

4United 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: Northwestern State University Historic District

Other names/site number: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/a

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing n/a)

2. Location

Street & number: SEE BELOW FOR BOUNDARY INCREASE ADDRESSES

City or town: Natchitoches State: LA County: Natchitoches

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

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 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 statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, 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**

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

5. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School; College

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School; College

6. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Tudor Revival; Jacobean Revival; Late Gothic Revival/Collegiate Gothic

Modern Movement: Art Deco

Other: English/Cottage Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete/brick

walls: Brick

roof: Slate/metal/asphalt

other:

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,

Northwestern State University Historic District
 Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
 County and State

method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Previously Listed Properties with the Northwestern State University Historic District

As listed in 1980, the Normal Hill Historic District consisted of six contributing resources. These included the university's three oldest surviving buildings and three even older structures. The buildings were known as Caldwell, Russell, and Warren Easton halls. The structures consisted of a set of monumental Greek Revival columns, which were all that remained of the old Bullard Mansion (built 1832; demolished 1904), which the school had used as a dormitory when it opened in 1884. Unfortunately, Caldwell Hall was destroyed by fire in 1982. Thus, the new resource count for the (1980) Normal Hill Historic District is:

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2	0	Buildings
0	0	District
0	0	Site
3	0	Structure
0	0	Object
5	0	Total

Update of the President's Home, Northwestern State University Resource Count

At the time of its National Register listing in 1984, the President's Home nomination consisted of two contributing elements. These included the house itself and its accompanying garage.

Thus, the resource count for the 1984 President's Home nomination is:

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	0	Buildings
0	0	District
0	0	Site
0	0	Structure
0	0	Object
2	0	Total

Update of Women's Gymnasium, Northwestern State University Resource Count

At the time of its National Register listing in 1984, the Women's Gymnasium nomination consisted of one contributing element, the gym itself. That number has not changed. Thus, the resource count for the Women's Gymnasium nomination remains:

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	0	Buildings

Northwestern State University Historic District
 Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
 County and State

0	0	District
0	0	Site
0	0	Structure
0	0	Object
1	0	Total

RESOURCE COUNT FOR UPDATED NOMINATION

Contributing	Non-contributing	
17	4	Buildings
1	0	District
3	0	Site
1	1	Structure
1	1	Object
23	4	Total

Summary Paragraph

Located in the community of Natchitoches in Natchitoches Parish, Northwestern State University (NSU) of Louisiana currently has a small collection of National Register-listed properties. Its Normal Hill Historic District achieved listing in 1980 due to the architectural designs of its oldest historic buildings and their role as the first major state-supported Normal school for the preparation of teachers. Normal Hill contained the oldest portion of the university's campus and consisted of three large buildings set around a quadrangle and three monumental Greek Revival columns surviving from an earlier building. The University's 1927 President's Home, located on University Parkway approximately 400 feet northwest of the columns and its 1923 Women's Gymnasium received individual Register listings in 1984 in recognition of their architectural designs. The creation of this new district, called the Northwestern State University Historic District, will include the original 1980 Normal Hill Historic District. The purposes of this new submission are fourfold:

1. to update the original Normal Hill Historic District nomination to reflect the loss of an important contributing resource.
2. to increase the boundaries of the existing district to accurately catalog the historic resources on the university campus.
3. to expand the district's period of significance to reflect the continued educational role of the campus from 1884 to 1955.
4. to recognize the significance of the architecture of the oldest buildings on the campus.

Goals one and two will be addressed in the narrative description (Section 7), while goals three and four will be discussed in the significance statement (Section 8).

The enlarged district occupies a roughly triangular area bounded by University Parkway to the north, South Jefferson Street and Chaplin's Lake to the southeast, and Tarleton Drive to the southwest. It is approximately one mile south southwest of downtown Natchitoches and the center of the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District on Front Street. The university district includes buildings, structures, and open, landscaped spaces. Its buildings are mostly two to three stories in height. Most are faced in red brick, and most ornamentation is carried out with cast stone. Styles of the buildings reflect those popular at the time of construction, 1884 through 1955. These styles include Late 19th and 20th Century

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Revivals: Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Jacobean, and Collegiate Gothic; Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement: Commercial Style; and Modern Movement: Moderne, Campus Modern, and Art Deco. As with most institutional architecture, the examples on the NSU campus are somewhat restrained.

The expanded district is made up of 85% historic-contributing resources (23 contributing and 4 non-contributing). Two of the non-contributing resources are new construction and the other two are historic resources that have been altered significantly. Thus, the majority of the structures are of high historic integrity.

Narrative Description

General Description

The Northwestern State University Historic District includes buildings, structures, an object, and open, landscaped sites. Buildings in the district are mostly two to three stories in height and most are faced in red brick. Most ornamentation is carried out with cast stone.

Normal Hill, the nucleus of the campus, is located on the east side of the district. There are just two remaining buildings and three objects (columns) from the original Normal Hill Historic District: Warren Easton Hall and the Leche Library, now Russell Hall, and the three columns that remain from the Bullard mansion.

The Normal Hill quadrangle was set up with its long axis trending northwest-southeast. The adjacent dormitory quadrangle to the west was oblique to Normal Hill, but parallel to Jefferson Highway, now University Parkway. The orientation of the original buildings in this area of campus influenced the orientation of all later construction between Central Avenue and Caspari Street, as evidenced by the orientation of the Women's Gymnasium and the President's Home which face north-northeast on University Parkway, though the original dormitories have long since been replaced. To the south, Caspari Hall and the Men's Gymnasium, now the Wellness, Recreation, and Activities Center (WRAC), share this same orientation, as do Natchitoches Central High School and Natchitoches Trade School to the west, both now part of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA), a statewide residential honors high school. (The LSMSA site was originally leased to the university, but now the property is owned by LSMSA.)

Farther to the west, Morrison Hall, Fournet Hall, and the Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences Building surround a small, open quadrangle that is oriented obliquely to the former dormitory quad, and opens to the northeast. This orientation probably was meant to complement the orientation of the Normal Hill quadrangle on the east side of the dormitories.

Inventory

Building: Warren Easton Hall (1928)

Style: Jacobean Revival

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor:

Easton Hall is of brick masonry construction, two stories high with an English basement. Although the original interior is largely intact, it is simply detailed. Easton Hall has a quiet, almost Georgian massing, with a pitched roof central block flanked by flat roof wings. The building is entered by means of a central lancet arched opening recessed at the end of a balustraded bridge. At one time this entrance arch was surmounted by an oriel window. This, however, has been removed, leaving a white-patched area in the wall. The fenestration quoining is restrained, and there is no quoining at the corners of the building. The

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

brick is laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers in the parapets over the wings, which form a diamond pattern. Unlike the other buildings of the quadrangle, the rear of Easton Hall has received no decorative treatment whatever. (Building is part of the original Normal Hill Historic District - Contributing.)

Building: Richard W. Leche Library / Scharlie E. Russell Library / Russell Hall (1937)

Style: Jacobean Revival

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor:

Russell Hall was originally constructed as the Richard W. Leche Library, named for then governor Leche. After Leche's conviction and imprisonment in 1940, the library was renamed for Scharlie E. Russell, who served as librarian for the Louisiana State Normal School/Louisiana State Normal College from 1910 to 1940. The building was renamed Russell Hall when the Eugene P. Watson library was constructed in 1972.

Built of hollow tile faced with brick Flemish bond facing, Russell Hall is a one and a half story pitch roof building with an English basement. The building is entered through a central gabled pavilion with a "U" shaped set of stairs facing northeast. The interiors are simply detailed, being composed mainly of classrooms and library stacks. At Russell Hall, the cast stone detailing and the massing are even more restrained than at Easton Hall. The most noteworthy feature is the pillared, segmental, pedimented front door. The rest of the fenestration consists of large rectangular medieval-looking windows.

A large rear wing was added to Russell Hall in the 1970s. It was constructed of brick of compatible color to the original portion of Russell Hall. The rear wing is not visible from the quadrangle, which was the major spatial element of the original Normal Hill Historic District. (Building is part of the original Normal Hill Historic District - Contributing.)

