National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana



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Introduction

Site History

Existing Conditions

Landscape Analysis

Treatment

Prepared by
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National Park Service, Boston, Massachusetts, 2006

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Cover Photo: 1951 Aerial Photograph of Northwestern State University (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was a collaborative effort of the staff at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. At the Olmsted Center, Christopher Stevens compiled the site history using primary and secondary historical documents found at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center of the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library at Northwestern State University. Stevens also prepared the existing conditions, landscape analysis, and treatment sections of the report. Robert Page, Charles Pepper, and Margie Coffin Brown provided overall project guidance and Lauren Laham and Debbie Smith reviewed the draft document.

At the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Executive Director Kirk Cordell and Chief of Architecture and Engineering Andrew Ferrell provided overall project guidance. Ferrell also coordinated a series of very informative and dynamic charrettes, which aided in identifying key treatment issues and plant selections. Kevin Ammons provided administrative support. The compilation of an extensive amount of information about the Women's Gymnasium landscape would not have been possible without the dedication of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training staff to having the site's history inform its future. Many thanks to all the staff that provided comments and concerns throughout this project.

Special thanks go to Richard and Jessie Johnson of Briarwood, the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, and to John Harris, Natchitoches City Horticulturist for sharing their horticultural wisdom and wealth of Louisiana plant knowledge. They walked the site with the author and provided specific plant recommendations for developing the treatment plan.



National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Lee H. Nelson Hall (former Women's Gym), Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 2003 (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation).

INTRODUCTION

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Preparation of the following cultural landscape report (CLR) has been timed to guide the landscape rehabilitation of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) at Northwestern State University of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

NCPTT was created by Congress as part of the Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992 as an interdisciplinary program of the National Park Service. The center's mission is to advance the art, craft, and science of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. NCPTT promotes and enhances the preservation and conservation of prehistoric and historic resources in the United States for present and future generations. Undergraduate and graduate students from Northwestern State University and post-graduate associates from throughout the United States assist in the work undertaken by senior staff.

The center is located in Lee H. Nelson Hall, the former women's gymnasium built in 1923. The National Park Service rehabilitated the interior and exterior of the building between 1995 and 2001. The rehabilitation also included the area immediately surrounding the NCPTT building and addressed such issues as parking and access, circulation, drainage and utilities, and site lighting. Vegetation, small-scale site features (benches, lights, trash receptacles), and outdoor classroom or gathering spaces were not addressed.

The following report presents a chronological site history of the property and its existing conditions in both narrative text and illustrations. The Landscape Analysis chapter, in addition to evaluating the significance and integrity using the terms and definitions of the National Register of Historic Places program, offers recommendations regarding the center's choice of a historic preservation treatment approach to the landscape. These recommendations are consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The final chapter of the CLR then provides an appropriate landscape treatment plan that primarily focuses on vegetation, circulation, small-scale landscape features, and congregational spaces.

SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLGY

The CLR provides a treatment plan that will guide the rehabilitation of the NCPTT grounds at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The plan is synthesized from the chronological site history, the existing conditions, and the evaluation of the significance and integrity of the landscape presented within this report.

The report documents both the historic and current landscape characteristics and features. It also evaluates the landscape's significance and integrity while examining the landscape's relationship to the adjacent National Register–listed Normal Hill and Natchitoches Historic Districts. The report also justifies rehabilitation as the appropriate landscape treatment approach with recommendations consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Project goals include making the landscape more inviting and hospitable with vegetation and congregational spaces and improving circulation for NSU students passing through while preserving and evoking the history of the landscape.

The CLR was completed according to the guidance within the NPS Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports and Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. The report is divided into four

chapters: Site History, Existing Conditions, Landscape Analysis, and Treatment. Each chapter is supplemented with graphics (photographs, diagrams, and historic maps) as necessary. The Site History chapter includes period plans, the Existing Conditions chapter contains a plan depicting existing conditions, and the Treatment chapter presents a plan to guide rehabilitation of the landscape. The plans were created in AutoCAD 2002. They were developed from the AutoCAD Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Coco of Coco & Company prepared in June 2001 and from site visits by Olmsted Center staff in 2003 and 2004.

Documentation of the site history included researching the Northwestern State University collections of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library and the physical plant files. The level of investigation for this CLR is considered as "limited" as defined by *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques* with pertinent archival sources in short supply. There are no existing or historic campus or site master plans. The report contains a cursory contextual history with a more detailed history and treatment plan for the NCPTT property.

The treatment plan is not a construction document, but rather a detailed, planting plan. NCPTT will have construction drawings prepared by a licensed architect and will contract out construction including the irrigation system. The final treatment plan and specifications were submitted to Coco & Company, architectural company of Simmesport, LA, in early November of 2004. The university's physical plant will maintain the designed landscape.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY BOUNDARIES

The study area for the project will concentrate on the immediate surroundings of the NCPTT headquarters building southeast of the College Avenue and Caspari Street intersection at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The approximately 1.7 – acre site is bounded by Horseshoe Drive to the east and Varnado Hall to the South. The building faces College Avenue and is one of several Jacobean-style buildings on campus. It is located near a National Register Historic District that includes the historic core of the old Normal School. The Normal Hill Historic District was designated in 1980 and is significant for its association with both architecture and education in America. Across College Avenue from the campus is the Natchitoches Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1974 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1984. The district is significant for its high concentration of bousillage-constructed buildings.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The former Women's Gymnasium, now Nelson Hall - home of NCPTT, was the first gymnasium built for Northwestern State University when it was a college. The Tudor or Jacobean-Revival style building was constructed in 1923 by the architectural firm of Bethume, Frank, Favrot, and Livaudais. The building served as a coeducational gym until 1930, when it became the Women's Gymnasium until the building was condemned in the 1970s.

The college and students valued the outdoors greatly in the years leading up to World War II and created a rich landscape that enhanced the Jacobean-Revival buildings, which included the Women's Gymnasium and those of Normal Hill, the core of the campus. Landscape improvements included hedge-lined lawns; walkways lined with ornate electroliers, large shade trees, and ornamental vegetation; and walkways sheltered by elegant pergolas. Many of these features were also included within the Women's Gymnasium landscape during this

period, including large pine trees, hedge-lined lawns, and a pergola-covered walkway.

In 1939, the college used Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds to construct Varnado Hall immediately south of Nelson Hall and Natchitoches High School to the west across Caspari Street. These two buildings and associated landscapes contribute to the character of the Women's Gymnasium landscape. As part of the construction of Varnado Hall, the college installed Horseshoe Drive directly east of the Women's Gymnasium to provide direct access to the new building from College Avenue. The adjacent Horseshoe Drive landscape and the Varnado Hall foundation plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs and large loblolly pine trees are visually linked with the Women's Gymnasium landscape.

In general, the condition and detail of the campus landscape declined during and after World War II first due to a shortage of manpower and second to an intensive modern building expansion to meet increased enrollment. Today, the pergolas and most of the shade trees, ornamental vegetation, and hedgerows are gone. Only a few electroliers remain near the main gate along with a significant grove of live oak trees. With Caldwell and Guardia Halls having been destroyed by fire, many of the Normal Hill walkways lead to nowhere. The Women's Gymnasium landscape continued to be maintained and used for various women's sports and exercise until the building's condemnation during the 1970s.

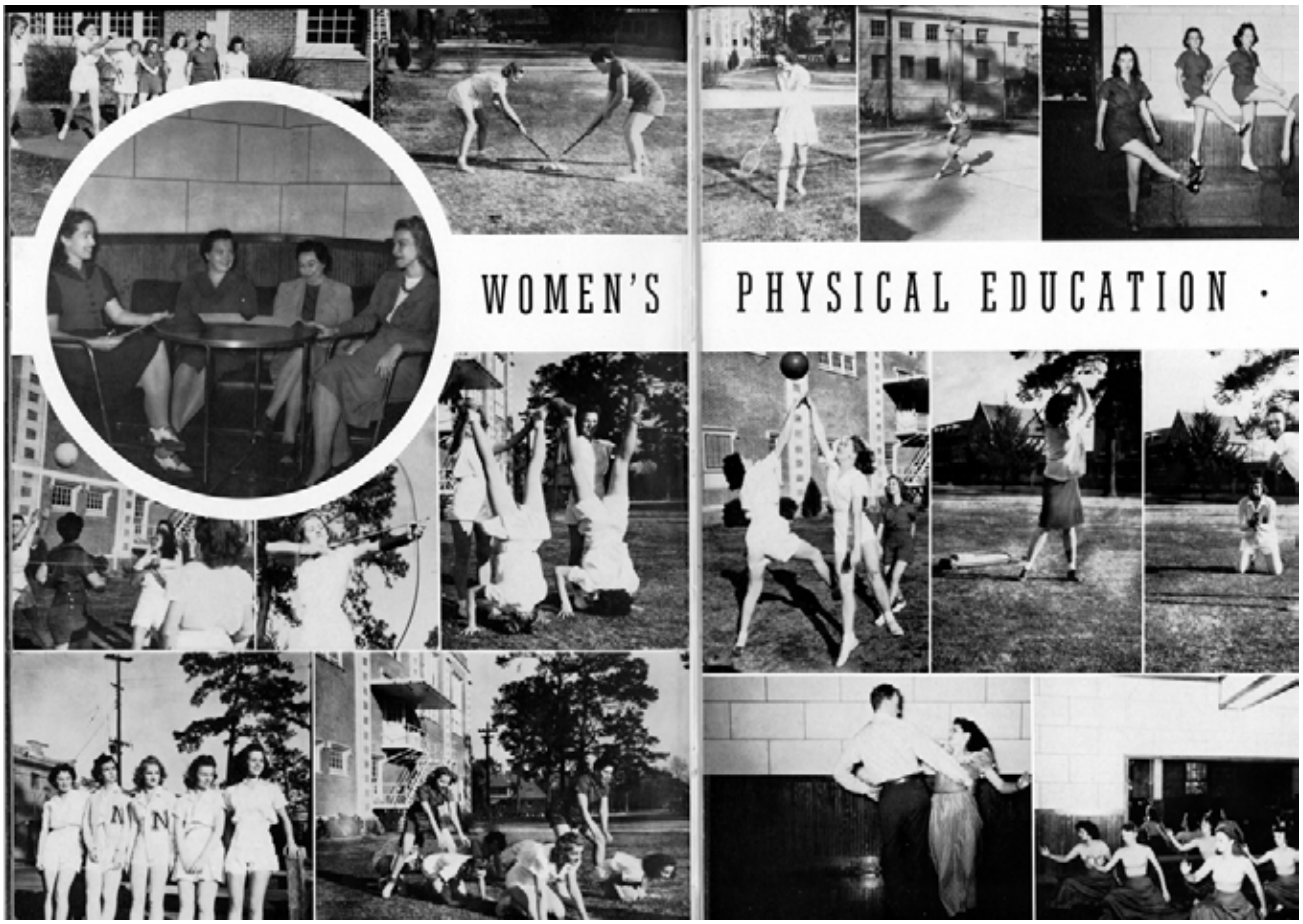
The Women's Gymnasium was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. It is locally significant in the areas of architecture and education for 1923. This CLR recommends adding the Women's Gymnasium landscape to the building's National Register listing with the period of significance as 1923 to 1939 to reflect the pre-war years following the building's 1923 construction up to the 1939 construction of the surrounding WPA influenced buildings and landscapes. The property is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, namely as the state's normal school and later college. NSU was Louisiana's first major state-supported Normal School for the preparation of teachers. During its use as a gym, the building and landscape contributed to the physical education of many students.

While the site does not retain integrity overall, the site does possess the individual aspects of location, setting, and association. These aspects are related to the property's landscape characteristics of spatial organization, circulation and views and vistas. Although the site does not possess the aspect of feeling, the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the 1923-1939 period may be revived with rehabilitative treatment.

The Women's Gymnasium property and Northwestern State University's nearby Normal Hill Historic District are part of the same college and share similar construction dates and architectural styles. This CLR also proposes that the Normal Hill Historic District boundary be increased to include the Women's Gymnasium property and other adjacent campus properties with a similar heritage.

The CLR recommends rehabilitation as the treatment approach for the NCPTT property, since it allows for the repair, alterations, and additions necessary to accommodate recent and future changes to the site, and without overall historic integrity, depiction of the landscape at a particular period of time is not appropriate. Many contributing features remain, most importantly the building itself and some historic plants. These features should be preserved and with the sensitive reintroduction of others during rehabilitation, the historic character may be enhanced.

NCPTT management and staff and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation identified landscape issues. Treatment guidelines set forth seek to embrace the site's proposed period of significance, 1923-1939. Project goals include making the landscape more inviting and hospitable with vegetation and congregational spaces. Further goals include improving circulation for NSU students passing through while preserving and evoking the history of the landscape. The rehabilitated landscape in turn may influence the preservation and design of the surrounding university landscapes. The design borrows from the historic palette of the site and the greater university's landscapes and is intended to meet NCPTT's contemporary needs.



Women's Gymnasium, Louisiana State Normal College (Northwestern State University), Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1943 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, (Potpourri Student Yearbook)).

SITE HISTORY

SETTLEMENT OF NATCHITOCHES, 1699-1856

EVOLUTION OF A NORMAL SCHOOL, 1856-1923

PHYSICALLY FIT DEMONS – THE WOMEN'S GYMNASIUM, 1923-1994

ESTABLISHMENT OF NCPTT, 1994-PRESENT

SITE HISTORY

The site history provides a description of the landscape through each historic period up to the present and identifies and describes the historic contexts associated with the landscape. The site history documents the physical development of the landscape, focusing on human interaction with, and modification of the natural landscape. It describes the physical character, attributes, features, and materials (landscape characteristics and associated features) that contribute to the significance of the landscape.

Historical research involved the study, analysis, evaluation, and use of both primary and secondary source materials. Primary source materials included historic plans, photographs, yearbooks, period literature, journals and other written records, oral histories, maps, drawings, and illustrations. These source materials were useful for profiling the landscape's appearance through time. Secondary source materials (special studies, recent scholarship, and books) helped establish the historical and physical context within which the landscape developed.

The level of investigation for this report is considered "limited" as defined by *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*. Research was conducted as possible and necessary within the time frame outlined in the project agreement. Documentation of the site's historic development is concentrated on the time frame for which the building is included in the National Register listing (1900-1924) through the present day.

