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Louisiana Buildings, 1720--1940: The Historic American Buildings Survey (Library Of Southern Civilization)



Synopsis

The only New Deal program to continue into the 1990s, the Historic American Buildings Survey has through the years drawn attention to the historical and artistic significance of buildings that contemporary taste might otherwise have ignored. Louisiana Buildings, 1720-1940 makes easily available the fruit of HABS's important and enduring efforts to record Louisiana's architectural heritage. In the 1930s, the Louisiana HABS team concentrated on public edifices and grand plantation complexes threatened by destruction. Later records of HABS include still other habitations of the common man as well as industrial structures. The project has yielded not only graphic and written documentation of the buildings, many no longer standing, but also new insights into the history of the state's architecture. An invaluable part of Louisiana Buildings, 1720-1940 is the alphabetical listing of HABS structures in Louisiana both by familiar name and by parish. The listing by parish gives the location, the date of construction, the architect when known, and the current status of each building. It also presents drawings or photographs of many of the structures, over 300 pictures in all. There are, besides, nine chapters by leading architectural historians, who cover all aspects of Louisiana architecture: its Creole beginnings in the south of the state; the Appalachian folk style in the north; and developments on the plantation, in the seventeenth-century urban setting, and in the modern era. Those chapters form an essential frame of reference for the data in the HABS listings and call attention to many other structures that are a part of the history of building in the Pelican State. Anyone interested in the state's architecture or history will find Louisiana Buildings indispensable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jessie Poesch is professor emeritus of art history at Tulane University. Her publications include *The Art of the Old South: Painting, Architecture, and the Products of Craftsmen, 1560--1860* and *Newcomb Pottery: An Enterprise for Southern Women, 1895--1940*. Barbara Sorelle Bacot is senior architectural historian in the Division of Historic Preservation at the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

Although one can easily access all the data regarding statewide Historic American Buildings Buildings online today catalog such as these, which are now quite outdated, are reaching the point where they are becoming items for collectors such as myself. Only a bibliophile such as myself might find value in an outdated catalog such as this.

Great service; arrived three weeks before it was initially advised. Delivery materials were robust and well packaged. Would use this supplier again. Great book, beautifully produced. Lots of good information about the buildings of Louisiana. Goes well with the *Buildings of the USA* volume by Karen Knightley.

Very interesting study of LA architecture.

I must confess I found this book hard to put down, the text was so interesting, I really had no idea Louisiana had so many wonderful historic buildings. I knew about New Orleans of course and the great plantations, but I did not realize that the rest of the state had so many wonderful buildings, it was a real eye opener. I thoroughly enjoyed the photographs and they cooresponded well with the text. Louisiana is one of our most beautiful and unique states and I am so pleased that such a quality book has been written about its historic buildings, it's well deserved.

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