Building: President's Home/Alumni Center (1927)

Style: Tudor Revival

Primary material: Brick

Architect/Contractor: Favrot and Livaudais / Frank Bethune

The President's Home, now the university's Alumni Center, is a two-story Tudor Revival style cottage, faced in red and dark brown brick laid in a variation of American bond employing Flemish headers. The building is asymmetrical, featuring bays of varying height and fenestration. The primary mass of the building sits beneath a cross-gabled slate roof, which is hipped on the east end with a jerkinhead or "clipped" gable to the west. Rooflines are interrupted by two Elizabethan style multiple flue chimneys. The building is entered through a gabled vestibule that projects from the primary façade (facing north) and is ornamented with a cast stone cap and finials. Cast stone trim surrounds the Tudor-arched entryway with a cast relief carving above. The rear entry is covered by a timber frame porte-cochère. The westernmost bay features a half-timbered second story with hipped roof dormers. The easternmost bay is a single story "garden room" with a gable end roof. The exterior walls of the room are fenestrated by arched transom windows over French doors. Wooden casement windows of varying sizes punctuate the façades with irregular placement throughout the rest of the building.

A brick, hipped-roof garage stands adjacent to the southwest corner of the house and is connected to it by a low brick wall, forming a courtyard. The wall and garage are constructed in a style in keeping with that of the house and appear to be contemporaneous constructions. (Building is individually listed. Contributing)

Building: Women's Gymnasium (1923)

Style: Jacobean Revival

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Favrot and Livaudais / Frank Bethune

The exterior of the Women's Gymnasium incorporates sixteenth and early seventeenth century architectural elements in a large rectangular mass to give the effect of a Jacobean country house. The red brick walls are contrasted with cast stone trim that resembles limestone. Late Gothic features of the

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

gym include the Tudor arches, the linenfold and cusp panels, the incorporation of groups of windows under a single pronounced hood mold and the use of several different shapes and sizes of windows. Renaissance features include the basic symmetry of the articulation, the elaborate use of quoining, the flat regular parapets with their blind arcade and strapwork panels, the shaped gable over the entrance, and the rooftop ball finials. The exterior also features numerous band cornices that divide the elevations horizontally in various places. This is a feature that appears both on late Gothic and early Renaissance buildings in England. The rear elevation of the gym is divided into modular bays by quoin pilasters of no particular historical derivation.

Today, the Women's Gym serves as the home for the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). The building was vacant for many years before renovations began for NCPTT. The building suffered a devastating fire in 1997 during renovations that damaged the building. The steel framing and brickwork survived, and the original windows had been removed and were being rehabilitated off site. These windows were reinstalled during the second renovation. The rear entryways were modified, replacing the second floor single door and sidelights with double doors, and centering the first floor entry, replacing solid doors with double doors with sidelights and transom windows. This modification required the removal of an adjacent window. Hood molding for this entry was created to match the existing molding on all of the other openings. A steel landing and stairs were added to the rear of the building to access the second floor exit, and handicapped accessible ramps were added to the rear entry from the western parking area, and to the eastern secondary entrance on the main façade, approached from the eastern parking area. (Building is individually listed. Contributing)

Building: Varnado Hall (1939)

Style: Colonial Revival

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr/ R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc.

Varnado Hall is set back from University Parkway, behind the Women's Gymnasium and the President's Home and is accessed by a large, circular drive. Originally a women's dormitory, today it is used for overflow housing on campus. It consists of two symmetrical, three-story wings to the east and west joined by a single-story section that includes the entrance, lobby and social hall, referred to in the original blueprints as the drawing room. On the primary façade, this portion of the building features an inset porch that runs the length of the central entrance section and includes extensive ironwork and nine-over-nine full height windows. The primary entrance at the center includes sidelights and transoms; secondary entrances are located at both ends of the porch. This center section extends past the rear façade line and includes nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve sashes. The building is faced on all sides with red brick, laid in a Flemish bond. Fenestration of the two wings is symmetrical and consists of mostly six-over-six, double hung windows with cast stone sills. A cast stone band runs the perimeter of the building, above the first story. Cast stone also caps the cross gables which are located at the end of each wing nearest the entrance section. The opposite ends of each wing terminate with a hipped roof. Cast stone is also used as a hood molding above the gable vents and some of the windows. Ornamental ironwork adorns "courting" balconettes at several six-over-nine windows in the two dormitory wings and on brackets at covered entryways located on the end of both wings and at the rear of the structure. The two dormitory wings have slate, cross-gabled, hipped roofs with four gabled ventilation dormers located at the center of each roof. The connecting central bay has a flat roof with parapet. (Contributing)

Building: Infirmary (1920)

Style: Beaux Arts

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor:

The Infirmary is a one-story, rectilinear red brick building, laid in a Scottish bond, with Beaux Arts features including a flat roof with parapet and faux quoining, composed of cement parging, decorating both the inside and outside corners of both the original building and the addition. The original portion of the building consists of three bays, with the middle bay recessed behind the façade line. This middle bay

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

includes entryways to the east and west. The eastern entry, which served as the historic primary entrance, features a round brick archway and pilasters to either side. The door, sidelights, and transom have been replaced with modern, aluminum frame doors and lights. The word, "INFIRMARY", is carved in Roman block lettering in cast stone in the parapet above the door. The faux stonework continues around the building with a water table and cyma recta cornice. The west-facing portion of the original building includes decorative gutters and conductor heads. An addition to the north (1940, Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr/ R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc.) doubled the size of the original building and incorporated ornamentation consistent with the original structure.

Today, the original portion of the building is occupied by the NSU police department and the addition continues to house the Student Health Services. The main entrance to the addition faces west and is served by a solid, flat metal door. This side of the structure is highlighted by two very large crape myrtles. On the east side, a narrow, recessed section of the addition with a secondary entrance marks the junction between the original and the addition. This secondary entrance and the entrance on the north end of the structure are protected by flat metal awnings with decorative, cast iron brackets, similar to those on Varnado Hall. The building is fenestrated throughout by one-over-one wooden windows. The tops of these have been boarded-over, and some windows, particularly on the original building, now host window air-conditioning units.

Despite these changes, the building retains its historic integrity. An accessible concrete ramp has been added to the main Health Services entrance on the west side of the addition. The condition of the building is fair, as some of the concrete/stucco parging and a portion of the cornice are missing from the west side of the addition, exposing the brick behind. The original portion of the building does not have central air conditioning or heating, requiring some of the windows to house air conditioning units. (Contributing)

Building: Gymnasium / Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (1929)

Style: Collegiate Gothic **Primary material:** Red brick

Architect/Contractor:

The Gymnasium (LSMSA) is a rectilinear, two story Tudor Revival building. Built in 1929, it consists of red brick laid in a common bond pattern. It features a gabled roof with parapet delineated by corbelling that follows the gabled roofline. At the peak of the parapet is an alcove that apparently once contained a small statue. The east façade has a cast stone Tudor arch entrance that is enhanced by a decorative bas-relief panel above. The entrance doors are modern, as are the windows that flank them. The corners are adorned with cast stone quoins. Most of the windows on south façade have been bricked-in and the lintels and sills removed. A one-story, flat-roofed red brick addition was attached to the west side of the structure. Another non-contributing addition was added to the north side of the building that uses red brick and cast stone quoins to match the historic core of the building. The mass of the addition is stepped back from the façade of the original gymnasium. (Contributing)

Building: Natchitoches High School / LSMSA (1938)

Style: Collegiate Gothic **Primary material:** Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth; Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr/ R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc.

Natchitoches High School, now the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, is a three-story, red brick structure laid in a variation of American bond employing Flemish headers, similar to the pattern seen on the President's House, but with five stretcher courses instead of three. The primary mass of the building is based on a rear-facing T-plan with the auditorium occupying the leg of the T. The two-story, flat roofed auditorium appears to be mostly original except that the tall windows on the east and west walls have been filled. South of the auditorium are additional classrooms. The recessed, arched main entrance to the school typifies the style and is located at the top of the T, facing north. The main entrance

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

of the building has a front facing gable which is adorned with windows, quoins, a small gable window and decorative panel at its peak. The other entrances feature similar details at the end of each wing, including decorative brickwork in a diamond pattern.