SETTLEMENT OF NATCHITOCHES, 1699-1856

In 1682, the French explorer Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, explored northwestern Louisiana and claimed the Mississippi Valley for the French crown. The Natchitoches tribe of Native Americans, members of the Caddo Confederacy of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, lived in small communities along both sides of Louisiana's Red River. The name "Natchitoches" may be derived from "nashitosh", the native word for pawpaw, or from "nacicit," the native description for a place with soil the color of red ochre. Former La Salle lieutenant, Henri de Tonti, visited the Natchitoches settlement in 1690 and found a well developed society with a central temple at which his Taensa tribe guides worshiped as a sign of respect and peace. The Natchitoches primarily traded salt, a plentiful resource in their area. [1]

Jean Baptiste, Sieur de Bienville, and French Canadian soldier and entrepreneur, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, further explored the area in 1700. [2] In 1713, Marquis Antoine Crozat controlled the Province of Louisiana and directed Governor Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac to establish a post on the Red River to establish trade with the Spanish in Texas and to deter their eastern advances. The river, a major trade thoroughfare, was crossed by overland trade routes. In 1714, St. Denis returned and established Fort Saint Jean Baptiste on the west bank of the Red River with the assistance of the local Natchitoches. [3] He commanded the fort from 1721 until his death in 1744 and owned a large amount of land including the current site of Northwestern State University. [4] The Spanish responded to the fort's construction by building the presidio known as Los Adaes fifteen miles to the west. Settlement spread from these early outposts, and the town of Natchitoches developed around the French fort.[5]

The Natchitoches faced devastating population loss from the European diseases for which they had no immunities. Despite French and Spanish laws forbidding miscegenation, interracial marriage was a common response to this loss and to the shortage of European women in the colony. French planters imported enslaved Africans to manage their cash crops of indigo and tobacco. Enslaved women bore children for European

men, often forming lifelong relationships. With the mingling of Native American, French and Spanish, and enslaved and free African cultures, a distinctive Creole culture evolved grounded in French colonialism and Catholicism. Natchitoches quickly became a flourishing river port, and planters built plantations along the river with fine homes in town for social events.[6]

In 1803, the United States under President Thomas Jefferson acquired the province of Louisiana from France under the rule of Napolean. The Louisiana Purchase granted the United States control over the vast Louisiana territory and its fertile, alluvial soils and hardwood forests. In 1805, Natchitoches Parish was created by an act that divided the Louisiana Territory into twelve parishes including Orleans. Several parishes were subsequently organized out of Natchitoches Parish.[7] Natchitoches, the oldest permanent European settlement in the territory, was the region's commercial center. Anglo-American planters and farmers came to the area, and cotton became the new cash crop. The new settlers' Protestant churches, public schools, and attitudes about race and culture caused complicated relationships between slaves and free people. Steamboats from the port of New Orleans brought Jewish, Italian, and Syrian immigrants who worked as traders, merchants, and craftspeople in the growing community.

Captain Henry Miller Shreve, a successful river captain and steamboat builder and owner, was appointed as the Superintendent of the Western Rivers in 1828 after proposing a campaign to improve steamboat navigation on western rivers including the Mississippi and the Red. Shreve designed and built snag boats that rammed the snags, scooped loose logs or stumps out of the water, and cut them into firewood. Shreve's efforts reached Red River in 1833. A natural log jam, known as the "Great Raft," had choked 160 miles of the river's main channel between Natchitoches and what is now Shreveport for more than two centuries. With the help of four boats and about 160 men Shreve completed the removal of the jam by 1837 further opening the Red River to navigation. Shreeveport, Louisiana, an important center of trade and gateway to the West, was named after him. [8]

The jam had significantly affected the drainage and sediment pattern in the area causing the damming of tributaries and the creation of a number of large lakes. With the removal of the jam, the lakes drained leaving only remnants behind. Ultimately the Red River shifted to the eastern edge of the parish leaving behind the thirty-two-mile long Cane River Lake in its former channel from Natchitoches to the plantation county. The lake remained an important transportation link between the town and the outlying agricultural areas. [9]

The future site of Northwestern State University's Normal Hill was purchased in 1831 by Charles Adams Bullard and his wife Julia Ann Bludworth from Aime Rouquier.[10] The land was once part of the large tract that belonged to Louis Juchereau de St. Denis. In 1832, the Bullards constructed a mansion on the high ground facing eastward overlooking the Red River's floodplain and principal channel (soon to become 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.[11]

In 1835, the United States forced the Native American Caddo Confederation to cede and vacate their lands in Louisiana. The various divisions of Caddo Confederation eventually merged into a single tribe, the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.[12] Around this time, Bernard Leonard bought the Bullard's property whose poor finances forced them to sell.[13] Leonard died in 1849, and his wife Ann Bludworth Leonard gave the 49.05-acre tract back to her niece Julia Ann Bludworth Bullard.[14] James Taylor purchased the property in 1848.[15] In 1850, the Reverend Auguste Martin purchased 45.05 acres of the tract.[16] During the 1850s, Frederick Law Olmsted toured the southern United States writing his social and economic observations in articles for the *New-York Daily Times*. He reached Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1854. There he described the town as the jumping-off place for settlers "pursuing their Western destiny" for his newspaper account.[17]

EVOLUTION OF A NORMAL SCHOOL, 1856-1923

On April 23, 1856, Madam Antoinette Bullion, Superior of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, bought the Bullard property and buildings from the Reverend Martin (Figure 1). 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.[18] Behind the new school, a pine and cedar avenue led to a Virgin Mary statue known as "Our Lady of the Piney Woods."[19]

A legend soon evolved at the school involving a beautiful, young French girl whose suitor was killed in a duel of honor. She grew pale and withdrawn with mourning and entered the convent as a student and became a nun. She remained secluded and walked beneath the tall trees each night. The legend continues that she killed herself following a violent storm, and her haunting spirit is now known as the Ghost of Normal Hill. People said, "The Little Nun sighed for her lover," when the wind blew the leaves gently, or "The Little Nun quarreled with her lover," when the leaves blew fiercely. She haunted the convent until it was demolished, when she moved on to haunt the next oldest building on campus. According to tradition, she has haunted East Hall, the Music Building, and Caldwell Hall, and currently she haunts the old Women's Gymnasium with a ceremonial plaque mounted inside denoting this honor.[20]

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 fifty-acre tract south and west of the academy making it about one hundred acres.[21] The academy faced financial difficulties, however, and closed in 1875. In 1876, the nuns boarded a steamboat at Grand Ecore bound for New Orleans.[22] The school and grounds were left empty and neglected until 1884.[23]

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.[24] During the nineteenth century following the French Revolution, the French created "écoles normale" or normal schools exclusively for the education and training of secondary school teachers. Norma is Latin for rule or standard to norms or standards applied in teaching.[25] The first American "normal school" was founded in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1839. By 1860, every northern state had at least one normal school with only twelve state normal schools in the country.[26] For the next one hundred years, normal schools trained most of the elementary and secondary teachers and school administrators in the United States.[27]

In 1884, the Louisiana Board of Education had been charged "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."[28] 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. The academy complex contained many chimneys for winter warmth and included a large frame college with class and recitation rooms, a chapel, a large brick convent, and a small residence.[29] On October 6, 1884, the Board selected Natchitoches over many towns for 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.[30] 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 abundant shade trees included many pines and pecans and some fruit trees. The hill commanded a fine view of the Cane River Valley. Cane River Lake afforded the students with sporting opportunities including a boating course and fishing activities.[31]

Beginning in 1885, the normal school offered two years of study for the training of teachers.[32] The school constructed many new buildings during the 1890s including the Dining Room in 1890, Boyd Hall in 1895, and East Hall in 1898.[33] The school also had athletic fields, courts, and numerous shaded walkways (Figures 2 & 3).[34] The school buildings on Normal Hill were visible from the other side of Chaplin's Lake at this time.

In 1900, the school established the Model School, a facility for students in kindergarten through high school from all over the state. Normal school students taught one hour classes to gain practice working in the classroom. [35] The normal school added West Hall in 1902.[36] The school deemed the convent building unsafe in 1904, demolished it, and used the bricks to build Caldwell Hall between 1906 and 1908.[37]

By 1910, the United States had 264 normal schools (151 state and 113 city, county, or private) that enrolled about 132,000 students.[38] Louisiana State Normal School President Roy initiated a major construction effort between 1910 and 1915. He constructed a new dining hall, dairy barn, model school, and women's dormitory. Roy also moved and converted existing campus buildings as needed. 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 (Figure 4).[39]

In 1914, the school possessed 329 acres with academic campus occupying about 25 acres, athletic grounds 8 acres, garden 10 acres, fields 30 acres, pecan grove 25 acres, and the remainder open or with wood pasture.[40] President Roy leveled and beautified the grounds and initiated a vegetable garden to provide fresh produce to the boarding club.[41] Between 1914 and 1925, he added more than 300 acres to the school.[42] The 60.39-acre tract that Roy purchased in 1916 gave the school a connection from Chaplin's Lake to the Natchitoches Robeline road.[43] Many pine trees shaded the campus at this time (Figure 5).

Landscape projects were popular with graduating classes during the second decade of the twentieth century (Figure 6). Each of the eight quarterly classes from summer 1913 through spring 1915 donated an electrolier light fixture to line the main walkway.[44] These Beaux-Arts fixtures contained three arms, each holding an electric bulb enclosed by a glass globe (Figure 7). Around 1917, the school constructed pergolas that shaded and sheltered 387 feet of walkways connecting the campus buildings.[45] The oriental or craftsman style pergolas were built of standard sized lumber with hip roofs and open rafters. The school erected the Beaux-Arts/Jacobean revival memorial gate in 1919 at the main entrance at the intersection of Central Avenue and College Avenue using funds raised by sixteen graduating classes from the summer of 1915 to spring of 1919.[46] The gate's brick pedestals and globe light fixtures complimented the electroliers that lined the main walkway. The summer class of 1919 donated a ninety-foot flagpole.[47] By the 1920s, the school grounds were enclosed by a fence with a bar across the front gate.[48]

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.[49]

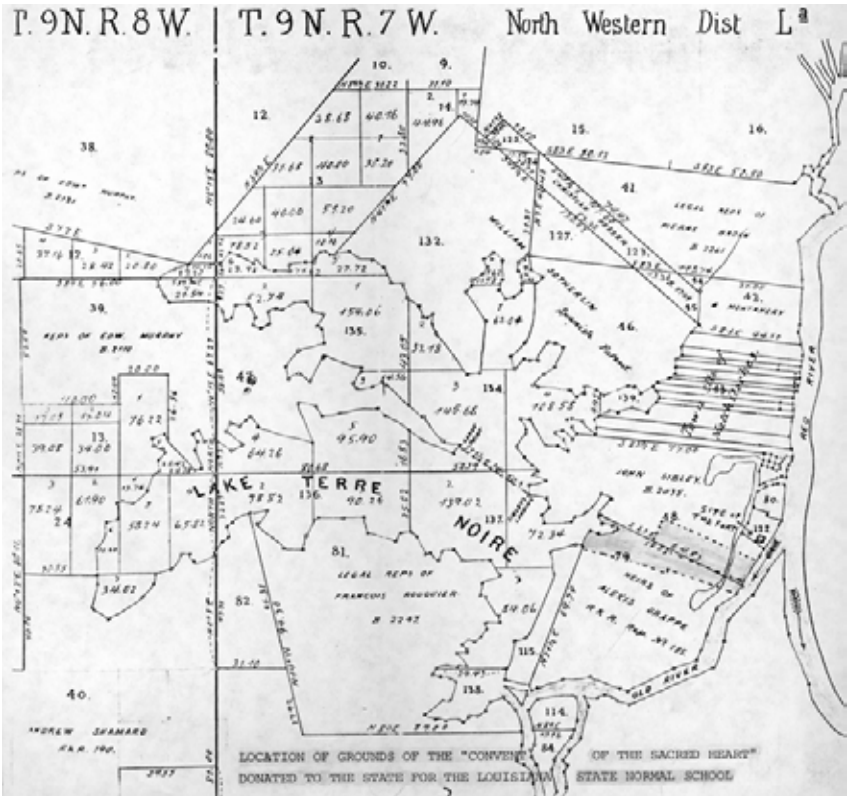


Figure 1. Undated plat map showing the location of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Natchitoches, Louisiana (shaded in gray, lower right) (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).

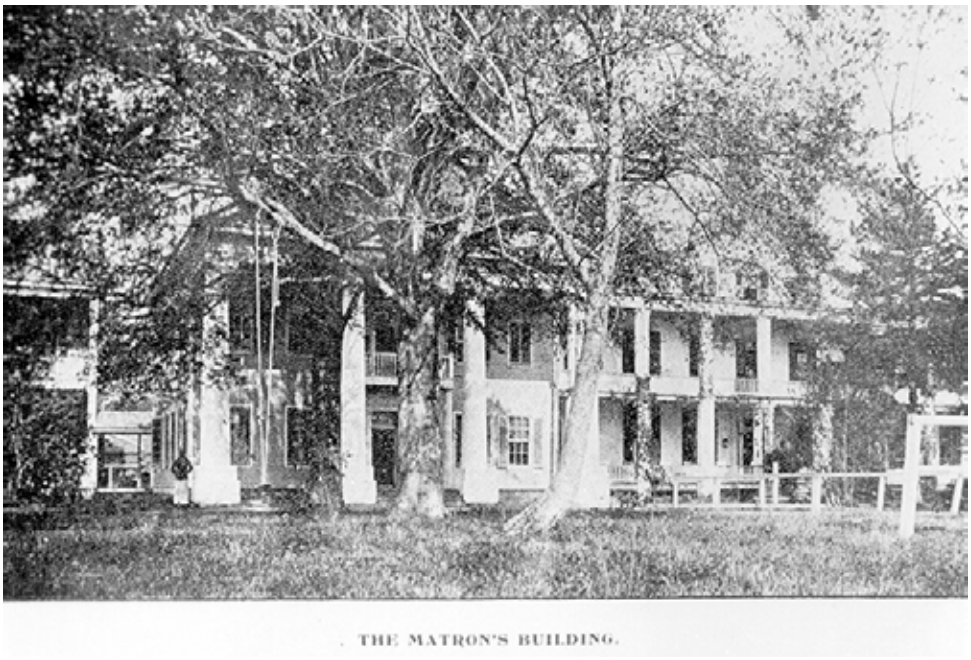


Figure 2. Trees shading the Bullard Mansion on Normal Hill, ca. 1890 (Louisiana National Register of Historic Places).



Figure 3. Trees shading Normal Hill and the Bullard Mansion, ca. 1900 (Louisiana National Register of Historic Places).

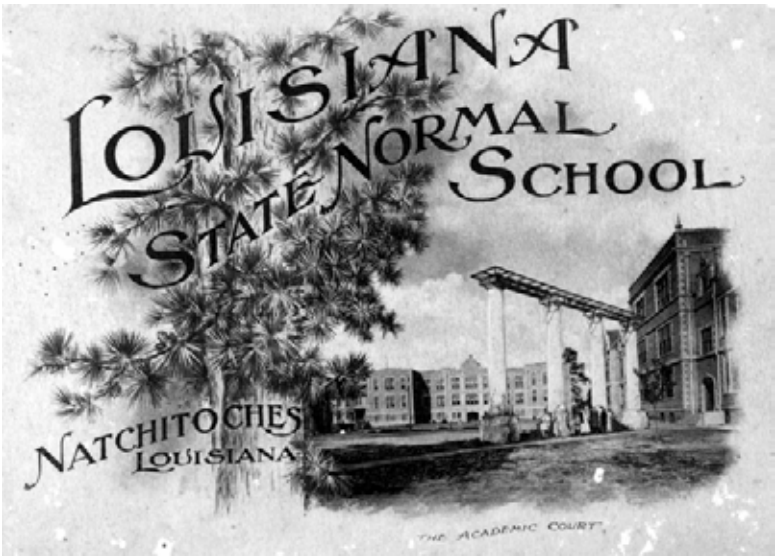


Figure 4. Cover of the undated Normal School Brochure illustrating the school's beloved pines and the Bullard Mansion columns, ca. 1920 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 5. Undated photograph of Louisiana State Normal School showing a typical pine grove on campus (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 6. Undated Louisiana State Normal School graduation with the dense shade trees of Normal Hill in the background (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 7. Walkway from Normal Hill to Main Gate lined by electroliers and ornamental vegetation including "the Sentinel Pine" (upper left), undated (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Normal Brochure)).

