisis. This cancellation forced a vote by mail ballot, both by e-mail and regular mail, a process that went smoothly despite never having been done before in this manner. Louisiana Landmarks thanks its members for their fine cooperation and participation in the mail election of the new officers and board.

Elected as president of Louisiana Landmarks for the 2020-2021 year is long-time supporter and member **SALLY REEVES**. Sally has served several terms on the Landmarks board of trustees, including in the early 1980s, the early years of the new century and again for the past three years. Her many decades of service to Landmarks is a reflection of her commitment and dedication to the organization, its mission and to the cause of historic preservation in New Orleans. Louisiana Landmarks is grateful to Sally for accepting this nomination, and for continuing to give to the organization the benefit of her many years of experience and of her wise counsel.

The full list of officers and members of the board of trustees for 2020-2021 is as follows.:

**President**  
Sally Reeves

**1st Vice President**  
James R. Logan, IV

**2nd Vice President**  
Betsy Stout

**Treasurer**  
Michael Duplantier

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Louis McFaul

**Recording Secretary**  
Nathan Lott

**Corresponding Secretary**  
James Rolf

**Board of Trustees**

Greg Arceneaux  
Mary Ann Barkerding  
William Barry, Jr.  
Michele Braden  
Isabelle Dissard-Cooper  
René J. L. Fransen  
Keith Hardie  
Michael Mancuso

## 2020 PRESERVATION AWARD SPONSORS

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JAT Construction  
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Stonehenge Capital  
Lyn Tomlinson  
Waggoner & Ball

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L+M Development  
Palmisano  
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Voelkel McWilliams Construction

### PATRONS

Charles Berg, AIA  
Michael Bolan  
Bywater Woodworks  
Patrick Finey/Galaxie Taqueria



**Louisiana Landmarks Society's  
2020 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation**

**Award Winning Teams**

*With the exception of 1521 S . Carrollton listed on page 1.*

- ◇ **Davis/Steward Residence:** Richard Davis and Clifton Stewart; Charles A. Berg, A.I.A.; JAT Construction
- ◇ **5302 Dauphine Street:** Joshua Fegley; Guidry Cunningham, LLC; Gene Guidry; Profimont, LLC; Kim Carnegie
- ◇ **Plunkett Residence:** Laura & William Plunkett; Jahncke & Burns Architects; Robert Judice Master Craftsman
- ◇ **Bohn Motor Co.:** 2700 Bohn Motor LLC; Gulf Coast Housing Partnership; Terrell Fabacher Architects; FH Myers Construction
- ◇ **614 Gravier Street:** Choupique Holdings; Carr, Riggs; & Ingram; Cypress Building Conservation
- ◇ **Jewel of the South:** John Stubbs; Trapolin-Peer Architects; MacRostie Historic Advisors; Tidewater Construction; IMC Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- ◇ **Maison De La Luz:** The Domain Companies; EskewDumezRipple; Palmisano LLC; Pontchartrain Mechanical; Morphy Makofsky Inc; Spackman, Mossop & Michaels; Studio Shamishiri; AKRF Acoustical Design; Sean O-Connor Lighting; Frischertz Electric Co.
- ◇ **1626 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard:** Gulf Coast Housing Partnership; Gideon Community Development Corporation; CCWIV Architecture LLC; Schrenk, Endom & Flanagan; Cobalt Construction
- ◇ **The Sazerac House:** The Sazerac Company Inc., Trapolin-Peer Architects, Ryan Gootee General Contractors, Holt Consultants, LLC, Moses Engineers



**Davis/Steward Residence**



**5302 Dauphine Street**



**Plunkett Residence**



**Bohn Motor Co.**



**614 Gravier Street**



**Jewel of the South**



**Maison De La Luz**



**1626 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard**



**The Sazerac House**



## Louisiana Landmarks Society's 2020 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

### Award Winning Teams Cont'd.

- ◇ **The Seignouret-Brulatour House:** The Historic New Orleans Collection; Waggoner & Ball; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; Schrenk, Endom & Flanagan Engineers; TLC Engineering for Architecture; Tillotson Design Associates; Edward Dugger and Associates; Cypress Building Conservation; Bywater Woodworks
- ◇ **Texaco Service Station:** Patrick Finney; Colectivo; MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC; JMT Construction; AM Creative Finishes; Matthew Holdren Design; MOSA Design+Fabrication
- ◇ **Eleanor McMain High School:** New Orleans Public Schools; Concordia Architects; Tuna Construction; C.Spencer Smith, AIA; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; SpecsGuy Specifications Consultant
- ◇ **131 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy:** Albert Architecture; Morphy Makofsky, Inc; Moses Engineers; CGK Realty Partners, LLC; Hernandez Consulting & Construction; New Orleans Redevelopment Fund 2; Crescent Growth Capital, LLC
- ◇ **The Rendon:** The Rendon Partners LLC; Trapolin-Peer Architects; MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC; Ryan Gootee General Contractors; Carr, Riggs & Ingram; Robert Bouchon Consulting Engineer; IMC Consulting Engineers Inc.; Spackman Mossop and Michaels.
- ◇ **The Schoolhouse:** L+M Development; Rome Office Architects; Spackman, Mossop, and Michaels; CDW Services; Howell Consultants; Jolly Consultants; PACE Group; Fricker Historic Preservation Services; LO Specs; Neil Alexander.
- ◇ **Convent Building-St. Michael Special School:** Archdiocese of New Orleans; Holly & Smith Architects; Voelkel McWilliams Construction; ADG Engineering; Heaslip Engineering



The Seignouret-Brulatour House (HNOC)



Texaco Service Station



Eleanor McMain High School



131 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy.