Most of the original six-over-six double-hung windows have been covered with exterior, operable storm windows. (Contributing)

Building: Trade School / LSMSA Music and Arts Building (1938)

Style: Collegiate Gothic

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth; Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr/ R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc.

The Natchitoches Trade School (now the LSMSA Arts building) is clad in red brick laid in a variation of American bond employing Flemish headers, as seen on the Natchitoches High School. It has a flat roof with castellated parapets, flattened Tudor arches above the doors and windows on front façade, and a bas-relief standing figure of a tradesman surrounded by various implements of industry in the parapet above the front door. Hood molding appears over the entryway (which appears to have been built this way).

Original, double-hung windows remain on the primary, north-facing façade. The east and west façades originally contained banks of eight-light awning windows, which were replaced during renovation with similar windows from the same manufacturer. The interior was entirely remodeled schools art department. (Contributing)

Building: Scholar's College/Business Administration / Morrison Hall / (1950)

Style: Modern Movement

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Charles T. Roberts / Tudor Construction Co.

The Business Administration Building/ Morrison Hall / Scholars' College is a two story, red brick rectilinear building with a flat roof. Front and side entryways feature ornamental metal work with foliate and Greek fret motifs. The articulated façade of this building provides visual interest and serves to diminish the scale of the structure. Similar articulation is seen in this architect's other work across the courtyard, the Home Economics Building. The original windows have been replaced with modern windows (fixed-pane with a lower awning window). The entrance on the northeast end of Morrison Hall has been modified to include an accessible concrete ramp. The structure is arranged with its main façade facing southeast toward an open-sided quadrangle surrounding a majestic live oak tree, with Fournet Hall to the southwest and the Family and Consumer Science Building directly across the quadrangle to the southeast. While the layout has not changed dramatically, the interior was recently remodeled.(Contributing)

Building: Fournet Hall (1950)

Style: Moderne/Art Deco

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Lester Haas, V. J. Massey

Designed by Lester Haas, a well-known Shreveport architect, Fournet Hall is a two story, red brick rectilinear building with a flat roof. The primary façade faces northeast and is characterized by a three bay double height cast stone bay which projects vertically above two symmetrical wings of red brick. The horizontality of the building is accentuated by two bands of windows featuring cast stone lintels and sills that run the length of the building. The main entry, within the cast stone bay, includes late Art Deco elements in cast concrete such as fluted pilasters, bas relief panels, and cylindrical sconces, and features the name "Science". The case panels feature stylized symbols of chemistry and physics. The broad entry steps are granite and are flanked by concrete planters. The original, horizontally divided awning windows have been replaced with modern windows (fixed-pane with a lower awning window) that alternate with metal-backed glass panels that were most likely installed to improve energy efficiency. The original windows above the doorways have been replaced with glass block. The glass block above the northwest

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

entry (facing southwest, on the rear elevation) was recently replaced with a double-pane window. The interior of the building features large buff-colored subway tiles on most walls. Some of these tiles are perforated to dampen sound. A notable feature is the inset tile handrails on the stairs. These were later supplemented with pipe-type rails, most likely as the accessibility standards changed. The northeast corner of the building suffered a fire in the 1960s and has been renovated, though these changes are not obvious on the exterior. An accessible ramp and elevator have been added to the northwest end of the structure. The building was extended to the northwest to accommodate the elevator, a short hallway, and a loading ramp.

Fournet Hall is arranged, along with the Scholar's College/Morrison Hall and the Family and Consumer Science Building, in an open quadrangle (open to the northeast) surrounding a majestic live oak tree. Other plantings in the quadrangle include a younger oak, crape myrtles, indigo, and lorapetalum. Modern metal bench seating, arranged in an open classroom style, is located on the southwest side of the large live oak. (Contributing)

Building: Home Economics Building/Family and Consumer Sciences Building (1950)

Style: Modern Movement

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Charles T. Roberts / Tudor Construction Co.

The Family and Consumer Sciences Building is a two story, red brick rectilinear building with a flat roof. The building appears to consist of five portions, with a taller central piece. This articulation adds interest to the building's façade. The central projection picks up on cast stone details from the older buildings, but does it in a more modern way. The name of the building is etched in a panel above the entry doors. There are two bands of brick running along the wings as well as one unified cast stone sill under the windows of each section. The main entry includes a broad set of concrete steps. A flat awning protects the entry doors, which are flush with the face of the structure. Secondary entrances are located on the northeast and southwest ends of the structure. The original windows have been replaced with modern windows (fixed-pane with a lower awning window). It feels like a modern version of the older buildings, featuring some modernized Art Deco elements. Its main façade faces northwest directly across the quadrangle from Morrison Hall. (Contributing)

Building: Nesom Natatorium (1939)

Style: Modern Movement

Primary material: Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr/ R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc.

Nesom Natatorium is a two-story, red brick building executed in Flemish bond. The rectilinear building faces south and features a cast stone entryway with recessed doors and the word "Natatorium" in engraved letters above the entrance. Cylindrical sconces of glass and aluminum flank the entrance. Four concrete steps approach the entrance. The two-story portion of the building is set back from the façade, and encompasses the pool and bleachers. The single-story portions of the building include the entries and locker rooms. The locker rooms feature much of the original tile and some original fixtures, though updates (private and accessible showers) appear to have been completed in the 1970s.

The replacement windows are awning style, similar to the original windows. The most noticeable difference is wider muntins. Doorways were added approximately 15 feet to each side of the original main entrance to provide handicap accessibility directly to the men's and women's locker rooms. Accessible concrete ramps were part of this accommodation. (Contributing)

Building: Fine Arts Building and Auditorium / A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center (1940)

Style: Art Deco **Primary material:** Red brick

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr. / Nathan Wolfeld

The Fine Arts Building / A. A. Fredericks Auditorium was the largest of 12 structures on the NSU campus constructed between 1938 and 1940 through a combination of local, state, and federal (PWA) funds. It is

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

located between Central Avenue and Caspari Street, along Sam Sibley Drive, with the large auditorium facing Central Avenue. The original building was in the form of a modified T, with the leg of the T, the auditorium, trending east and the Little Theater projecting from the top of the T, facing west. Above the entry doors to the main auditorium are three cast-stone figures, the most distinguishing feature on this building. Windows over the main entry and on both sides of the auditorium have been enclosed, but these openings are represented by white, stucco architectural elements that were meant to blend with the large Creative and Performing Arts Annex to the north. Replacement windows on the classroom/office portions of the building partially obscure the original cast-stone magnolia panels. Other windows on this portion of the building appear to be original, 3/3 horizontally divided, double-hung windows and are capped by soldier course lintels with a narrow terra cotta header.

Two adjacent buildings that were part of this construction period were the Student Center (demolished) to the north and the Natatorium to the northeast. An addition to the north (Creative and Performing Arts Annex, non-contributing) was completed in the 1980s on the approximate site of the old Student Center. It is connected to A. A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center by a covered walkway and a sky bridge. While these connections obscure some of the architectural elements, the sky bridge is set back from the main façade of the large, east-facing auditorium, near the loading dock, and is mostly hidden from the west-facing Little Theater. (Contributing)

Building: Men's Athletic Dorm / Caspari Hall (1939)

Style: Collegiate Gothic

Primary material: Brick

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr. / Caldwell Bros. and Hart

Caspari Hall is a two-story, cross-gabled H-plan building constructed of red brick. The primary façade is symmetrical around the center entrance. The entrance is highlighted by a gabled parapet with brick diapering and is further elaborated with a Tudor arch, pilasters and finials of cast stone.