PHYSICALLY FIT DEMONS – THE WOMEN'S GYMNASIUM, 1923-1994

President Roy led a second major construction period for the college from 1922 to 1929. The college built a men's and women's dormitory, an infirmary, the Warren Easton Education Building, and the gymnasium.[50] President Roy had been pushing for a gymnasium since 1920 noting that the girls' physical activities were limited to one room in Boyd Hall.[51] The college completed its first gymnasium building in the fall of 1923. It began as a coeducational facility, but became the Women's Gymnasium in 1930. The building, designed by the New Orleans architectural firm of Bethume, Frank, Favrot, and Livaudais, was one of several Jacobean style buildings on campus. It was located on the site of a former men's dormitory and faced Jefferson Highway (now College Avenue) and an athletic field to the west. The old Fine Arts Building (former men's dormitory) was located southeast of the new gymnasium. The gymnasium housed a 55 by 102-foot gym, two 35 by 50-foot activity rooms, classrooms, office space, an examination room, and ample showers and lockers. The main hall served as an indoor track. Constructed at a cost of sixty-five thousand dollars, the gymnasium met "…one of the greatest and longest felt needs of the college."[52]

The new gymnasium sat in a lawn shaded by many large pine trees (Figures 8-12). Large pine trees punctuated four corners of the building and the middle of the back (south) lawn. Clusters of pine trees marked the northwest and southwest corners of the property. A sidewalk bordered Caspari Street and College Avenue. A finely-clipped privet hedge, less than two-feet tall, bordered the property between the roads and the pine clusters. Hedges were popular on campus contributing to its formal design. Hedges also bordered most of the gym's neighboring properties too. A concrete sidewalk led orthogonally from College Avenue to the front door of the gym, and a sidewalk followed the same axis from the rear doors to a campus walkway south of the gym. A simple pergola, typical of those along the college's walkways, sheltered the latter walkway by 1926. Another walkway curved east to west along the front façade.

In 1923, the students chose the Demon as their mascot – The Normal Demon – in response to the increasing popularity of college athletics.[53] Female students organized the Women's Athletic Association between 1925 and 1927 which joined the National Women's Athletic Association. Students participated in swimming, track, field, tennis, soccer, hockey, basketball, and volleyball. Those competing successfully earned an "N" sweater and became a member of the "N" club.

A new infirmary opened in 1924, southwest of the gym.[54] The summer, winter, and spring classes of 1925 donated the fishpond and fountain that were installed in front of Caldwell Hall.[55] The college constructed a new president's home in 1928 just west of the main gates and east of the Women's Gymnasium. This two-story Tudor-style brick house contained entertaining space on the first floor and living space on the second floor.[56] The Women's Gymnasium hosted the college's first all-school dance in 1929 for which it was highly decorated.[57]

President Tison built the men's gymnasium in 1930 which also hosted convocations and state rallies. Around this time, Tison planned to establish an arboretum with every variety of Louisiana trees on campus as both a beautification and educational project.[58] President Frederick continued with the landscape improvements in 1934 removing the high wooden picket fence from around the campus to open it to the town.[59] This same year, Fredericks announced that the Normal had been granted $25,000 from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for the landscaping of the campus.[60]

The college's landscape was at its pinnacle of design during this pre-war era (Figures 13-25). Hedge-bordered lawns surrounded the buildings with large shade trees providing relief from summer heat. Simple pergolas and alleés sheltered walkways that connected many of the buildings including the Women's Gymnasium.[61] Lush ornamental shrubs lined and formal electroliers illuminated the main walkway between the Main Gate

and Normal Hill.[62] One frequently photographed pine tree at the top of the walk was fondly called the Sentinel Pine which survived into the 1930s.[63] The procession from place to place must have been a romantic journey for students.

By the end of the 1930s, wooden trellises supported vines along the south façade of the Women's Gymnasium (Figures 26-27). Female students utilized the landscape, exercising beneath the pine trees (Figure 28).

The college razed one of the four historic Bullard Mansion columns in 1937 because of its weakened condition.[64] Between 1938 and 1940, the college added several new buildings, seven with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds in 1939.[65] Natchitoches High School, west of the gymnasium across Caspari Street, and Varnado Hall, a girl's dormitory south of the gymnasium, were built at this time. Varnado Hall consisted of two three-story dormitory sections connected by a one-story social reception section. The college demolished the old Fine Arts building (a former men's dormitory) to make way for Horseshoe Drive in order to access Varnado Hall's entrance from Jefferson Highway (now College Avenue). An immature hedge surrounded the inside of this drive with clusters of shrubs at the corners. Two large pine trees from beside the old Fine Arts building survived at the southern end of the horseshoe. The college removed the walkway that linked the old Fine Arts building to Normal Hill along with its pergola at this time, although the route remained as a 'desire' trail into the 1940s (Figures 29-30). The landscapes of the gymnasium's neighboring buildings, Varnado Hall, the Infirmary, and Natchitoches High School, consisted of street and drive hedgerows, pine trees, and foundation plantings with ample lawns. Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) grew along the north façade of the infirmary as it does today.

Also with WPA funds (Project No. LA 1263-F), the college constructed "covered passages" or pergola-covered walkways in 1939 to connect the women's dormitories.[66] These wood and pipe structures were similar to the older pergolas on campus, but covered longer lengths and were more classical in character. One large "Y" shaped covered passage was located directly south of Varnado Hall and connected it to other dormitories.

A 1939 period plan (Figure 31) depicts the Women's Gymnasium landscape and its surroundings immediately prior to the construction of Varnado Hall and Horseshoe Drive. With the completion of these projects, the Women's Gymnasium landscape changed (Figures 32-38). The college realigned the walkways south of the Women's Gymnasium. The college removed the orthogonal walkway and pergola from the rear entrance of the gymnasium, and replaced it with a diagonal walkway that headed southwest to connect with Caspari Street and a new campus walkway along the front of Varnado Hall. By the 1940s, hedges still bordered College Avenue and Caspari Street, and the college had planted shrubs along the foundation of the gymnasium. The pine trees at the southwest corner of the gymnasium had disappeared. By 1941, the college had installed the lamp standards with concrete poles that still illuminate much of the campus today.

During this time period, Caroline Dormon advised the college on campus plantings. Dormon was the first woman employed in forestry in the United States, and she almost single-handedly, working with Louisiana and U.S. Forest Service leaders, established Kisatchie National Forest. Dormon's lifetime work with trees and native plants has been perpetuated at Briarwood, her former home and now home of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve. Here she established a wild garden that preserves native plants, particularly those indigenous to the South that continues to educate visitors today. In 1938, Dormon advised college President Fredericks to trim other trees away from the campus's magnolia collection, which included cucumber, large leaf, and two other "common" magnolia species.[67] In 1941, the college invited Dormon to a March 16 tree planting ceremony stating "it would not be a success" without her.[68] Meanwhile Dormon worried about the well being of the newly planted trees:

"While lying here sick, I have been listening to these raging winds, and worrying about those little newly-set magnolias. I do hope you did not fail to stake them well. If, for any reason, you have not been able to get to it, I hope you will see to it at once. If they have already wallowed out holes around them, of course these will have to be filled carefully. It will be well to look at the

other things, too, for some of them may have been top-heavy enough to have been blown out of line. Because of the outrageous weather, I suppose it has been impossible to arrange for the celebration, but it is now looking better. I do hope you will take a firm stand if anyone wants to trim up the little crepe myrtles on the Grand Ecore road. Everyone who has ever grown crepe myrtles knows that when grown in the form of clumps, they produce more and much finer blossoms. In Texas I observed that all of the small flowering trees, even red bud, were cut back so as to grow in this form. The effect was very attractive. Best of luck to you and your club in your fine efforts."[69]

In 1951, the college asked Dormon for suggestions for native tree and shrub planting at the Home Economics Building, and Dormon came in December of that year to assist.[70]

In 1944 during World War II, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 326 changing the name of the college to Northwestern State College of Louisiana dropping the word Normal.[71] The college contributed much to the World War II effort including facility and human power. After World War II, mechanized farming permanently supplanted old agricultural practices that depended on human labor in the fields. As a result, many people migrated to urban centers like Natchitoches. The evolving college further contributed to the growth of Natchitoches expanding diversity in the area.

The Women's Gymnasium landscape changed little during the 1950s and 1960s (Figures 39-47). The sidewalks remained unchanged from the 1940s. Pine trees still graced the northwest corner of the Women's Gymnasium as well as the end of the front walkway and the center of the south lawn, and earlier foundation plantings had matured. By the 1950s, the hedges at the Women's Gymnasium had begun to decline with only remnants remaining along College Avenue, although the hedge along Caspari Drive remained robust. The college likely planted crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue in the front lawn during this time. Adjacent to the Women's Gymnasium property, the college had planted more trees in the southern half of Horseshoe Drive's lawn while the shrubs in the northern half had matured. Shrubs and some large pine trees still lined the foundation of Varnado Hall.

President McGinty added many buildings to the college including the physical science building in January 1950.[72] President Kyser added more buildings between 1956 and 1966.[73] During the 1950s and 60s, Professor Black planted many trees with labels on the new campus, probably south of the future Watson Memorial Library. The diversity of trees in the campus landscape contributed to college plant courses (Figure 46). As the college modernized, it began offering masters degrees in 1954.[74] In 1966 and 1967, the college began offering the Specialist in Education degree and the Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree respectively.[75]

President Kilpatrick added many buildings between 1969 and 1978 including the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library in 1972 and a new president's home in 1971.[76] A 1970 legislative act once again changed the name of the college to Northwestern State University of Louisiana.[77] The Women's Gymnasium was condemned during the 1970s and remained empty until the close of the century. Around this time, the college planted a southern magnolia tree east of the gym's front walkway.

The university constructed a new gate at the main entrance between 1977 and 1981 to replace the one built in 1919. The new iron gate was similar to the older archway, but contained the new university name. President René Bienvenu made sure the main entrance blended with the historic character of the original "Normal Hill," the former president's home, and Varnado Hall, but he believed that a modern entrance should be developed near the library to match the new west campus.[78] Around 1978, President Bienvenu installed a swing, a gift from the students, in his yard so he could sit and swing with them while discussing their problems. He had gotten the idea from President Dr. Robert Lynn of Louisiana College who had a swing in his yard for that same purpose.[79]

The National Register of Historic Places added the old campus quadrangle as "Normal Hill Historic District" in 1980 based on the work of Dean George A. Stokes.[80] Unfortunately, Caldwell Hall burned down in 1982 joining Guardia Hall, one of the original quad buildings, which had been destroyed by fire in 1967. The Center for the History of Louisiana Education was lost with the Caldwell Hall fire. Mrs. Maxine Southerland, the center's director,

began collecting replacement memorabilia and proposed that the old Women's Gymnasium, listed on the National Register since 1984, become the center's new home, but this never happened.[81] The university celebrated its centennial in 1984 with much fanfare.[82]

Around 1989, a photograph was taken of the Women's Gymnasium as part of the production of the film *Steel Magnolias* (Figure 48). Although the building had been vacant for many years, the landscape was well kept. A large pine tree grew near the northeast corner, and a smaller pine tree near the northwest corner of the building. Large, tightly clipped shrubs and two small pine trees grew along the front façade. The southern magnolia along the front walk had grown to about twenty-five feet. A broad deciduous shade tree grew west northwest of the building near one of the pines.

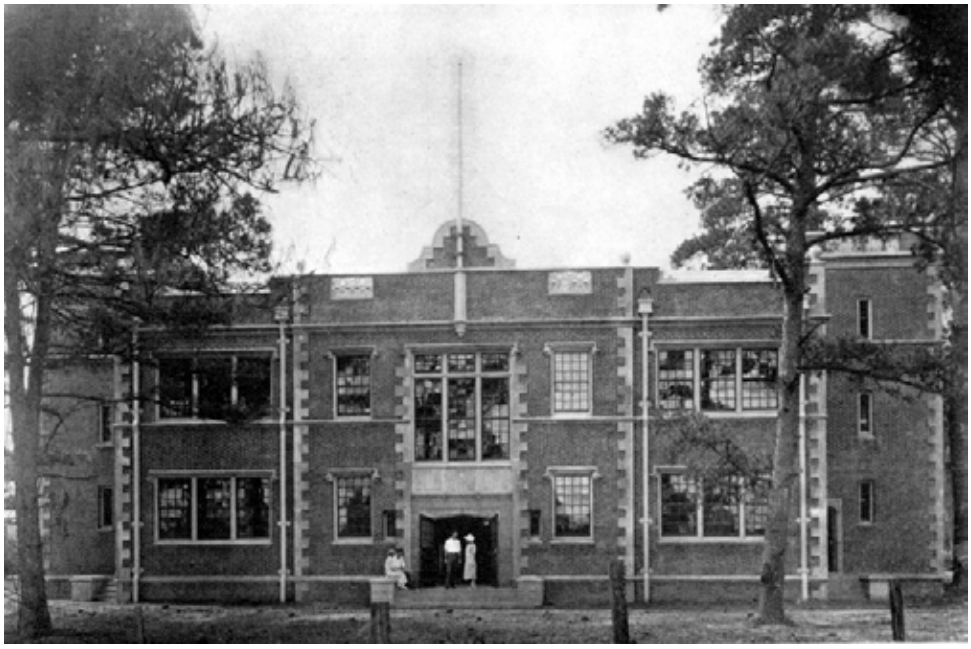


Figure 8. Front (north) façade of Women's Gymnasium showing pine trees, 1924 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 9. Rear (south) façade of Women's Gymnasium showing pine trees and hedge, 1924 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