The Rendon



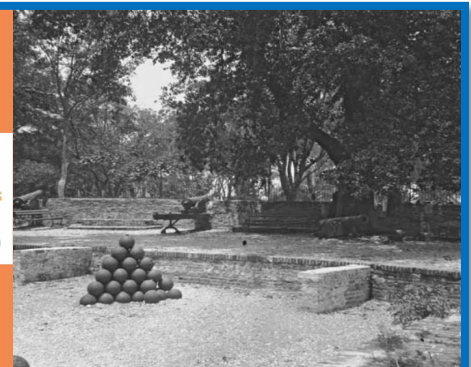
The Schoolhouse



Convent Building - St. Michael Special School

Coming Soon!  
Visit  
[www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org)  
for more information

The logo features the text "New Orleans' most endangered sites" in a stylized font, with "2020" below it. The background is orange with a pattern of white dots.





# They Want to Demolish McDonogh No. 11 School – FIGHT IT!

by Brad Vogel, former Ed Majkrzak Historic Preservation Fellow with the National Trust for Historic Preservation



Photo credit Brad Vogel

You know that big pale blue school building along I-10 – just upriver from Canal Street? That’s right, the historic McDonogh No. 11 school building built in 1879 that was moved multiple times to make way for the UMC hospital. The same striking edifice that was slated for demolition back in 2011 until historic preservationists and community members – including Louisiana Landmarks Society - rose up and demanded that it be saved because LSU had not given a damn when planning for its suburban-style monstrosity (see the blog **Inside the Footprint** for more details).

Well, LSU - after failing to use an ounce of creativity to incorporate the building into its site plans, after spending millions on moving the building, and after leaving it to molder in vandalism and decay - wants to demolish the storied structure.

LSU seems to have forgotten one little wrinkle, however. A little detail that’s rather important – and that makes nearly a decade of neglect inexcusable, not to mention the proposed demolition.

In 2011, when the New Orleans City Council agreed to give up the street grid inside the footprint to make way for the UMC hospital, it did so conditionally. That is to say, it legally required LSU to take certain actions regarding McDonogh No. 11 as a condition for proceeding to tear up the age-old streets. At the time, a public letter from the Council said of LSU’s original demolition plans: "It will make no sense to tax payers, and, frankly, it doesn't make any sense to us." That’s still true today of LSU’s latest demolition plans.

Based on that skepticism, here is what the Council passed in 2011:

“The State of Louisiana shall make best efforts to relocate or preserve the historic Orleans House and McDonogh No. 11 structures. If said structures cannot be relocated or preserved, the structures must be deconstructed and salvaged, per confirmation by the Mayor.” -- Proviso 5 to Ordinance No. 24436, Adopted by New Orleans City Council June 2, 2011.

Note that the proviso requires that the state (i.e. LSU) use “best efforts” – an actual legal standard, not just a half-hearted attempt - to relocate or preserve McDonogh No. 11. Only if the school building cannot be relocated or preserved may it be deconstructed, and the Mayor makes the determination of whether it is not possible to relocate or preserve the structure. Has Mayor Cantrell made any such determination at this time?

Also, note that it is a hurdle of not being able to be “relocated or preserved” (emphasis added) – in other words, even if further relocation is not possible LSU must use its best efforts to preserve the structure. It has clearly failed to do so for nearly a decade given the current condition of the structure. Certainly the intent of the proviso is to ensure that McDonogh No. 11 be saved and preserved unless doing so is truly impossible – it would make no sense to require relocation that simply leads to demolition and loss of the building, which is very clearly lifted up as valuable in the ordinance.



Photo credit Sandra Stokes



Photo credit Ray Nichols

I am here, as someone who helped lift up this building’s story and worth in 2010 and 2011 even when it had been written off as a goner, to tell you it is entirely possible for LSU to preserve McDonogh No. 11. And under the ordinance passed in 2011, it is obligated to do so. LSU may not recall the \$3 million in federal taxpayer dollars spent to refurbish the building after Katrina. Or that the school was in use when LSU forced it out. Or that LSU claimed the building couldn’t be moved, which obviously wasn’t true. We preservationists, though, we remember.

So, if you are a friend to preservation, if you stand for the rule of law in New Orleans, if you believe that the two hospitals destroyed far too much quintessential built fabric, if you know that adaptive reuse has been a hallmark of the New Orleans way of life for centuries, if you believe the fund spent on moving the building should not be for naught, if you’ve seen from the city’s history that buildings can bounce back gloriously from near death...then I implore you to demand that your city council representative and your mayor act to stop this impending travesty.

Many, many mistakes were made in post-Katrina New Orleans. Don’t let this be another one added to that sad tally. There truly is a better way.