At one time a large addition was applied to the west side of Caspari Hall, oblique to the building. This addition was removed around 2008. After sitting vacant for a number of years, the building was renovated in 2012-13. The interior was completely remodeled, the slate roof was removed, and a large gable was added to the rear (south-facing) of the building to accommodate utilities upgrades. A modern composition roof was applied. The original six over six, paired windows were replaced with similar windows that were constructed by the original manufacturer. (Contributing)

Building: Trisler Power Plant Addition (1939)

Style: Other **Primary material:** Brick

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr. / Caldwell Bros. and Hart

Trisler Power Plant is a double height, red brick industrial building situated to the southeast of the original Normal Hill quadrangle. It features original narrow metal windows with divided lights. The rear elevation is characterized by a row of 5 metal garage style doors. It includes some metal awning windows. The original power plant underwent renovations and an addition in 1939 as part of the PWA funded campus projects. The large smokestack that features the Northwestern State "N" was added at that time. (Contributing)

Building: Warehouse/Bus Barn (1916)

Style: Other

Primary material: Wood

Architect/Contractor:

One of the earliest on the campus, the Bus Barn/Warehouse is located west of Warren Easton Hall, east of Trisler Power Plant, and southeast of Russell Hall. The main alterations are the addition of modern vinyl siding and replacement of original wood with Hardiplank-type siding. The west-facing gable end is described in one source as the "bus barn" and featured four garage bays. The two garage openings to the west have been converted, one to a double-wide doorway and another to a window. A shed roof supported by brackets covers the doorway, and the window includes a metal awning. East of the large

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

garage bays and set at a slight angle is a service bay, once covered, that includes steps for below-grade access for servicing vehicles. (Non-contributing.)

Building: Industrial Education Building / Print Shop (1955)

Style: Modern Movement **Primary material:** Brick

Architect/Contractor: E.P. Dobson

The Industrial Education Building is located in a small depression between the Hill and Sam Sibley Drive. It is a one-story CMU structure covered with brick veneer and has an irregular plan and a cast-in-place, slab-on-grade concrete foundation. Today it is commonly referred to as the Print Shop, as the building houses the university's printing services. (Contributing)

Building: Student Services Center (2012)

Style: Post-Modern **Primary material:** Brick

Architect/Contractor: Wayne Coco

The Student Services Center is a three-story, red brick building located at the corner of Sam Sibley Drive and Caspari Street. It is positioned obliquely to the adjacent Caspari Hall, facing the intersection and the Friedman Student Union building (not included in the proposed district) on the opposite corner of the intersection. The building features a one-story, cast stone portico that projects from a three-story bank of tinted glass at the center of the main façade. (Non-contributing.)

Structure: Normal Stadium/Harry Turpin Stadium (1939)

Style: Other **Primary material:** Brick and concrete

Architect/Contractor: Edw. F. Neild, D. A. Somdal, Edw. F. Neild, Jr. / Caldwell Bros. and Hart
Normal Stadium was constructed as part of the collection of PWA structures completed during A. A. Frederick's administration. The stadium is brick and reinforced concrete. The bricks are laid in a common bond. Windows (on the rear of the seating structure, facing west, appear to be original metal awning windows with six lights. The glass is frosted, as most of the interior space is restrooms/locker rooms. Some windows have been replaced with window air-conditioning units.

An extensive expansion of the stadium was completed in 1975 by the architectural firm Harold E. Piqué & Associates out of New Orleans, using Tudor Construction Company from Alexandria, Louisiana. This expansion doubled the height and capacity of the stadium, which was then renamed Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium. The original stadium is still visible below the vast network of concrete ramps and support structure for the addition. (Non-contributing.)

Structure: The Columns (1832)

Primary material: Brick

The three stucco-covered brick columns were once part of the four-column portico of Bullard Hall, which was built as the Bullard mansion in 1832 and demolished in 1904. The enlarged bases of the Doric columns are original. The southernmost column no longer retains details evident in the capitals of the other two. Plaque on the base of the central column states the significance of these structures to the institution. (Structures are contributing to the original Normal Hill Historic District.)

Object: Northwestern State College Gate (c. 1944)

Style: No Style **Primary material:** Iron

This was the ornamented iron gate that displayed the name of the institution at the main entrance to the college before the name was changed to Northwestern State University of Louisiana in 1970. It was moved to the area behind the President's House/Alumni Center some time after the name change. It has square pickets topped by fleur de lis on each side. Flanking the center portion is decorative ironwork and the central portion holds arched section with "Northwestern" in it and "State College" below. (Contributing)

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Structure: Northwestern State University Entry Gates (c. 1910)

Style: No Style **Primary material:** Brick and iron

These gates are located at the main entrance to the university at Central Avenue and University Parkway. Bronze plaques appear to indicate the organizations that contributed to construction and the year of that contribution (though this is not stated on the plaques). Although many of the plaques date to the early 1900s, the gates have been modified over the years: brick pillars have been reconstructed and/or added, modern gates have been added to restrict access to the campus, some of the ironwork appears to have been replaced, and light fixtures at the tops of the pillars have been replaced with fluorescent globes. The name of the institution was changed in 1970 to Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the centerpiece of the entrance gates was updated at that time to reflect that change. (Contributing)

Object: Pyramidal fountain

Style: No Style **Primary material:** Brick

This fountain is located on the northeast side of Normal Hill. It is of modern construction. (Non-contributing.)

Park/Plaza: Main Entrance and approach to Normal Hill (c. 1890)

Style: No Style **Primary material:** Iron

The main entrance to the university includes the entry gates mentioned above, as well as extensive landscaping. This landscaping includes a number of mature live oak trees that occupy the large, landscaped median at the Central Avenue entrance. To the east of the automobile entrance is an oak allée that leads up to Normal Hill. The electroliers and steps that are part of the approach to Normal Hill are what remain of the original main entrance to the institution's core. The structures are on the paved walkway from University Parkway to Normal Hill. They include plaques that indicate the class that donated these structures. The walkway is shaded by majestic live oaks. Steps are constructed of what appears to be local sandstone. Bench seats are incorporated into this structure. Contributing (as an object/site)

Park/Plaza: The Academic Court/Normal Hill Quadrangle (c. 1913)

This site is the nucleus of the campus, as it was the original location of the Bullard Mansion and convent that became the earliest dormitory and classroom buildings, respectively. The quadrangle is assumed to have come into being with the demolition of the Bullard Mansion in 1913. At that time, Guardia Hall and Caldwell Hall had already been constructed, occupying two sides (northwest and northeast) of the quadrangle. Later Warren Easton Hall was constructed (1928) to the southeast followed by the Leche Library, now Russell Hall (1937) to the southwest. These four buildings enclosed the Academic Court/Normal Hill Quadrangle and the Columns from the Bullard Mansion, three of which remain and serve as a symbol of the university. Guardia Hall and Caldwell Hall were destroyed by fire in 1967 and 1982, respectively. Contributing (as a site)

Park/Plaza: Fournet/Morrison/Home Economics Quadrangle (1950)

This is an open quadrangle (open to the northeast) surrounding a majestic live oak tree. The three sides are enclosed by Morrison Hall to the northwest, Fournet Hall to the southwest, and the Family and Consumer Science Building to the southeast. Other plantings in the quadrangle include a younger oak, crape myrtles, indigo, and lorapetalum. Modern metal bench seating, arranged in an open classroom style, is located on the southwest side of the large live oak. Concrete walkways form crossing paths through the quadrangle. Contributing (as a site)

District Integrity

Materials and finishing details for most additions and alterations in the proposed district were compatible with the original construction. The majority of the alterations to historic contributing buildings were additions that were designed to provide handicapped accessibility. These included exterior ramps and

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

elevator towers, which were added in locations other than the primary façade. Other alterations include replacement of windows and doors and some interior remodeling. In some cases alterations were completed when there was damage to the building (e.g., a fire in Fournet Hall) or when the building's use changed (e.g., Russell Hall's interior spaces were altered when it was adapted from a library to a classroom building.)

Still, the resources included in the district continue to communicate their original and intended use, and the overall design, materials, and workmanship of each of these resources remains intact. Furthermore, the ensemble of buildings, structures, and landscaped areas that comprise the district create a place that is visually distinctive and unique to Northwestern State University. Chaplin Lake, an abandoned arm of the Cane River, forms the eastern and southern border of the campus, providing a sense of enclosure, while the open fields on the lower portions of the campus give a sense of the institution's early days when these fields were used for livestock. The institution's acreage expanded significantly over the years, reflecting the need for a larger physical facility to accomplish the goals of a multi-faceted educational institution. While changes have taken place, today's core campus that makes up the proposed NSU Historic District includes the original location of the Louisiana State Normal School. The Academic Court/Normal Hill Quadrangle commemorates this site, though the original 19th Century buildings are long gone. Even with the transformation of the old State Normal School into the present-day Northwestern State University, and the university's expanded educational role, the school continues to display integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Conclusions

With its distinctive architecture, cultural landscapes and view sheds, minimal changes to resources, and strong ties to its past as the first normal school in the state and the first institution focused on the education of women, the proposed Northwestern State University Historic District displays high historic integrity. Most additions occurred as repairs or in compliance with regulations for handicapped accessibility. The university's growth over the years, particularly the expansion of its physical facility, provided for the addition of fine examples of Collegiate Gothic and Modern era buildings. Built through a combination of state and federal PWA funds, these survive as physical evidence of Louisiana's commitment to education and the college administration's continuing efforts to provide students with the best environment for learning.

7. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.
- 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 represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

individual distinction.

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance

1884-1955

Significant Dates

1906-1908
1922-1929
1933-1939
1950-1955

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Architects: Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth
Neild, Edward F., Somdal, D. A., Neild, Jr, Edward F.
Roberts, Charles T
Haas, Lester, Massery, V.J.
Dobson, E.P.
Contractors: R. P. Farnsworth & Co, Inc
Tudor Construction Co.
Wolfeld, Nathan
Caldwell Bros and Hart
E.P. Dobson

Period of Significance (justification)

Northwestern was established in 1884 and the first students entered in 1885. The classrooms and living facilities were in the Bullard Mansion and adjoining Convent.

As the enrollment increased, more wooden buildings were added. By the beginning of the 20th Century, the need for larger and more substantial structures was evident. Caldwell Hall, constructed between 1906-1908, became the anchor for the first expansion of State Normal. Caldwell Hall had been the center of the quadrangle listed in the Normal Hill Historic District. Fire destroyed Caldwell Hall in 1982.

After World War I, the decade of the 1920s saw additional construction with Warren Easton Hall for teacher training and a laboratory school (listed in the current Normal Hill Historic District), the President's cottage in 1927 (individually listed in the National Register), the Women's Gymnasium in 1923 (individually listed in the National Register), and Gymnasium / Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in 1929.

The funding through the Public Works Administration allowed for the first major expansion beyond the initial campus area between 1938 and 1940. This was a significant period as the State Normal College gained recognition in 1944 as Northwestern State College reflecting its expansion beyond teacher education training. Student enrollment increased as degrees were added including the Baccalaureate in Nursing. This period is represented by several resources in this application.

Then the post World War II economic boom and the enactment of veteran's benefits saw large increases in enrollment, reflected in buildings nominated from 1950 to 1955. Three structures opened in 1950 to provide classroom and offices for Home Economics, Business and Science. In 1955 the Industrial Education Building opened to provide further specialized training for education majors.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

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.)

Name: Northwestern State University Historic District

Level of Significance: State

Criterion A: Education

Reason: The Northwestern State University Historic District is of statewide significance under Criterion A in the area of education. During the period of significance from 1884, the date the institution was established, to 1955, the date of the final building's construction, Northwestern played an important role as the first state-supported Normal School for the preparation of teachers as well as providing secondary, post-secondary and technical education all on the same campus. The campus was the first opportunity for public higher education west of the Mississippi River in Louisiana and also allowed many women to have their first access to training to become public school teachers.

Criterion C: Design

Reason: The district has representative architectural styles of the historic periods as the campus developed. The proposed district includes the largest concentration of architect-designed buildings, structures, and sites in the city of Natchitoches. The proposed district also includes areas of campus that were designed by landscape architects. The buildings in the district span the period from 1913 to 1955 and display the following styles: Revival styles (Jacobean, Tudor, and Colonial), Beaux Arts, Collegiate Gothic, Modern Movement, Moderne, and Art Deco. These styles reflect national trends in architectural styles at the time these buildings were constructed, some with adaptations to fit with the existing styles on campus or with local building traditions. The PWA collection, in particular, typifies the architectural styles popular during this national building campaign. Comparing styles within this collection, the more prominently located buildings, and those with a more public function, seem to have been designed to stand out from the others. Few architect-designed buildings from this period exist in Natchitoches outside of the university campus. Exceptions are the Natchitoches Post Office and the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot (Italian Renaissance Revival) and the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse (PWA, Moderne). Though some of the resources in the district have experienced changes or alterations over the years to address energy conservation issues, changes in use, or repairs after fire damage, the overall designs are intact and display the original materials and workmanship.

Context: State of Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, City of Natchitoches

POS: 1884-1955

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

History of Early Natchitoches and the Founding of the Louisiana State Normal School

In 1682, the French explorer Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, claimed the Mississippi River drainage, including the Red River, for France. Later, he was killed in Texas and one of his former troops, Henri de Tonti, came searching for him and left the first description of the Natchitoches Indians, a Caddo-speaking farming and salt trading tribe that lived in the area of the city and parish named for them. Their name has

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

been translated as PawPaw Place or Place of the Red Earth (from the Indian word "nashitosh") Tonti visited the Natchitoches settlement in 1690 and found a well-developed society with a central temple at which his Tensas tribe guides worshipped as a sign of respect and peace.

Subsequently, French explorers re-visited the region in 1708 and realized the potential of the Natchitoches Indians as trading partners. In 1712, the Governor Antoine de La Mothe de Cadillac was ordered to establish a post on the Red River to organize an overland trade connection with Spanish dominated Texas and Mexico. In 1714, his lieutenant, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis set up a trading house with French soldiers at the Natchitoches village. Later, that was to become the westernmost French colonial outpost, Fort St. Jean Baptiste aux Nachitos.

St. Denis, with his Caddo and Tunica Indian allies, soon made trade connections across the region. Married into the highest-ranking family in Texas, St. Denis was a major player in colonial Louisiana between 1713 and his death in 1744. His family maintained a strong presence in the region and his descendants remain in the city today. Much of St. Denis' original property was located on what was to become the Louisiana Normal School, including a major portion of his vacherie, or ranch. The Natchitoches settlement expanded around the fort and became an important colonial trading center between the Spanish, French and local Indian tribes. It was the gateway to Spanish Texas-Mexico and the southern Great Plains.

Over the years the French and Spanish lost control of Louisiana and the Americans took over. French families, like the Rouquiers, had gained ownership of the St. Denis properties; a combination of purchase and inheritances had changed titles, but the property remained in French Creole hands until the Louisiana Purchase in 1805. That same year, Natchitoches Parish was created by act that divided the Louisiana territory into twelve parishes including Orleans Parish (where New Orleans is located). Natchitoches was the commercial center of northwest Louisiana and the oldest permanent European settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Following the creation of Natchitoches Parish, the territorial governor, W.C.C. Claiborne, appointed a regional judge, Charles Adams Bullard.

In 1828, Captain Henry Miller Shreve, a successful river captain and steamboat builder and owner, was appointed as the Superintendent of the Western Rivers after proposing a campaign to improve steamboat navigation on western rivers including the Mississippi and the Red River. With the help of four boats and about 160 men, Shreve cleared a natural log jam of about 100 miles that had choked navigation between Natchitoches and what is now Shreveport by 1837, further opening the Red River to navigation. With the removal of the jam, lakes created by the damming of tributaries drained and shifted the flow of the Red River to the eastern edge of Natchitoches Parish, leaving behind the thirty-two mile long Cane River Lake in its former channel from Natchitoches to the plantation country south of town.

It was this land overlooking the new Cane River Lake that regional judge, Charles Adam Bullard, and his wife purchased from Aimee Rouquier. In 1832, they erected a mansion on that property, part of the present campus land, overlooking the Red River floodplain and Cane River Lake. A live oak avenue led from the water up to the two and one-half story home. Four twenty-six-foot tall-stuccoed columns supported the east gable of the Greek Revival structure.