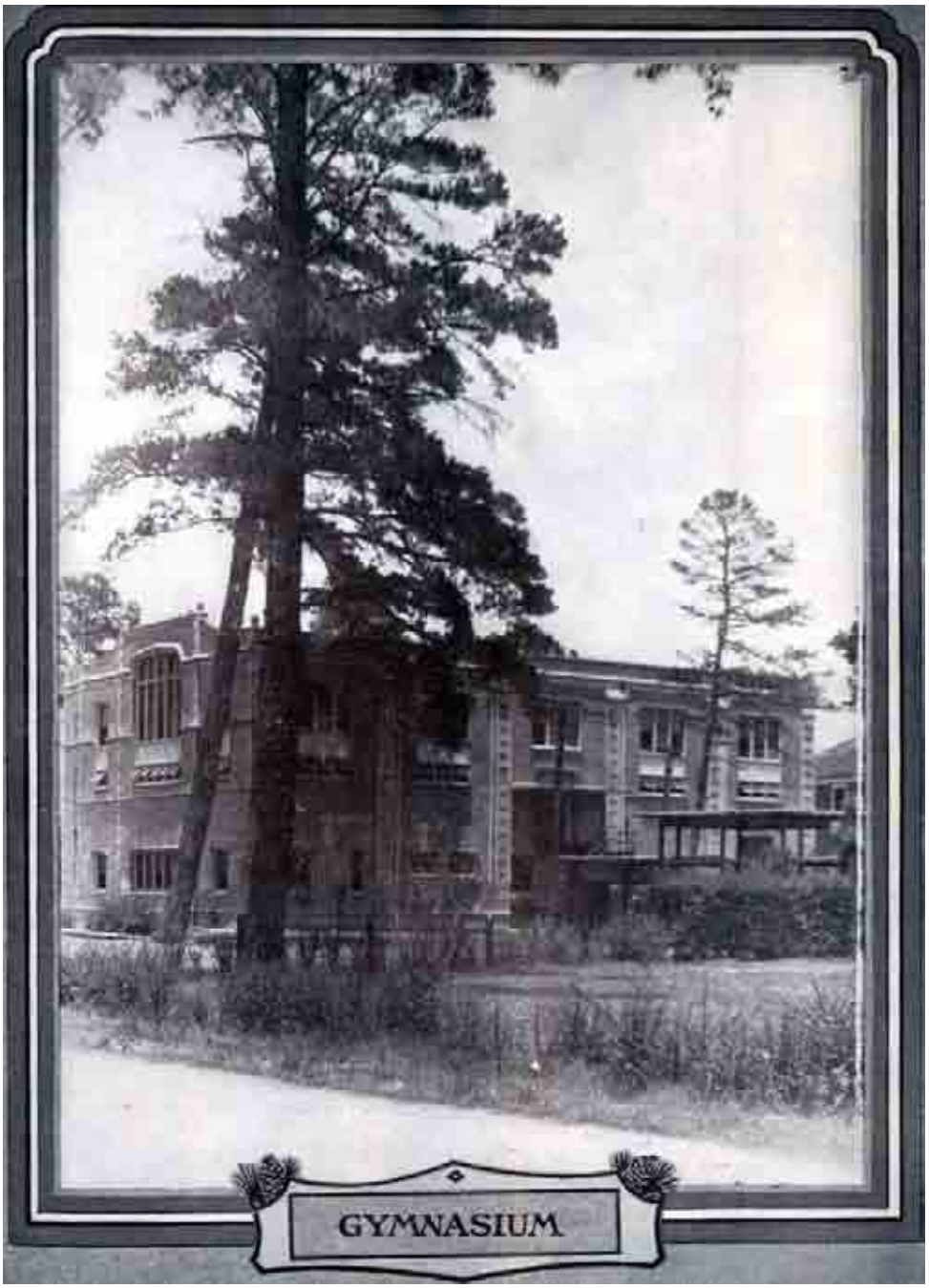


Figure 10. Southwest corner of Women's Gymnasium showing pine trees, hedges, and pergola-covered central walk to rear entrance, 1926 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 11. Front (north) façade of Women's Gymnasium showing pine trees and hedges and walkways along College Avenue, 1927. Note the former neighboring building at the far left.(Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 12. Front (north) façade of Women's Gymnasium showing pine trees and hedges and walkways along College Avenue, ca. 1927. Note the former neighboring building at the far left.(Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Postcard)).



Figure 13. Walkway from Normal Hill to Main Gate lined by electroliers and ornamental vegetation including the "Sentinel Pine" (upper left), 1924 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

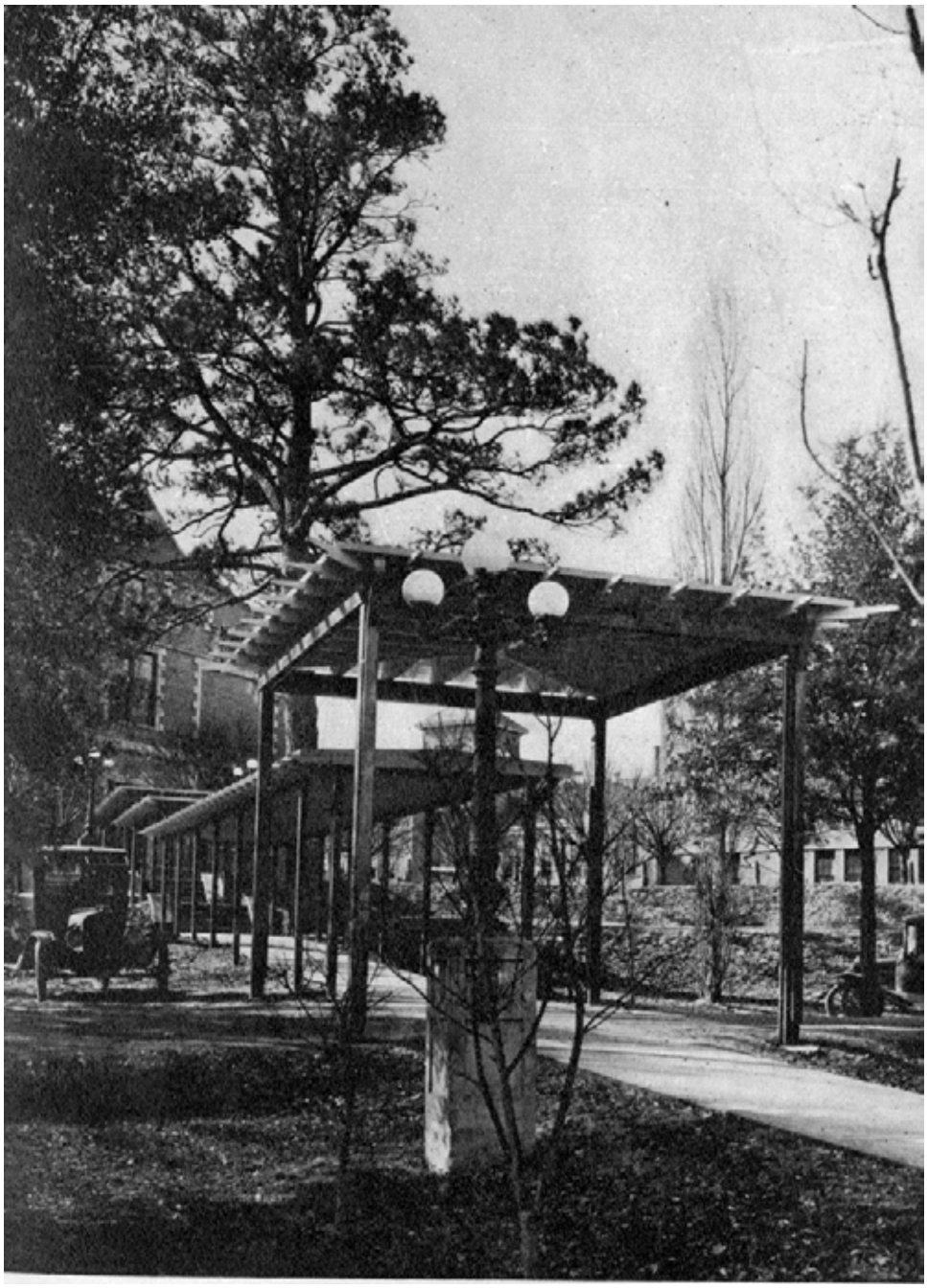


Figure 14. Walkway from Main Gate to Normal Hill lined with electroliers, and ornamental vegetation including the "Sentinel Pine" (top center) and sheltered with pergolas, 1924 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 15. Planted and unplanted pergolas covering several of the college's walkways, 1927 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 16. Main Gates along College Avenue, 1928 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 17. Walkway from Main Gate to Normal Hill lined by electroliers and ornamental vegetation and shaded with pergolas, 1928. Note the "Sentinel Pine" top center (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 18. Walkway from Main Gate to Normal Hill lined by electroliers and ornamental vegetation with the "Sentinel Pine" at the top, 1928 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 19. Campus walkway lined with pine trees and hibiscus shrubs, 1928 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 20. Walkway from Main Gate to Normal Hill lined with electroliers and ornamental vegetation and shaded with pergolas, 1931 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 21. Louisiana State Normal College's Training School connected to greater campus with pergola covered walkway, ca. 1930. Note the round flowerbed in the lawn (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Postcard)).



Figure 22. President's Home with manicured grounds, 1931 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 23. Louisiana State Normal College's four columns from the Bullard Mansion covered in ivy, reputedly from George Washington's Mount Vernon, 1931. Note Caldwell Hall is in the background (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 24. Main Gate at College Avenue, 1931. Note railroad crossing in the background (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 25. Shaded view from inside one of the pergolas along the walkway from Normal Hill to the Main Gate, 1932 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 26. Trellis at Women's Gymnasium with ornamental vine, 1932 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 27. Trellis at Women's Gymnasium with ornamental vine, 1932 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 28. Women exercising under the pine trees at the Women's Gymnasium, 1932 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

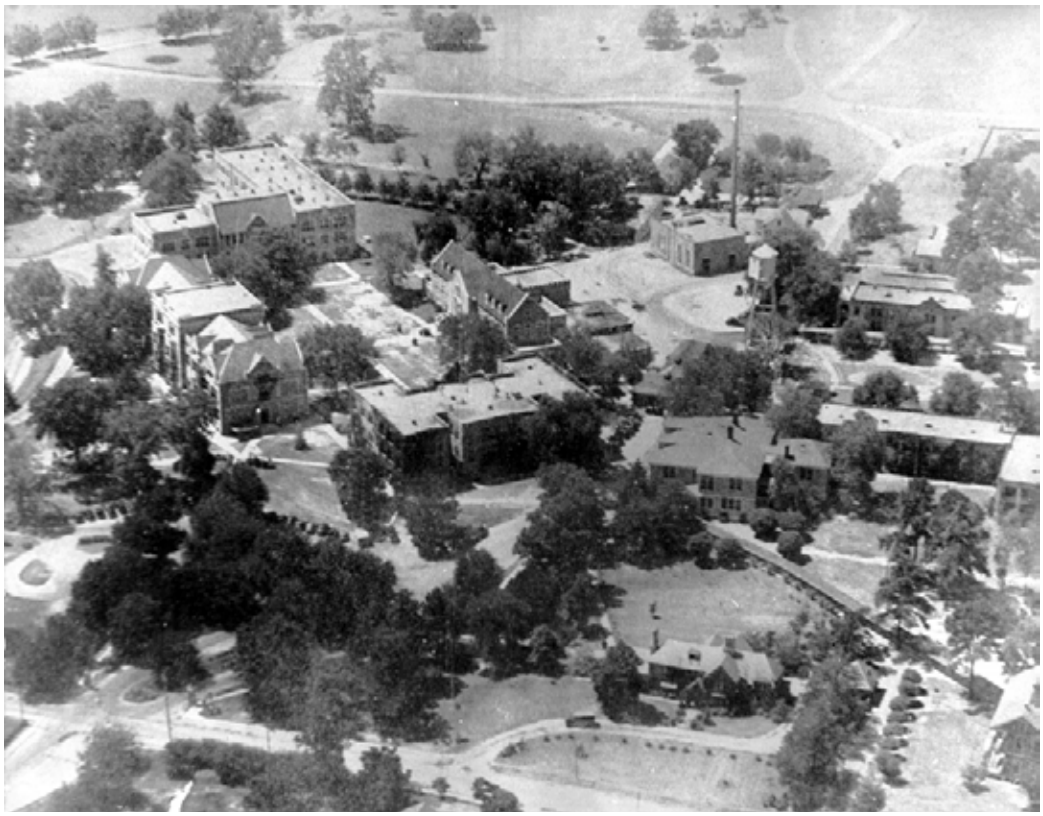
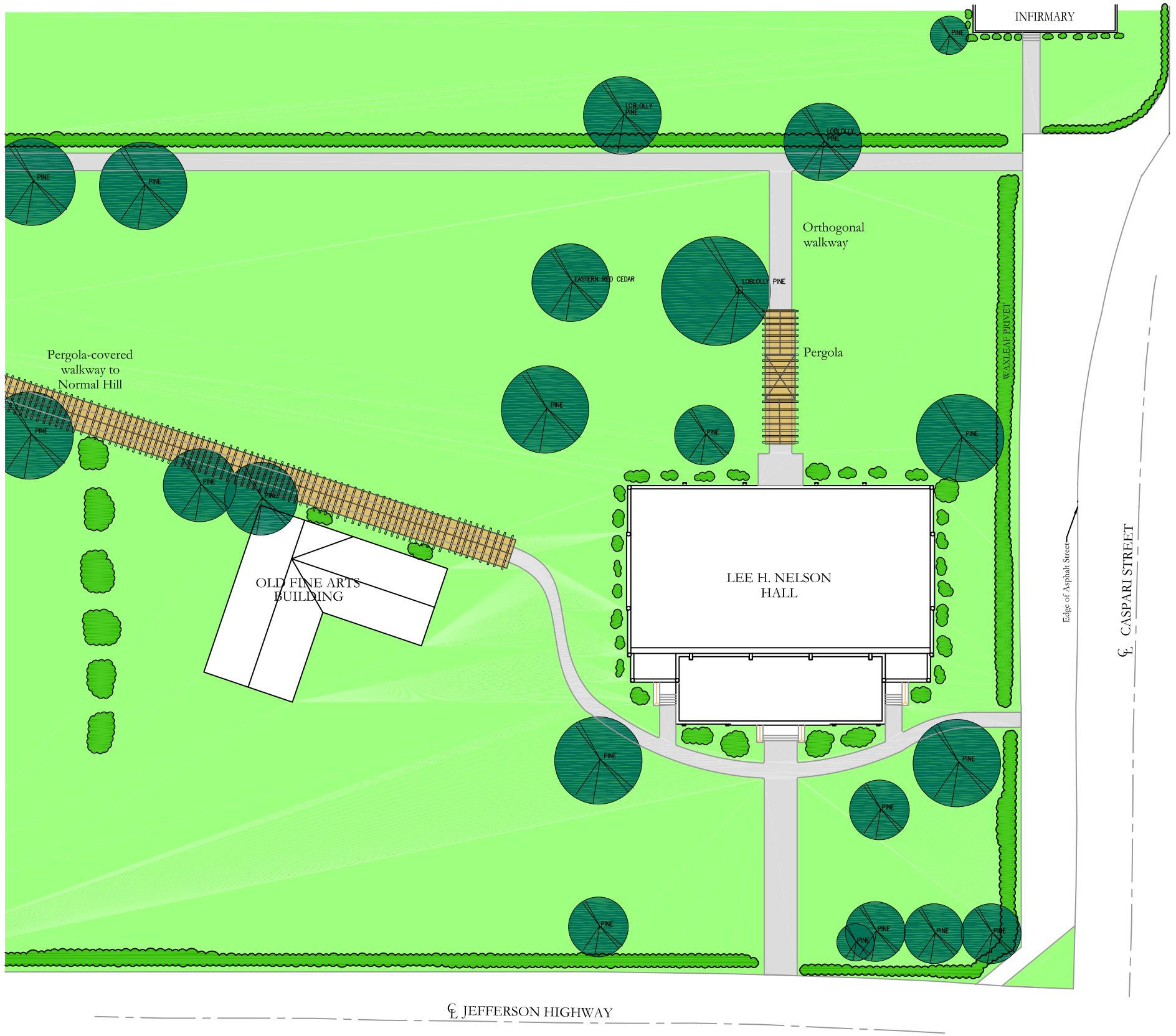


Figure 29. Normal Hill Quadrangle with pergola-covered walkway running from former Guardia Hall to the old Fine Arts building (lower right, current site of Horseshoe Drive east of the Women's Gymnasium), c.1939 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 30. The old Fine Arts building formerly located in the vicinity of Horseshoe Drive east of the Women's Gymnasium, c. 1939 (year of demolition). The pergola-covered walkway in the foreground lead to Normal Hill (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Figure 31.

PERIOD PLAN c. 1939 Women's Gym Landscape

(pre-Varnado Hall)

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617-241-6954

Sources:
1. Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Lawrence Coco, Coco & Company, AIA, Architect. AutoCAD. June 2001.