Around 1835, Bernard Leonard bought the property when Bullard's poor finances forced them to sell. Leonard died in 1849, and his wife Ann Blutworth Leonard gave the 49.05-acre tract to her niece Julian Ann Blutworth Bullard. James Taylor purchased the property in 1848. In 1850, the Reverend Auguste Martin purchased 45.05 acres of the tract. On April 23, 1856, Madam Antoinette Bullion, Superior of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, bought the Bullard property and buildings from Reverend Martin. The Natchitoches Academy of the Sacred Heart had been established to provide the first Catholic school north of Baton Rouge. The nuns assigned to the school were known as the Religious of the Sacred Heart or the Ladies of the Sacred Heart.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

The Civil War challenged the academy and brought great economic devastation and cultural change for the residents of the Cane River region. Following the war, tenant farming and sharecropping replaced slavery, exchanging one labor-intensive system for another. In 1866, the Religious of the Sacred Heart acquired an additional five-acre tract south and west of the academy making it about one hundred acres. The academy faced financial difficulties, however, and closed in 1875. In 1876, the nuns boarded a steamboat at Grand Ecore bound for New Orleans. The school and grounds were left empty and neglected until 1884.

In 1884, the Louisiana Board of Education had been chartered "to select a town, city, or village. . . taking into consideration its healthfulness, convenience of access and the liberality of the inhabitants in furnishing the buildings, or the means of erection thereof for the establishment of a state normal school." Although Natchitoches did not own the Academy of the Sacred Heart complex at the time, the town still offered it as part of the marketing package. On July 7, 1884, Governor Samuel D. McEnery signed Act 51 into law to establish the Louisiana State Normal School in hopes to bolster higher education in the state. Then, on October 6, 1884, the Board selected Natchitoches for the location of its state normal school.

For the school's opening, the town repaired the site's fences, privies, and buildings and cleared the grounds of brush. Workers prepared the Bullard Mansion for dormitory use and the convent for academic classrooms. The site included about forty acres of land with the alluvial portions under cultivation, and the area around the buildings on the hill covered with trees. The hill commanded a view of the Cane River Valley. Cane River Lake afforded the students with sporting opportunities including a boating course and fishing activities.

Growth and Development of the Northwestern State University Campus

Early Years: the Normal School

The school constructed many new buildings during the 1890s for an increasing enrollment of future teachers. The school deemed the convent building unsafe in 1904, demolished it, and used the bricks to build Caldwell Hall between 1906 and 1908. The building was listed in the Normal Hill Historic District established in 1980. Fire destroyed it in 1982. The only structure still existing from the school's early years is a Warehouse. The original portion built in 1916 was used as a maintenance center for the campus and also for training employees. An addition in 1928 converted the building into a warehouse. Today, it is still used for storage.

The fire marshal condemned the Bullard Mansion in 1913, and the school demolished it that same year. The school spared the building's four Doric columns, and they were later covered with English ivy brought from Mt. Vernon by school alumni. The college razed one of the four remaining columns in 1937 because of its weakened condition. Today, the three remaining columns are used as a symbol of the university and a physical link to its establishment over 127 years ago.

The school had grown substantially by 1920, and in 1921, with the inauguration of baccalaureate programs, citizens voted to amend the state constitution to change the name of the school to Louisiana State Normal College.

Victor L. Roy Development Period

President Roy led a second major construction period for the college from 1922 to 1929. The college built a men's and a women's dormitory, an infirmary, the Warren Easton Education Building, the Women's Gymnasium, and a new president's home. These four extant structures are included in this nomination.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

The college completed its first gymnasium building in the fall of 1923. It began as a co-educational facility, but later became the Women's Gymnasium in 1930. The Women's Gymnasium was condemned during the 1970s and remained empty until the end of the 1990s. After an extensive renovation of the facility, it is now headquarters for the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The building is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The new infirmary opened in 1924 southwest of the gymnasium. Today, a smaller infirmary operates here and shares the building with university police and the Vice-President of University Affairs. Plans are underway to remodel the building through State Facility and Planning.

The college constructed a new president's home in 1928, just west of the main gates and east of the Women's Gymnasium. The house contained entertaining space on the first floor and living space on the second floor. The president and his family resided here until the early 1970's when a new home was built along Chaplin's Lake. Since then the former residence has been used as a laboratory for home management classes and in the late 1980's, the Offices of Alumni Affairs and the Northwestern Foundation moved their operations into the facility. It is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Warren Easton Hall was constructed in 1928 to house an elementary practice school and the School of Education. In 1936, a south wing was added to the building. Today, after several renovations, it remains the elementary laboratory school and kindergarten. Warren Easton was included as a contributing element in the original 1980 Normal Hill District National Register listing.

PWA Development Period

The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, better known as the Public Works Administration (PWA), was established through a 100-day emergency session of Congress and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in June 1933. The program sought to provide economic recovery during the Great Depression through employment of workers in the construction of public buildings, structures, and facilities. The initial appropriation for the PWA was \$3.3 billion. In the following years, Congress provided an additional \$1.655 billion in funds for PWA projects. The magnitude of the program was unprecedented, yet by 1939, the PWA had financed the construction of 34,508 projects in almost every county in the nation at an estimated cost of \$6.086 billion. PWA funds were typically matched to state or local bonds, enhancing local investment in recovery.

PWA projects funded between 1933 and 1939 included approximately 70 percent of the educational buildings constructed in the nation during this period. On the Northwestern State campus, the PWA funded the construction of a new stadium, six new buildings, and additions or improvements to two others. The proposed boundaries of the Northwestern State University Historic District include 11 projects funded by the PWA, counting the adjacent Natchitoches High School and Natchitoches Trade School. Two of these are considered non-contributing because of extensive alterations: Men's Gymnasium (now the Wellness, Recreation, and Activities Center) and Normal Stadium. And one project (the Student Services Center) was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the construction of the Creative and Performing Arts Annex. (Note that the Men's Gymnasium (1940) is a different building than the Varsity Gymnasium (1929) on the north side of campus.)

Within the proposed district, buildings constructed with PWA funds make up 50% (9 of 18) of the historic, contributing buildings included in the district.

Extant PWA structures and facilities on the NSU campus:

Men's Athletic Dormitory/Caspari Hall (contributing)
Varnado Hall/Women's Dormitory (contributing)
Trisler Power Plant (PWA addition) (contributing)

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Fine Arts Building and Auditorium (A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center) (contributing)
Nesom Natatorium (contributing)
Infirmary (Health Services and University Police) (PWA addition) (contributing)
Natchitoches High School (The Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts) (contributing)
Natchitoches Trade School (Louisiana School Music and Arts Building) (contributing)
Normal Stadium (non-contributing)

A new library (originally the Leche Library, now Russell Hall) opened in 1937 and completed a traditional academic quadrangle. Caldwell Hall as the main academic building, Guardia Hall with the social science classrooms and the Williamson Museum, Warren Easton as the laboratory school and School of Education, and the new library were the four buildings. Guardia burned in 1967 and Caldwell was destroyed by fire in 1982, leaving only two buildings in the quadrangle.

Louisiana's then governor, Richard W. Leche, insisted to Normal president A.A. Fredericks that the library should be named after him. Governor Leche attended the May 1937 dedication, which was also graduation day. In 1940 former Governor Leche was convicted in a federal corruption probe and was sentenced to prison. His name was removed from the library building. The library was renamed in memory of Scharlie Russell. In 1972 a new library facility was constructed on the western side of the campus and named the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library.

Russell Hall was used by the Industrial Technology Department for several years, and in 1984, when the Louisiana Scholars' College (LSC) was established as the honors department at Northwestern, LSC moved into the old library. In 1997 Russell Hall had interior renovations as the College of Business moved from Morrison Hall to the larger facility. Russell Hall was included as a contributing element in the original Normal Hill Historic District Register Listing.

In 1930 President William White Tison built a men's gymnasium with locker rooms and storage under the bleachers. It was Northwestern's Varsity Gymnasium. After the high school building was constructed in 1938, Natchitoches High School (and later Natchitoches-Central) used the gym for physical education and varsity sports. In 1992 the existing building was renovated for the Louisiana School for Math, Sciences and the Arts to include the Student Activities Center.

The greatest expansion of campus in its history occurred between 1938 and 1940 through Public Works Administration (PWA) funding with eight new buildings constructed. Varnado Hall was one of these buildings and it was constructed in 1939 behind the President's Home and the Women's Gymnasium. It consisted of two three-story dormitory sections connected by a one-story lobby and social reception hall. Today it is still used as housing for college students when other campus lodgings are full and for special groups like Boys' and Girls' State during the summer period.

Natchitoches High School, also funded by the PWA, was constructed in 1938 and also served as a laboratory school for teacher education at NSU. Later, it was the South Campus of Natchitoches-Central High School after desegregation. It closed when a consolidated campus was built on the LA Highway 1 Bypass. The facility became the main campus for the Louisiana School for Math, Sciences and the Arts in 1983. Extensive renovations kept the outside features intact, but the interior was modernized for the educational learning environment.

Adjacent to the high school school was the Natchitoches Trade School, also constructed through PWA funds. It was the first in a series of now historical structures located on University Parkway and was built at the same time as the Natchitoches High School.

Trade Schools, what later became technical colleges, began in 1930 in Bogalusa. The second trade school was in Shreveport in 1936. A legislative act in 1938 established five more around the state

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

including the one in Natchitoches. By about 1970, with a larger role in vocational education, the name of the school in this building had been changed to Northwest Louisiana Technical College and an expanded campus was constructed on the Natchitoches bypass, Highway 1. The original building was given to Northwestern State and was used for the Graduate School and the College of Basic Studies. In the 1980s, it was transferred to the newly established Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. In 2009, the Trade School building was extensively remodeled and is now called the Louisiana School Music and Arts Building (MAB) and is designed to serve the school's music and visual arts programs.

The Nesom Natatorium, another part of the PWA campus expansion, was completed in 1939 as part of the Student Center Complex. The Student Center building, which provided food service, offices and a social area for dances and events, was demolished in 1980 for the expansion of the Creative and Performing Arts Center. Renovations and remodeling over the years have made few changes on the interior and the exterior of the building. The only remaining indoor swimming facility at an institution of higher learning in Louisiana was named years later for Dr. Guy Nesom, a former Dean of the College of Education and active sportsman.

The Trisler Power Plant, also a PWA project, had a power generation function and also produced steam and hot water for heating on campus. Today, replacement of underground pipes from the plant throughout the campus is underway, which will guarantee its continued use for the same purpose as constructed. The distinctive smokestack of the plant for many years was the highest point on the Northwestern campus, and an "N" is attached to the top, making it the unofficial symbol of the university campus. An illuminated "N" is now on the top of the Turpin Football Stadium Press Box, which can be viewed from greater distances, but the Power Plant "N" still holds nostalgic value for many alumni.

The A. A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center, a three-story structure built in 1939 with PWA funding, consists of theater, classroom and administrative facilities. Since its construction, the facility has remained the academic area for art, music, dance, and theatre instruction. The structure includes a small performance venue and a large 1000-seat auditorium. Renovations in 1979 air conditioned the building and provided handicap accessibility. The facility has always remained the cultural heart of the university and community. Besides theater performances, the Distinguished Lecture Series has brought many famous speakers to the school including Ray Bradbury, John Updike, Buckminster Fuller, Ernest J. Gaines and David McCullough. Also numerous pageants and other community events have utilized the building. The motion picture, *Man in the Moon*, used the stage for the construction of its sound stage.

Caspari Hall, another PWA project, opened in 1939. The dorm was originally constructed for athletes. The football field was behind the building and the men's gym was on the east side. The facility was later converted into a men's dorm. When new dorms were constructed in the 1960s, it was closed and eventually converted to offices. The building had been vacant for over 15 years when it was utilized for administrative offices for the university in 2013.

Edward F. Neild and the Architecture of Northwestern State

Edward F. Neild, a Shreveport native, was a graduate of Tulane University School of Engineering. After returning from extensive travels in Europe studying architecture and applied arts, he opened an architecture practice in Shreveport in 1908. In 1934, he entered into practice with Dewey Somdal establishing the firm Neild-Somdal Associates, which continued until his death in 1955. His son Edward F. Neild, Jr. joined the firm as well. The firm's work was extensive in Louisiana and also nationally.

While touring Louisiana, President Harry Truman was so impressed with the Edward F. Neild designed Caddo Parish Courthouse, he contacted Neild to design the Jackson County Courthouse (Missouri), to serve as consulting architect for the rehabilitation of the White House and to design Truman's Presidential Library in Kansas City, Missouri. The firm also designed two Japanese relocation centers for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rohwer and Jerome, Ark., during World War II.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

In Louisiana, Neild's firm designed eight of the buildings being nominated for the Northwestern State University Historic District and also many other local and state commissions including the U. S. Post Office and courthouses in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport. His most recognized work in Baton Rouge is the 1938 Louisiana State Capitol Annex, a PWA project that at the time of construction was considered large enough to house virtually all of the administrative offices and departments of State government.

At least twenty-six of his firm's works are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Two are out of state: the Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington, VA, and the Maricopa County Courthouse in Phoenix, AZ.

Most are in Louisiana and include:

Shreveport

B'Nai Zion Temple
C.E. Byrd High School
Fair Park High School
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Shreveport Municipal Building
A.C. Steere Elementary School
Wray-Dickinson Building

Ruston

Bogard Hall-Louisiana Tech University
Howard Auditorium-Louisiana Tech University
Prescott Memorial Library-Louisiana Tech University
Reese Agriculture Building-Louisiana Tech University
Robinson Hall-Louisiana Tech University
Toliver Dining Hall-Louisiana Tech University

Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Junior High School
Capitol City Press Building
Heidelberg Hotel
Scott Street School
Louisiana State Capitol Annex

In 1948, he was among twenty distinguished architects made fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Post-war Development of the Northwestern State Campus

In 1944, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 326 changing the name of the school to Northwestern State College of Louisiana. The last half of the 1940s saw limited budgets and increasing numbers of students with the GI Bill. The college did not have the financial resources for new construction to meet the expanding student population until three much needed academic classroom buildings opened in 1950.

The three classroom facilities were grouped in a three-sided quadrangle arrangement. In the center was Fournet Hall with its art deco façade depicting scenes and objects related to science. This is the only large-scale frieze on the Northwestern campus and has been maintained in its original condition. The two-story structure has classroom, laboratories, and offices for faculty. An interior fire in late 1964 resulted in a 1965 interior renovation, and work done in 1980 air-conditioned the building, made it handicapped accessible, and made other minor interior changes. The exterior has remained the same

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

since construction except that the original windows were replaced when the air conditioning was added in 1980.

Morrison Hall, named after a longtime professor in the Business Program, Noble Morrison, was built in 1950 and housed the academic Department of Business Administration offices and classes. The College of Business had expanded beyond the size of the building and moved to Russell Hall in 1997. Remodeling in 2003 converted Morrison Hall into the home of the university's academic honors program, The Louisiana Scholars' College.

The third building in the quadrangle housed the Home Economics Department until the program was reorganized into the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The building was remodeled in 2003 with the original signage above the front doors remaining.

Outside of this quadrangle, the Industrial Education Building, a one-story structure, was built in 1955 to house classrooms and a campus printing facility. The building has not been remodeled and remains as it appeared when constructed. When the industrial education program moved across campus, the interior space was divided for art classrooms and storage. The print shop remains in the same location today. Plans to expand the building were drawn in 1960, but lack of funding resulted in no additions.

A new sign was constructed at the campus entrance reflecting the college's name change in the late 1940s. In 1970, with the name change to Northwestern State University, the previous sign was moved to the courtyard in the center of the newly constructed Student Union. Later, it was relocated to the historic part of the campus between the old president's home and Varnado Hall.

Education:

Northwestern had an important role in establishing a system of public education and providing careers for women. Centenary College of Louisiana had originally been established in Jackson, Louisiana in 1845 after the failed efforts of the State of Louisiana to operate the College of Louisiana resulted in a merger with Centenary College of Mississippi. The new school's goal was to educate the sons of planters and professional men. After the Civil War the small school struggled for years, finally moving to Shreveport in 1908. Women were first admitted in 1895. The Louisiana legislature established the Seminary of Learning of the State of Louisiana near Pineville, Louisiana in 1853. The school closes when the Civil War began in 1861. The campus reopened after the War in 1865 and was destroyed by fire in 1869. Classes reopen later that year in Baton Rouge. In 1877 it is recognized as a land grant college and begins its role as the flagship campus for higher education in the state as Louisiana A&M. The focus was primary science and agriculture. Tulane opens in 1834 as a medical college and only becomes a private university in 1884. Two years later Sophie Newcomb College opens for female students as a part of Tulane.