2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

Legend:

- CONCRETE CIRCULATION
- TREE
- SHRUBS
- HEDGE
- LAWN

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:
1924-1939 Photographs from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU).







Figure 32. The Women's Gymnasium's neighboring NSU buildings, 1940. From top, Natchitoches High School, the Infirmary, and Varnado Hall (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center(Campus picture book F1804)).



Figure 33. The newly constructed Varnado Hall and Horseshoe Drive (site of former fine arts building) with the Women's Gymnasium to the west, 1941. Note the newly planted hedge and shrub clusters (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (1941 Booklet-Insurance of Campus Buildings)).



Figure 34. South lawn of the Women's Gymnasium,1941 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (1941 Booklet-Insurance of Campus Buildings)).

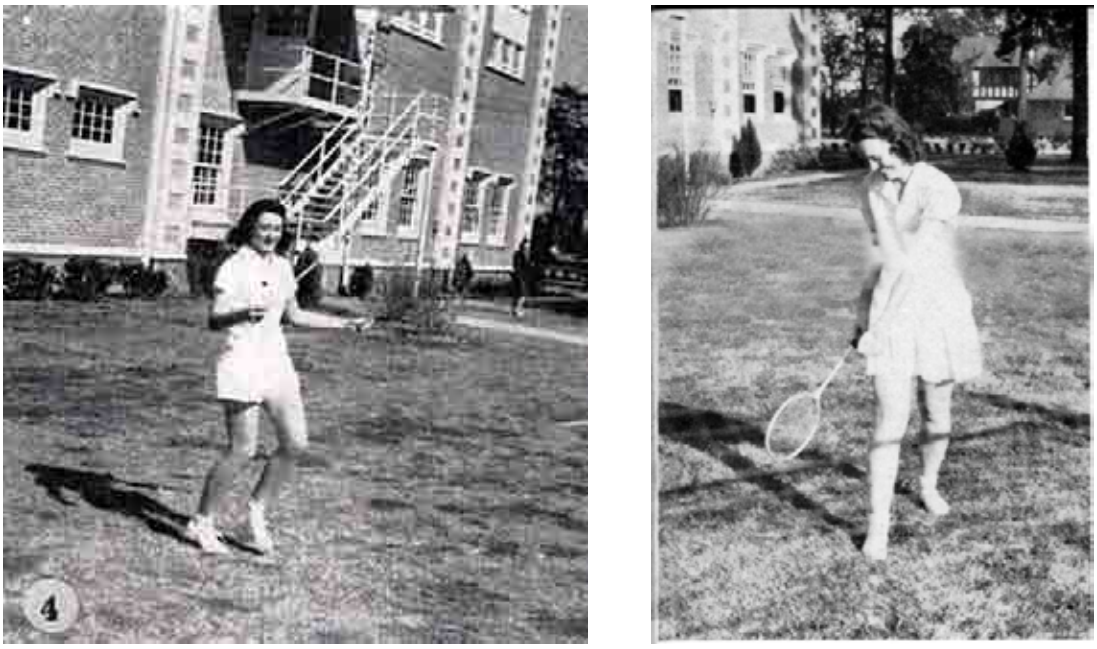


Figure 35. Jump roping and badminton on the south lawn, 1942 & 1943. Note the diagonal walkway coming from the rear entrance, the foundation shrubs, and the young hedge along Horseshoe Drive (background) (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 36. Leap frog on the south lawn of the Women's Gymnasium, 1943. Note the diagonal walkway coming from the rear entrance, the foundation shrubs, the large pine trees at the southeast corner, and the young hedge along Horseshoe Drive (background) (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

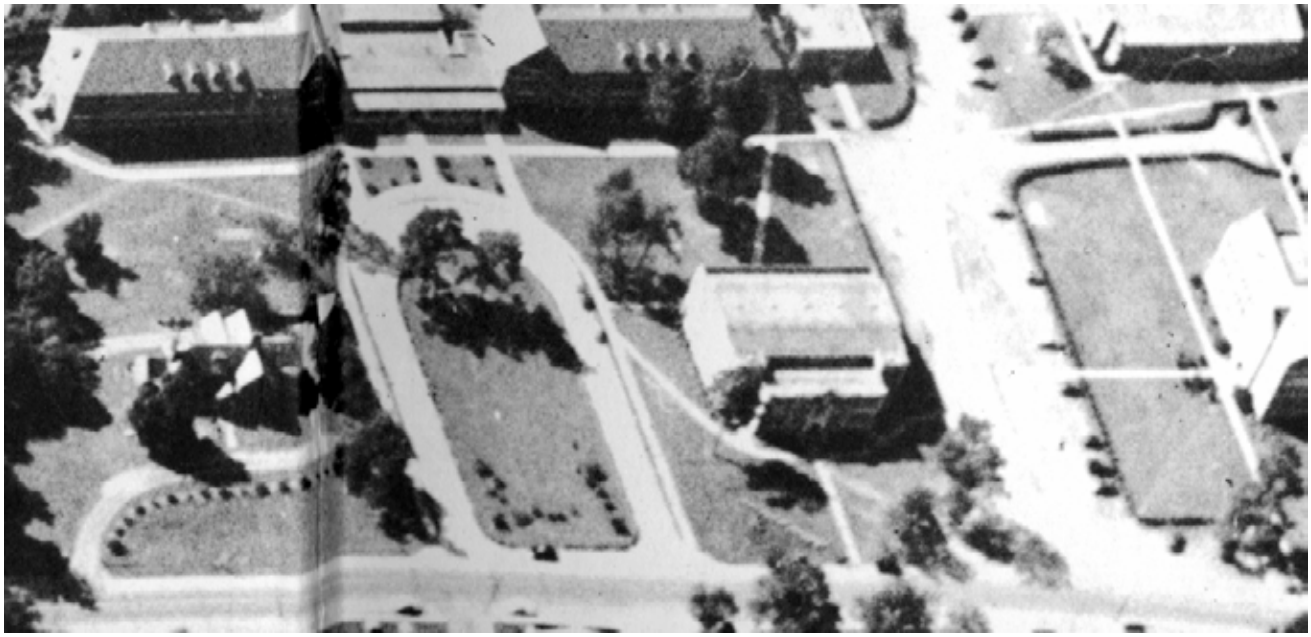


Figure 37. Aerial photograph showing from left to right, the President's Home, Horseshoe Drive, and the Women's Gymnasium, 1948. Note the extensive use of hedges on the campus including between Caspari Drive and the gym. All of the trees at the gym were pines. Varnado Hall is at the top of the image (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

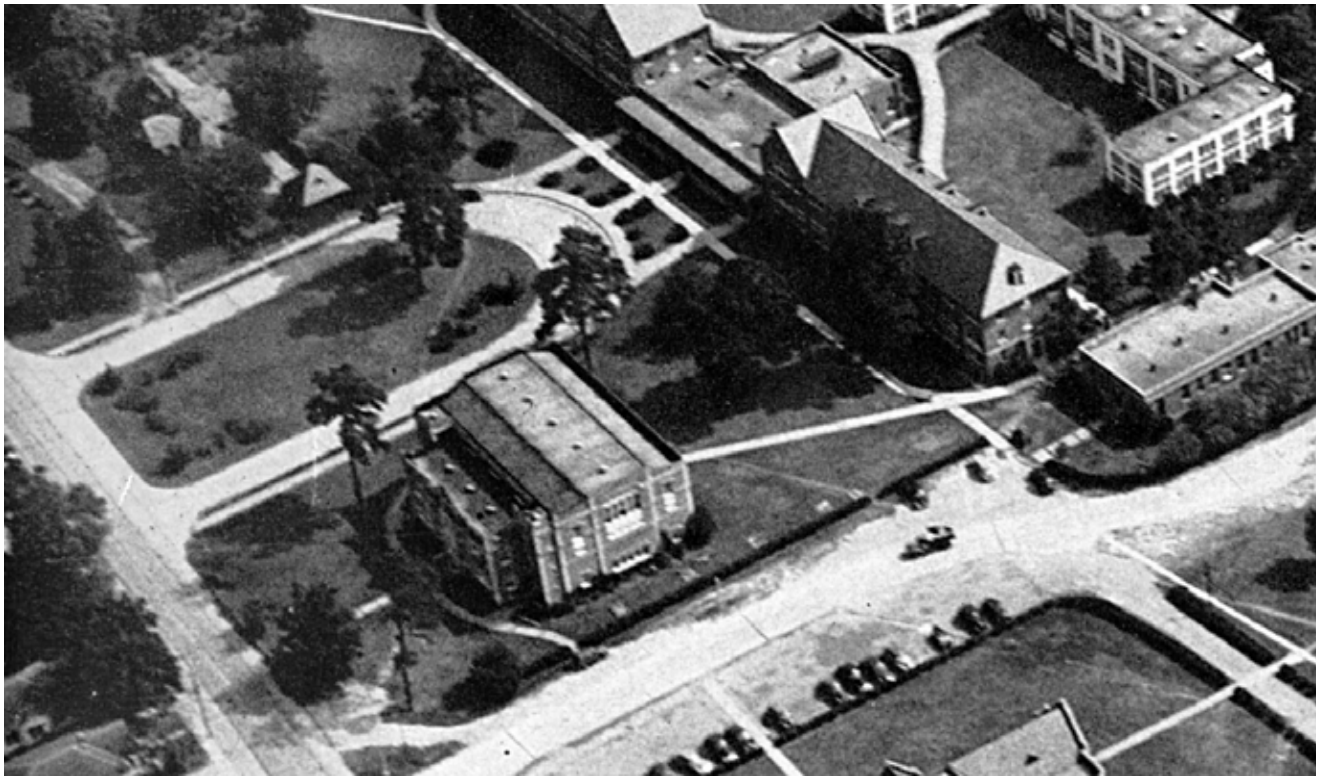
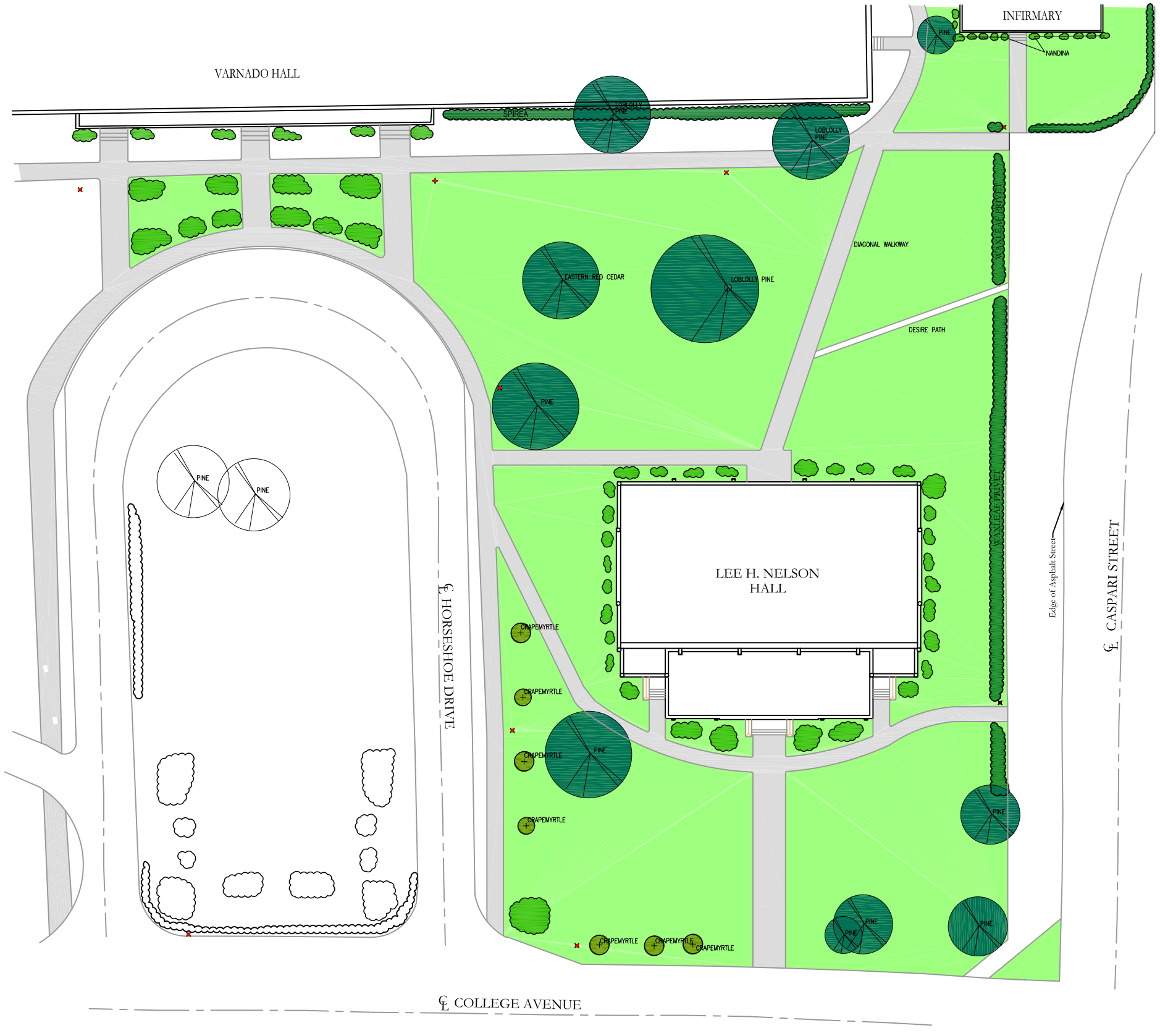


Figure 38. Aerial photograph showing from top left to bottom center, the President's Home, Horseshoe Drive, and the Women's Gymnasium, 1948. Note the extensive use of hedges on the campus including between Caspari Drive and the gym. All of the trees at the gym were pines. Varnado Hall is at the top with modern pergola-covered walkways behind (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Figure 39.

PERIOD PLAN c. 1950s - 1960s Women's Gym Landscape

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617-241-6954

Sources:

1. Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Lawrence Coco, Coco & Company, AIA, Architect. AutoCAD. June 2001.

2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

Legend:

- LIGHT POLE
- CONCRETE CIRCULATION
- LARGE TREE
- SMALL TREE
- SHRUBS
- HEDGE
- LAWN

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:
1939-1961 Photographs from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU).



Figure 40. Eastern and northern (front) facades of the Women's Gymnasium, ca. 1950. Note the foundation plantings, the large pine tree, and the young tree in the foreground (perhaps a crapemyrtle) (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 41. The back (south) lawn of the Women's Gymnasium and Varnado Hall, 1952 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

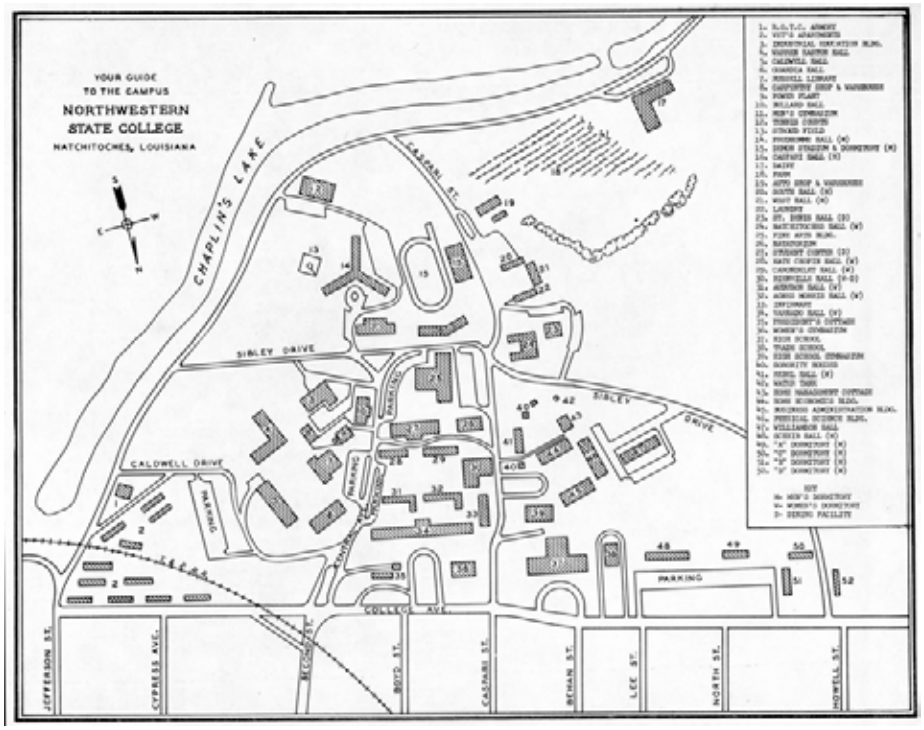


Figure 42. NSU Map, 1957 ((Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 43. Rear (south) entrance of the Women's Gymnasium, 1961. Note the orthogonal walkway leading across the lawn and the large shrubs (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

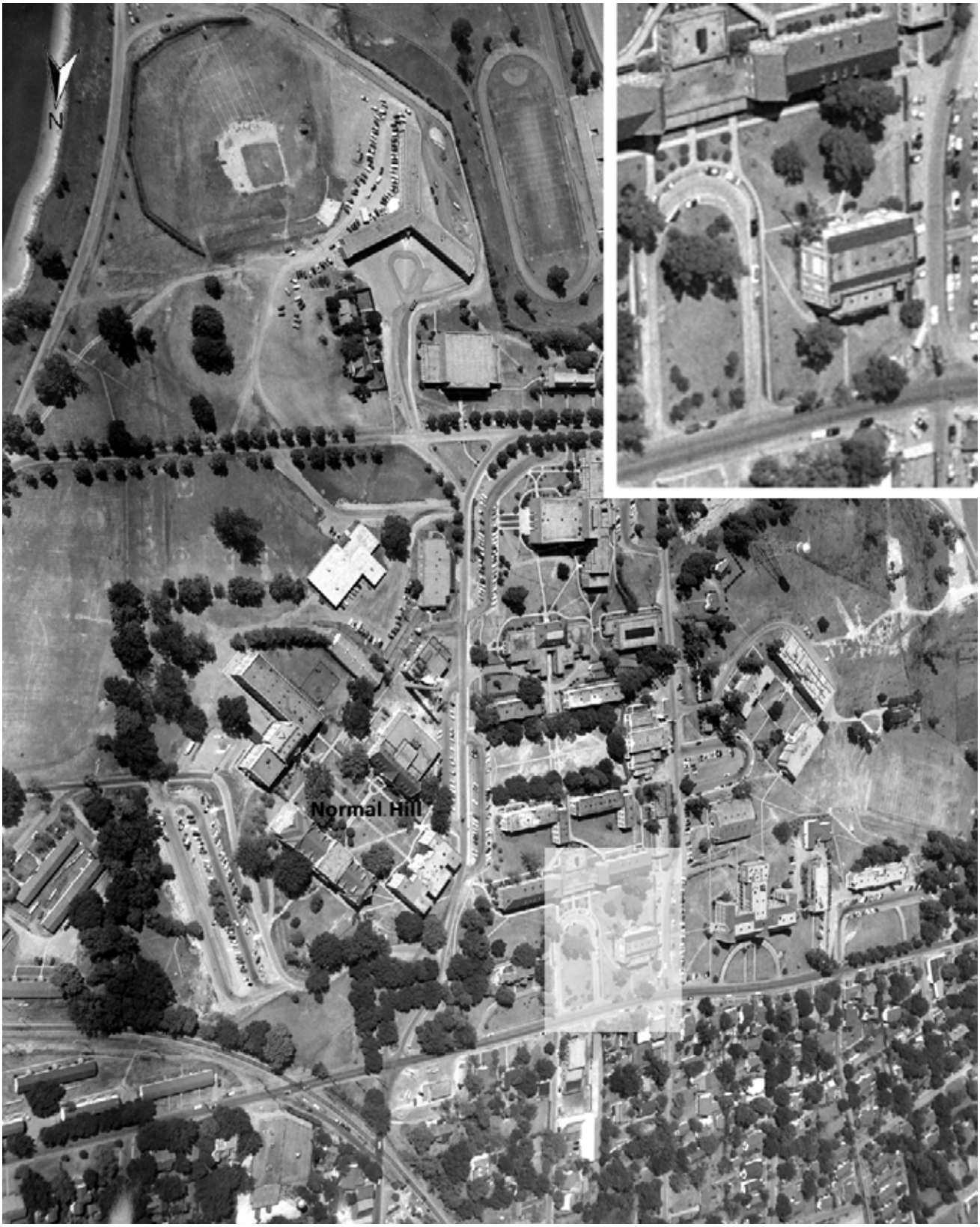


Figure 44. Aerial photograph of NSU, 1961. The Women's Gymnasium area is highlighted and magnified in the inset, upper right. Note the Pergola-covered walkways behind Varnado Hall (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).

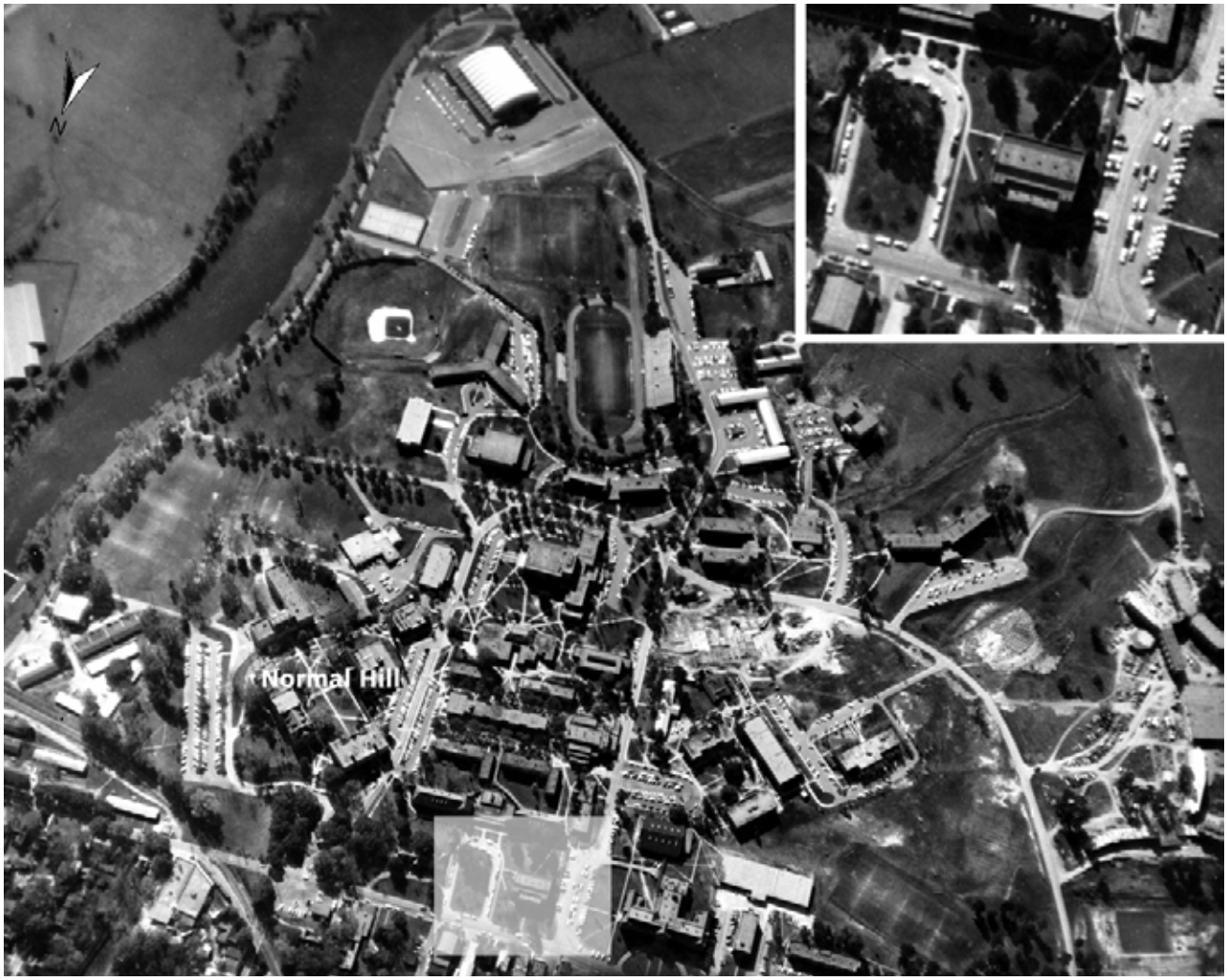


Figure 45. Aerial photograph of NSU, 1966. The Women's Gymnasium is highlighted and magnified in the inset, upper right. Note the pergola-covered walkways behind Varnado Hall (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

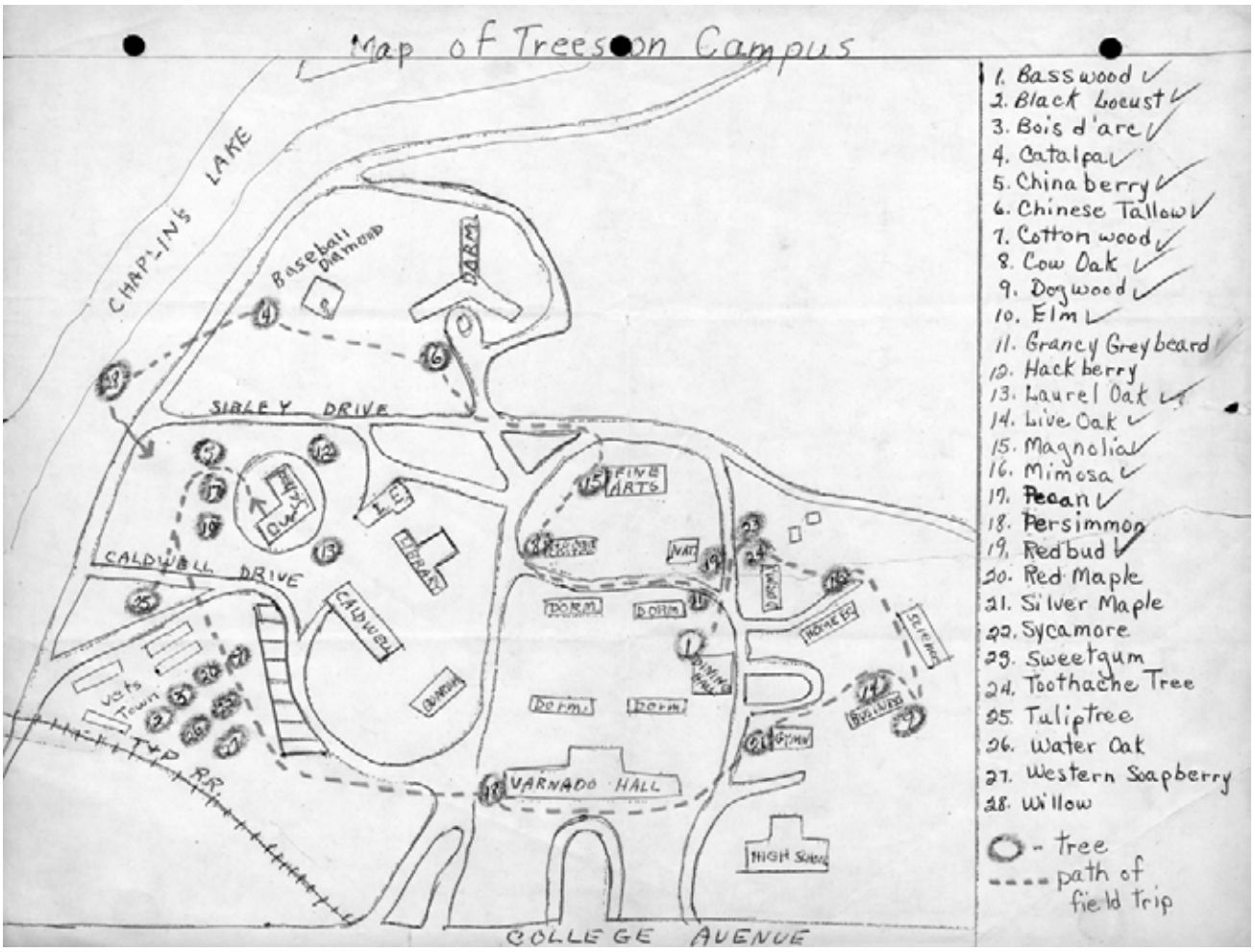


Figure 46. NSU tree map for plant courses, c. 1967. The Women's Gymnasium is not depicted (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Dwayne Gilbert Collection)).