The Louisiana Legislature realized the need for preparing public school teachers in the early 1880s and establishes the Normal College in 1884 at Natchitoches with the primary focus of training women to become school teachers. The public education system of Louisiana had its beginning here on this campus, the longest continuously operated site for higher education in Louisiana.

Architecture:

The proposed district includes the largest concentration of architect-designed buildings, structures, and sites in the city of Natchitoches. The proposed district also includes areas of campus that were designed by landscape architects. The buildings in the district span the period from 1913 to 1955 and display the following styles: Revival styles (Jacobean, Tudor, and Colonial), Beaux Arts, Collegiate Gothic, Modern

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Movement, Moderne, and Art Deco. These styles reflect national trends in architectural styles at the time these buildings were constructed, some with adaptations to fit with the existing styles on campus or with local building traditions. The PWA collection, in particular, typifies the architectural styles popular during this national building campaign. Comparing styles within this collection, the more prominently located buildings, and those with a more public function, seem to have been designed to stand out from the others. Few architect-designed buildings from this period exist in Natchitoches outside of the university campus. Exceptions are the Natchitoches Post Office and the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot (Italian Renaissance Revival) and the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse (PWA, Moderne). Though some of the resources in the district have experienced changes or alterations over the years to address energy conservation issues, changes in use, or repairs after fire damage, the overall designs are intact and display the original materials and workmanship.

Conclusions

The first buildings in the nomination were a part of a quadrangle with the oldest buildings. Two have burned but the remaining two, Warren Easton and Russell, are academic buildings. The Three Columns are the last remains of the 1832 original structure on the hill. The PWA was the next impetus for funding as enrollment reflected the expanded role in teacher training and the addition of new majors in business and nursing attracting a larger student base. The late 1930s nominated buildings defined the expanded campus as they wrapped around the original campus space on two sides. The post World War II influx of students on the GI bill necessitated more classroom space and the 1950 era buildings gave the campus new architectural styles reflective of current campus constructions elsewhere and expanded the development further away from the original quadrangle.

The Northwestern State University Historic District is a history of educational opportunities for students from the elementary to the post-secondary level over 127 years. In addition to higher education, the District reflects secondary and trade school education. The first consolidated public high school in Natchitoches Parish and its gym are another level of educational history. Construction of an early Trade School on the campus reflected the importance of needed training in construction and service needs during the 1930s.

The Northwestern State University Historic District is a window into the development of educational training in the 20th century. This is the oldest continually used land in the state dedicated to higher education. The Louisiana Normal School provided the first opportunity for female students to prepare for teaching careers and has also continued in its role as a developer of expanded roles for women with the first nursing degree program in the 1930s. The university's enrollment, its role, and scope and mission in education have shaped the proposed district. From the earliest extant structures to the building boom after World War II, the nominated buildings parallel the growth periods and history of Louisiana and the nation.

8. Major Bibliographical References

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

LeBreton, Marietta M. (1985). *Northwestern State University of Louisiana 1884-1984: A History*. Natchitoches, LA: Northwestern State University Press.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

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Louisiana Historical Association. (n.d.) Neild, Edward F., in *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*. Retrieved from <http://lahistory.org/site31.php>.

Public Works Administration. (1939) *America Builds, The Record of PWA*. Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office.

Stevens, Christopher. (2006). *Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training*. Boston, MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University: Northwestern State University (Eugene Watson Library)
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 79 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

I can help with this part

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See attached map

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Streets make up most of the boundary of the proposed NSU Historic District. The resources included within the boundary are the earliest extant structures and those that followed during the next three phases of campus development.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Thomas Whitehead, Andrew Ferrell
organization: Northwestern State University, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
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Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

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telephone: 318-352-3429, 318-357-6441, 318-356-7444
date: February 6, 2014

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

(Number underlined in brackets are keyed to the proposed Historic District map)

1 of 40: Warren Easton Hall (1) – northeast façade (left) and northwest elevation (right); camera facing southeast.

2 of 40: Warren Easton Hall (1) - Entrance, northwest side; camera facing east

3 of 40: Russell Hall (2) – Front (eastern) elevation; camera facing south.

4 of 40: President's Home (3)– Front (northern) elevation and western elevation; camera facing southeast.

5 of 40: President's Home Garage (3)– Rear (southern) elevation; camera facing northeast.

6 of 40: Varnado Hall (4) – Front (northern) elevation; camera facing southeast.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

7 of 40: Varnado Hall (4) – Front (northern) entrance at the one story lobby portion of the building; camera facing southwest.

8 of 40: Varnado Hall (4) – Rear (southern) elevation and eastern elevation; camera facing northwest.

9 of 40: Infirmary (5) – Western elevation (faces inward versus street facing); camera facing north.

10 of 40: Infirmary (5) - Rear elevation (faces outward toward street); camera facing east.

11 of 40: Women’s Gymnasium (6) – Front (northern) elevation and western elevation; camera facing southwest.

12 of 40: Women’s Gymnasium (6) – Rear (southern) elevation; camera facing northwest.

13 of 40: Natchitoches High School Boys’ Gymnasium (LSMSA) (7) – Front (eastern) elevation; camera facing southwest.

14 of 40: Natchitoches High School Boys’ Gymnasium (LSMSA) (7) – Closeup detail of panel above front entrance; camera facing northwest.

15 of 40: Natchitoches High School (LSMSA) (8)– Front (northern) elevation and western elevation; camera facing southeast.

16 of 40: Natchitoches High School (LSMSA) (8)– Front (northern elevation) Entrance; camera facing south.

17 of 40: Natchitoches High School (LSMSA) (8)– Rear elevation, camera facing northeast

18 of 40: Natchitoches Trade School (LSMSA) (9)– Front (northern) elevation and eastern elevation; camera facing southwest.

19 of 40: Business Administration Building/Morrison Hall/Louisiana Scholar’s College (10)– front (southern) elevation; camera facing northeast.

20 of 40: Fournet Hall (11) – Front (eastern) elevation; camera facing northwest.

21 of 40: Fournet Hall (11) – Front Entrance Detail; camera facing southwest.

22 of 40: Fournet Hall (11) – Fournet Hall Recessed Stairwell Detail; interior, camera facing northeast

23 of 40: Home Economics Building (12) – Front (northern) elevation; camera facing southwest.

24 of 40: Nesom Natatorium (13) – Front (southern) and side elevation; camera facing northwest.

25 of 40: Fine Arts and Auditorium (14) – Front (eastern) elevation; camera facing northwest.

Northwestern State University Historic District
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

- 26 of 40: Fine Arts and Auditorium (14) – Rear (western) elevation; camera facing northeast.
- 27 of 40: Men’s Athletic Dorm/Caspari Hall (15) – Front (northern) elevation; camera facing southwest.
- 28 of 40: Normal Stadium/Turpin Stadium (16) – Southern side of the western side bleachers; camera facing northwest.
- 29 of 40: Normal Stadium/Turpin Stadium (16) – Detail of the original structure on the southern side of the western bleachers; camera facing north.
- 30 of 40: Trisler Power Plant (17) – northern elevation; camera facing southeast.
- 31 of 40: Training Maintenance Building/Warehouse/Bus Barn (18) – Front (northern) elevation; camera facing southwest.
- 32 of 40: Training Maintenance Building/Warehouse/Bus Barn (18) – western elevation; camera facing northeast.
- 33 of 40: Industrial Education Building/Print Shop (19) – southern elevation, camera facing north.
- 34 of 40: The Columns (20) – camera facing southeast
- 35 of 40: The Columns, Plaque (20) – viewed from the east; camera facing southwest.
- 36 of 40: Northwestern State College Gate (21) – c. 1944, Viewed from the northeast; camera facing southwest
- 37 of 40: Northwestern State University Entry Gates (22) – c. 1910, camera facing southeast.
- 38 of 40: Entrance to Normal Hill from University Avenue (23) – view looking towards the Hill, camera facing south.
- 39 of 40: Normal Hill Quadrangle/Academic Courtyard (24) – camera facing south.
- 40 of 40: 1950s Quadrangle (25) – viewed from the east; camera facing southwest.

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.