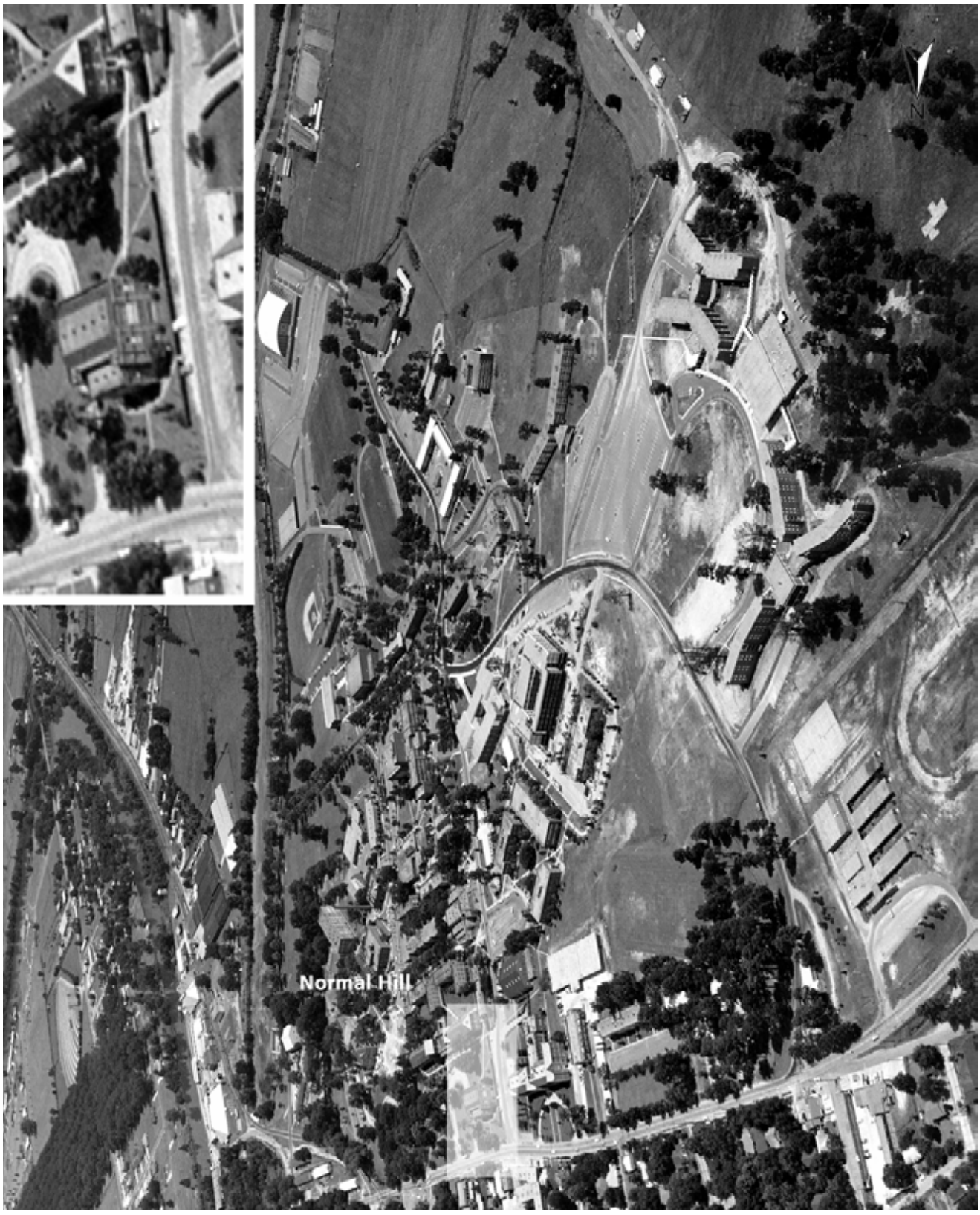


Figure 47. Aerial photograph of NSU, c. 1968. The Women's Gymnasium is highlighted and magnified in the inset, upper left. Note the pergola-covered walkways behind Varnado Hall (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center).



Figure 48. The north lawn of the Women's Gymnasium, c.1989. Photograph taken as part of the production of the film *Steel Magnolias* (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (DeBlieux Collection)).

ESTABLISHMENT OF NCPTT, 1994-PRESENT

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) was created by Congress in 1992 as an interdisciplinary program of the National Park Service to advance the art, craft, and science of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. NCPTT serves public and private practitioners through research, education, and information management.

Efforts to establish a national preservation center within the National Park Service had been evolving for nearly two decades. The national need for an initiative that could promote and enhance national preservation efforts was highlighted in a 1988 report to Congress prepared by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). In response to the clearly stated need for a national preservation initiative, Congress passed the Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992, creating NCPTT, NCPTT's advisory board and NCPTT's grants program. NCPTT fulfills the OTA report's recommendations to develop and distribute skills and technologies that enhance the preservation, conservation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources throughout the United States.

Funding came in 1994 and original plans proposed a staff of fifty with a thirty million dollar budget for a new campus, but the plan was soon downsized. A Louisiana congressman proposed Northwestern State University as the site for NCPTT's headquarters (Figures 49-50). By 1997, workers were rehabilitating the Women's Gymnasium building for NCPTT, but during construction, fire gutted everything but the masonry and steel (Figure 51). The renovation continued under the direction of Wayne Coco, architect, and in May 2001, NCPTT staff moved in to the completely rehabilitated center. In 2001, Coco sought landscape bids, but the proposed plans did not take the history of the site into account. Coco's landscape plans were only partially installed due to funding limitations. Much of the circulation was replaced with a more elaborate and symmetrical system of concrete walkways (Figure 52). Three tall, brick corrals were constructed south and west of the building to contain external HVAC and other utilities. Parking spaces were carved out of the lawn east of the building. The large pine trees by the building's northeast and southeast corners were removed as well as the smaller pine and shade tree by the northwest corner. A cluster of two pine trees was removed from along College Avenue north of the front entrance. A large crapemyrtle tree was relocated from along College Avenue to the eastern edge of the front lawn. This crapemyrtle soon died, and the large magnolia by the front entrance has been declining since the construction. The section of waxleaf privet hedge between the new utility corral and Caspari Street was removed. All foundation plantings not destroyed by fire, including a crapemyrtle tree along the west façade and heavenly bamboo along the south façade, were removed. The official dedication of NCPTT's new headquarters occurred in November 2001 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the south lawn in the shade of the large loblolly pine tree (Figure 53). Since the dedication, NCPTT occasionally has held meetings or demonstrations in the landscape (Figure 54).

Coinciding with the development of NCPTT, Congress established the Cane River National Heritage Area in 1994 in recognition of the history and culture of this unique region. The heritage area is a nationally significant cultural landscape, a place in which the river and its people come together in a history that contributes to the American experience.



Figure 49. North façade (top) and south façade (bottom) of NCPTT's Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium), c.1996 (NCPTT).







Figure 50. West façade of NCPTT's Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium), c.1996 (NCPTT). The middle photo shows the west façade's large crapemyrtle in bloom.



Figure 51. North façade (top) and south façade (bottom) of NCPTT's Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium after the fire, 1997 (NCPTT).





Figure 52. North lawn of NCPTT's Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium), c. 2001 (NCPTT).





Figure 53. Dedication of NCPTT's Nelson Hall on the south lawn beneath the shade of the large loblolly pine tree, November 2001 (NCPTT).



Figure 54. NCPTT staff member demonstrating preservation technology by the south lawn's large loblolly pine tree, c.2003 (NCPTT).

[1] Cane River National Heritage Area website with contributions by Dayna Lee, Regional Folklorist, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program. www.caneriverheritage.org
[2] City of Natchitoches website. http://www.ci.natchitoches.la.us
[3] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[4] LeBreton, Marietta M. 1985. *Northwestern State University of Louisiana: 1884-1984*. Northwestern State University Press, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 5.
[5] Cane River National Heritage Area website with contributions by Dayna Lee, Regional Folklorist, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program. www.caneriverheritage.org
[6] Cane River National Heritage Area website with contributions by Dayna Lee, Regional Folklorist, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program. www.caneriverheritage.org
[7] City of Natchitoches website. http://www.ci.natchitoches.la.us
[8] http://archive.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Cyberia/RiverWeb/Projects/Ambot/TECH/TECH3.htm and Cane River National Heritage Area website. www.caneriverheritage.org
[9] Cane River National Heritage Area website. www.caneriverheritage.org and http://archive.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Cyberia/RiverWeb/Projects/Ambot/TECH/TECH3.htm
[10] LeBreton, 5.
[11] LeBreton, 5.
[12] Cane River National Heritage Area website with contributions by Dayna Lee, Regional Folklorist, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program. www.caneriverheritage.org
[13] LeBreton, 5.
[14] LeBreton, 5.
[15] LeBreton, 5.
[16] LeBreton, 5.
[17] Rybczynski, Witold. 2000. A Clearing in the Distance, Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the 19th Century. Simon and Schuster, London. p. 128.
[18]LeBreton, 5.
[19]In LeBreton, 8- Guardia, "The Sacred Heart Convent," Crew, "Northwestern State College," 6
[20] In LeBreton, 10 - Ora Garland Williams, "Normal Ghost Story," in "Fiftieth Anniversary."
[21] In LeBreton, 8 - "Documentary History," 151-54
[22] LeBreton, 10 - Baudier, Catholic Church, 441; Crew, "Northwestern State College," 7-8.
[23] LeBreton, 10.
[24] LeBreton,1.
[25] LeBreton, xiii, 13.
[26] Le Breton, 13.
[27] LeBreton, 13.
[28] In LeBreton, 2-3-An Act to establish a State Normal School, and to provide for it administration and support," Acts Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana At The Regular Session, Begun and held at the City of Baton Rouge, on the twelfth day of May, 1884 (Baton Rouge, 1884), 60-62)
[29] In LeBreton, 2-3-Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Education to the General Assembly, 1884-1885 (Baton Rouge, 1886), ix; Extracts from the Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of Education, 6 October 1884, University Archives, Archives Division, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana; Extracts from the Minutes of the State Board of Education, 6 October 1884, in "Documentary History of the Original Site of Northwestern State College of Louisiana" (typewritten), 158-64.
[30] LeBreton, 11.
[31] LeBreton,2-3-Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Education to the General Assembly, 1884-1885 (Baton Rouge, 1886), ix; Extracts from the Minutes of the Meeting of the State Board of Education, 6 October 1884, University Archives, Archives Division, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana; Extracts from the Minutes of the State Board of Education, 6 October 1884, in "Documentary History of the Original Site of Northwestern State College of Louisiana" (typewritten), 158-64.
[32] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[33] LeBreton, 33-34, 49.
[34] LeBreton, 57.
[35] LeBreton, 49.
[36] LeBreton, 49.
[37] LeBreton, 52.
[38] LeBreton, 13.
[39] LeBreton, 111.
[40] In Le Breton, 108- *Fiftieth Biennial Report*, 1914, 8 Minutes, Board of Administrators, May 28, 1914, University Archives, A.D., E.P.W.M.L., N.S.U.; Normal Quarterly, 1926, 77 -&- *The Normal Quarterly of the Louisiana State Normal School, Natchitoches, LA. Annual Catalog. Announcements For Thirty-first Year 1915-1916, IV* (April 1915), 21; cited hereafter as Normal Quarterly, 1915.

[41] LeBreton, 109, 111-112.
[42] LeBreton, 108.
[43] In LeBreton, 108- Minutes, Board of Administrators, May 28, 1917, University Archives, A.D., E.P.W.M.L., N.S.U.
[44] LeBreton, 146.
[45] In LeBreton,112. Minutes, Board of Administrators, May 28, 1917, University Archives, A.D.,E.P.W.M.L.,N.S.U. *Current Sauce*, March 25, 1915.
[46] LeBreton, 146.
[47] LeBreton, 146.
[48] LeBreton 133.
[49] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[50] In LeBreton, 109.116.
[51] *Eighteenth Biennial Report*, 1920, 10.
[52] In LeBreton, 116 – VL Roy to JC Foster, October 18, 1922, Roy Papers, University Archives, A.D., E.P.W.M.L., N.S.U.; Normal Quarterly, 1928, 72; Crew, "Northwestern State College," 40. This building is now the old Women's Gym.
[53] LeBreton, 144.
[54] LeBreton, 116.
[55] LeBreton, 146.
[56] In LeBreton, 119- *Eighteenth Biennial Report*, 1920, 11; Crew, "Northwestern State College," 39.
[57] LeBreton, 134.
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[60] In LeBreton, 169 – *Current Sauce*, October 11, 1934.
[61] See Figures 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 29, 30, & 31 for historic photos of NSU pergolas.
[62] See Figures Figures 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29 & 24 for historic photos of NSU electroliers.
[63] See figures 13, 14, 17 & 18 for historic photos of NSU "Sentinel Pine" tree.
[64] LeBreton, 111.
[65] LeBreton, 172.
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[67] July 7, 1938 letter from President Albert A. Fredericks to Caroline Dormon. I-D-3 Dormon Collection Folder 56. The Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU, Natchitoches, LA.
[68] March 11, 1941 letter from J.W. Webb to Caroline Dormon. I-D-3 Dormon Collection Folder 56. The Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU, Natchitoches, LA.
[69] March 11, 1941 letter from Caroline Dormon to Mr. Henry Bernard, Louisiana State Normal College. I-D-3 Dormon Collection Folder 56. The Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU, Natchitoches, LA.
[70] September 29, 1951 letter from Mrs. Rudy S. Dunckelman to Caroline Dormon. I-D-3 Dormon Collection Folder 56. The Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, NSU, Natchitoches, LA.
[71] LeBreton, 202.
[72] LeBreton, 222.
[73] LeBreton, 242.
[74] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[75] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[76] LeBreton, 253.
[77] NSU website. http:///www.nsula.edu
[78] In LeBreton, 269-Dr. René Bienvenu, interview with author, Natchitoches, Louisiana, March 5, 1982..
[79] LeBreton, 264.
[80] In LeBreton, 269-Dr. René Bienvenu, interview with author, Natchitoches, Louisiana, March 5, 1982..
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National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium), Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 2003 (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation).

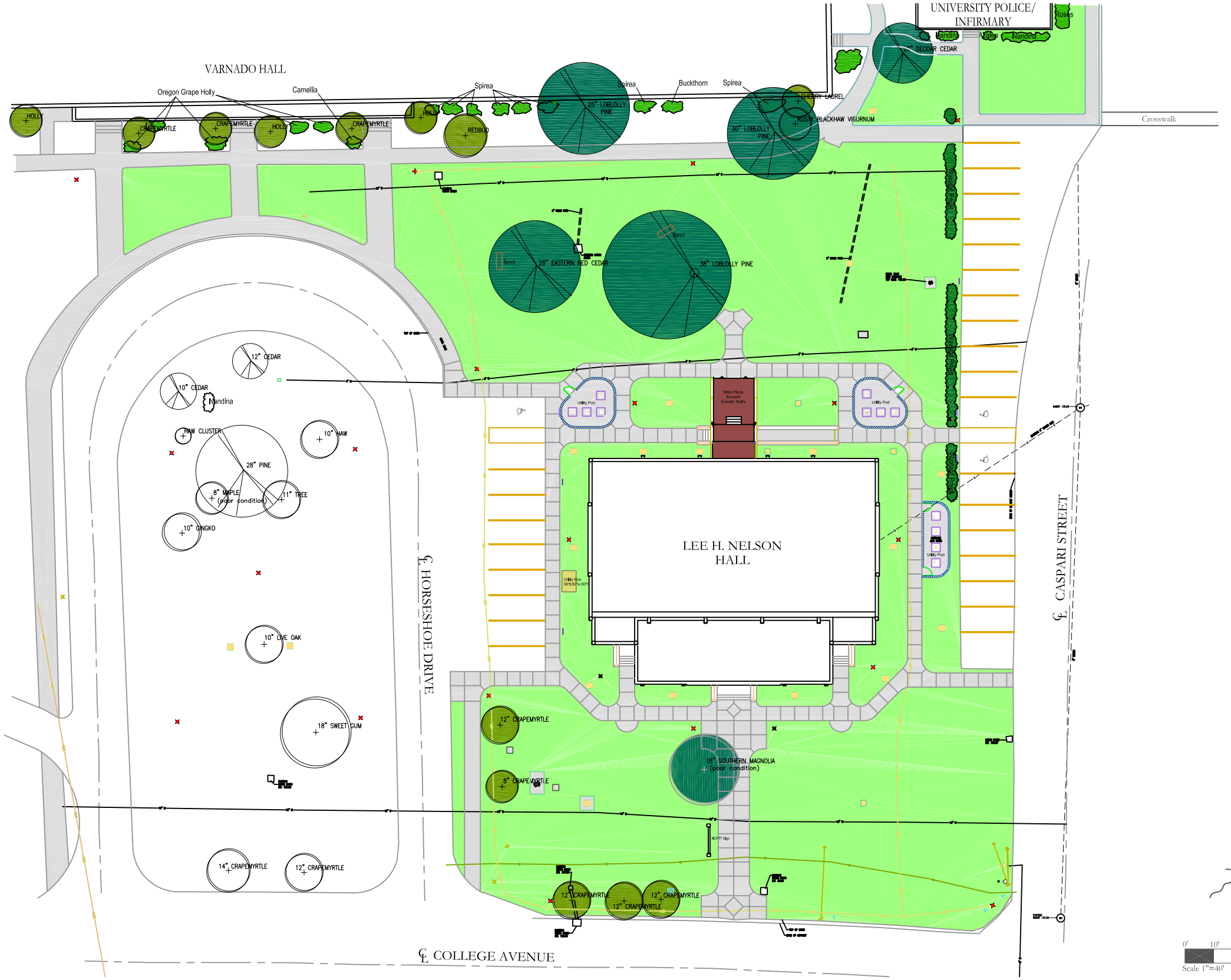
EXISTING CONDITIONS

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section provides an existing conditions plan and detailed descriptions and photographs of landscape characteristics and extant site features as documented between November 2003 and March 2004. Landscape characteristics include spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, small-scale features, views and vistas, topography and natural systems. The existing conditions plan is a graphic picture of the landscape as it presently exists (Figure 55). It records information at a scale that is useful and relevant to the purpose of the project. All photographs in this section were taken by the authors. More detailed discussion of feature elements and character are provided in Chapter III, Landscape Analysis. Design, function, use and recommended treatment are addressed in Chapter IV, Treatment.



Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Figure 55.

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

2004

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617-241-6954

Sources:
1. Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Lawrence Coco, Coco & Company, AIA, Architect. AutoCAD. June 2001.

2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

Legend:

- EXISTING POWER POLE
- LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING GUY ANCHOR
- EXISTING WATER VALVE
- EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT
- EXISTING SIGN
- EXISTING SEWER LINE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING UNDGRD ELEC
- OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING MANHOLE
- EXISTING TP PEDESTAL
- FND. IRON ROD
- FND. CONC. R/W MONUMENT
- CONCRETE CIRCULATION
- BRICK CIRCULATION
- LARGE TREE
- SMALL TREE
- LOW SHRUBS
- LOW HEDGE
- LAWN

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

The NCPTT headquarters (Nelson Hall, the former Women's Gymnasium) is located on the Northwestern State University (NSU) campus in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The property is southeast of College Avenue and Caspari Street intersection along the northern edge of the campus. The approximately 1.7 – acre site is bounded by Horseshoe Drive to the east and Varnado Hall to the South. The building faces College Avenue and is located near a National Register Historic District on campus that includes the historic core of the old Normal School (Figure 56). Another historic district, the Natchitoches Historic District, is across College Avenue from the campus. The front façade of Nelson Hall faces north, but the current circulation guides between the two parking lots and the building directs visitors to the rear (south) entrance (Figure 57). The building location divides the property into the south lawn and the north lawn.

Campus academic, residential, and office buildings are located south, east, and west of Nelson Hall (Figure 58). Most of the University's athletic sites are located on the southeastern part of the campus. Commercial businesses such as a gas station/convenience store, a bank, and fast food restaurants are located across College Avenue.



Figure 56. Front façade and north lawn of Nelson Hall as seen from College Avenue (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 57. Parking along Caspari Street and campus walkways direct visitors to Nelson Hall's south entrance (OCLP, 2003).

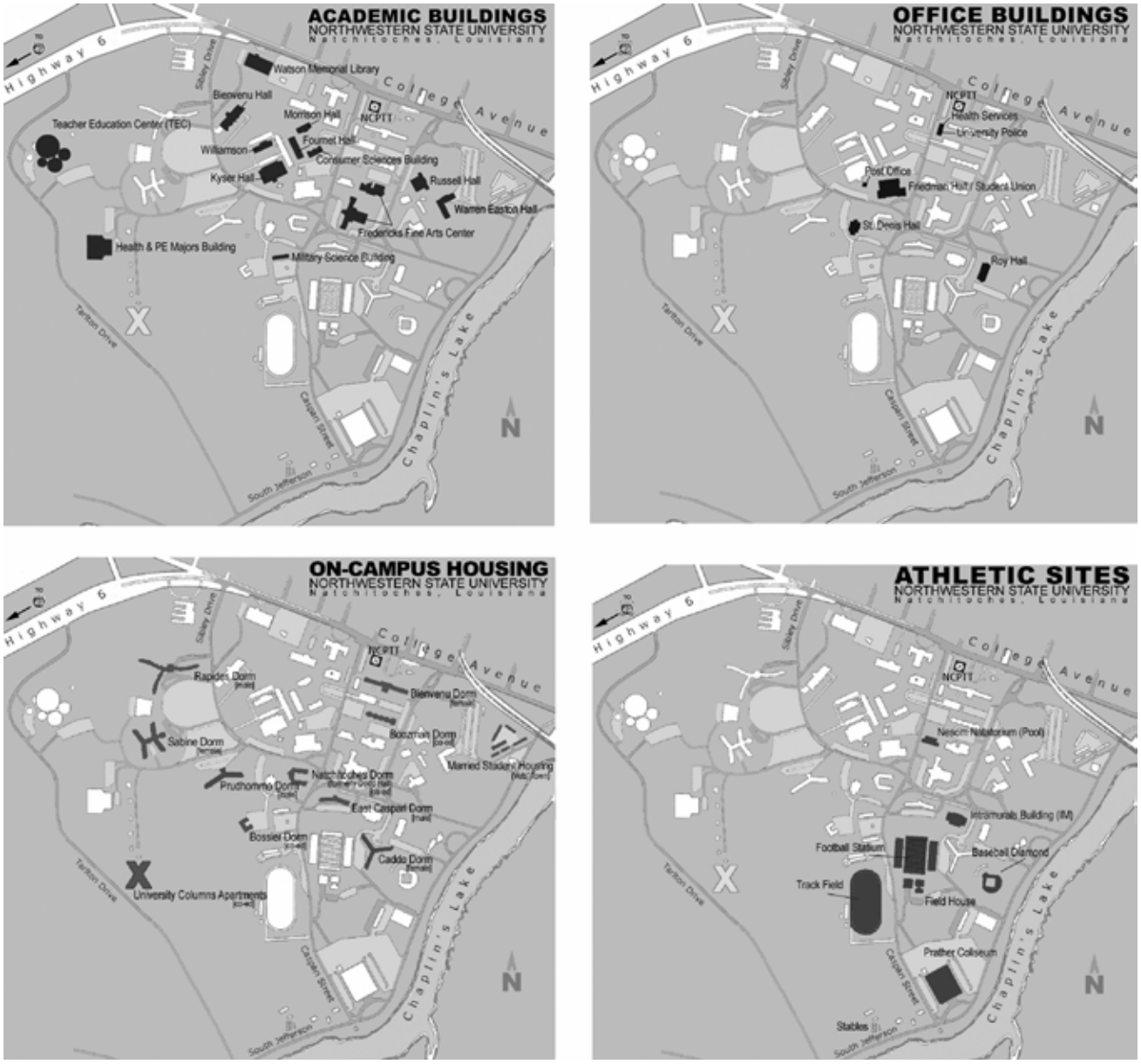


Figure 58. NCPTT's relationship to the buildings and uses of Northwestern State University (http://www.nsula.edu).

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The NCPTT headquarters (Nelson Hall, the former Women's Gymnasium) is the only building on the NCPTT property at NSU. This 1923 building, designed by the New Orleans architectural firm of Bethume, Frank, Favrot, and Livaudais, is one of many Jacobean style buildings on campus (Figure 56). The two-story brick building once housed a 55 by 102-foot gym with a seating capacity of 1500 and an indoor track, two 35 by 50-foot activity rooms, classrooms, office space, an examination room, and ample showers and lockers. A 1997 fire gutted everything but the masonry and steel shell. In 2001, NCPTT staff moved into a building that had been completely renovated to meet their needs. The former second floor gym space hosts meetings and exhibits. Offices and meeting rooms are located on the first floor. The indoor track steel framing remains, but the track was not reconstructed.

As part of the renovation, a steel staircase and masonry ADA-compliant ramp was added to the south façade for egress (Figures 59 and 60). In addition, three brick pods were constructed in the landscape to conceal utilities such as HVAC equipment (Figures 59 and 60). These utility pods are about six feet tall and can be accessed through a lockable gate.

Varnado Hall, the closest building to Nelson Hall, consists of two three-story dormitories connected by a one-story social reception hall and borders the NCPTT property to the south.

The NCPTT property is sandwiched between the Natchitoches Historic District, significant for its many eighteenth and nineteenth-century homes, churches and commercial structures and for its high concentration of bousillage-constructed buildings, and the Normal Hill Historic District that includes the historic core of NSU's old Normal School, significant for its association with both architecture and education in America.



Figure 59. The steel staircase flanked by two brick utility pods along the south façade of Nelson Hall (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 60. The southwest brick utility pod and part of the ADA-compliant ramp as seen from the steel staircase (OCLP, 2004).

CIRCULATION

The NCPTT property is located at the intersection of College Avenue and Caspari Street (Figure 61). The College Avenue portion of state Route 6 borders the northern edge of NSU. This busy two-lane road carries much local and tourist traffic through Natchitoches. The intersection is the most-traveled gateway into and out of NSU and includes turning lanes and traffic lights. NCPTT has perpendicular parking along Caspari Drive west of the property that includes two handicapped spaces. Horseshoe Drive, east of the property, provides access from College Avenue to additional NCPTT perpendicular parking spaces including one handicapped space (Figure 62). All of these roads and the Caspari Street parking area are paved with asphalt, while the Horseshoe Drive parking area is paved with concrete.

A concrete sidewalk leading from Normal Hill borders the property to the south along the front façade of Varnado Hall. The walkway continues west across the campus to athletic fields behind the library, but its alignment is jumbled in front of the Infirmary and while crossing Caspari Street. Spurs from this walkway lead to other portions of the campus and connect with the concrete sidewalk network immediately surrounding Nelson Hall. Nelson Hall lacks direct and obvious connection with the campus walkway system. The elaborate and symmetrical walkway system mainly links the parking areas to the building. One uncompleted concrete spur leads from the south entrance to the middle of the south lawn (the c. 2000 landscape plans were only partially installed). The signage and views primarily lead visitors to the rear (south) door of Nelson Hall which currently serves as the main entrance. The most direct route from the two parking areas is uncomfortably pinched between the two brick utility pods and the building's south façade and leads underneath the building's rear steel staircase (Figure 63). Stairs lead to the brick entrance landing from the east and an ADA-compliant ramp leads from the west (Figure 64). The steel staircase overhead provides egress from the second floor (Figure 65).

Walkways lead to College Avenue from the front (north) door of Nelson Hall and from the Horseshoe Drive parking area (Figure 66). Many students follow Caspari Drive to the NCPTT property where they cut across the front lawn and cross College Avenue to get to the businesses on the other side. There are no walkways along College Avenue or adequate crosswalks to safely convey these pedestrians.



Figure 61. Heavy traffic on College Avenue (LA Route 6) at the intersection with Caspari Street. Nelson Hall with the Caspari Street perpendicular parking spaces to the right are in the background (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 62. Intersection of College Avenue (LA Route 6) and Horseshoe Drive. Nelson Hall with the Horseshoe Drive perpendicular parking spaces to the left are in the background (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 63. Walkway from Caspari Street parking area to Nelson Hall's current main entrance pinched between the building's south façade and a brick utility pod (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 64. Accessibility ramp leading to Nelson Hall's main (south) entrance landing beneath the steel staircase (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 65. Brick landing by main (south) entrance to Nelson Hall looking south beneath the steel staircase along the uncompleted walkway toward Varnado Hall (OCLP, 2004)



Figure 66. The two concrete walkways that lead to College Avenue. Note the absence of a sidewalk along College Avenue, joining the two walkways (OCLP, 2004).

VEGETATION

A large portion of the NCPTT property is covered with lawn, including the intricate spaces created by the elaborate sidewalk system surrounding Nelson Hall. The north lawn is devoid of any other vegetation northwest of Nelson Hall. The northeastern section of the north lawn has three old crapemyrtle trees growing along College Avenue and two additional crapemyrtle trees along Horseshoe Drive. A large southern magnolia tree grows northeast of the front door and is in a declining state of health (Figure 67).

The south lawn supports two trees in the middle of the southeastern section, an eastern red cedar and a large loblolly pine tree (Figure 68). The loblolly pine tree's canopy is not centered on the trunk but rather stretches easterly. A waxleaf privet hedge borders the south lawn to the west (Figure 69). The hedge is perforated with sidewalks at its northern and southern ends and has a gap near the center (Figure 70).

Many trees and shrubs grow along the front façades of Varnado Hall and the Infirmary buildings including two large loblolly pine trees, crapemyrtle trees, and spirea, Oregon grape holly, and nandina shrubs. The area within Horseshoe Drive east of the property supports a diverse collection of trees as well as two crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue.



Figure 67. Crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue and Horseshoe Drive and the southern magnolia near the front door of Nelson Hall (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 68. Loblolly pine tree (left) and eastern red cedar tree (right) in the south lawn (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 69. Waxleaf privet hedge between south lawn and Caspari Street parking area with gap in the center (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 70. Sidewalk passing through waxleaf privet hedge along Varnado Hall's foundation trees and shrubs (OCLP, 2004).

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

Small-scale features on the NCPTT property include signs, lampposts, benches, concrete utility slabs, and drainage grates. The main NCPTT sign is mounted on two posts and is located along the east side of the walkway leading from College Avenue to the front door of Nelson Hall (Figure 71). This wooden sign is painted brown and emblazoned with the NPS arrowhead consistent with NPS messaging standards. Three small, brown wooden signs on the property denote NCPTT parking - two along the Horseshoe Drive parking area and one along the Caspari Street parking area (Figure 72). Three blue and white metal signs denote handicapped parking spaces - one "Van Accessible" sign at the Horseshoe Drive parking area and another at the Caspari Street parking area along with a handicapped "Parking" sign. Three types of lampposts light the property. Circa 1940 concrete lamppost standards illuminate the sidewalk along the front of Varnado Hall, the area within Horseshoe Drive, and the north lawn along College Avenue (Figures 70). Taller, c. 2000 lamppost standards illuminate the areas immediately surrounding Nelson Hall (Figures 60 and 73). Steel, shepherd's crook lampposts illuminate the steel staircase on Nelson Hall's south façade (Figure 64). Two benches provide respite on the south lawn - one a concrete slab resting on two concrete footers beneath the loblolly pine tree and the other consisting of two concrete side supports with brown wooden slats beneath the eastern red cedar tree (Figure 73). The latter bench is in poor condition with the top slat missing and the remaining wooden slats rotting and chipping. Numerous concrete slabs mark utilities throughout the north and south lawns, and drainage grates cover the numerous drains in the lawns and along the building (Figure 74).



Figure 71. The main NCPTT sign along the front walkway to Nelson Hall (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 72. A NCPTT parking sign along the Horseshoe Drive parking area (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 73. From left to right: c. 1940 lamppost standards and both benches (OCLP, 2004).



Figure 74. Concrete utility covers in the north lawn with the main NCPTT sign in the background (OCLP, 2004).

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Northern views from Nelson Hall include the expansive front lawn with the bustling College Avenue just beyond. Some crapemyrtle trees filter the view of cars and commercial businesses, but views to the northwest of the College Avenue/Caspari Street intersection are completely exposed. The declining southern magnolia impedes some views to and from the front door.

Western views include Caspari Street and its associated parking areas and Natchitoches High School and its grounds. The waxleaf privet hedge screens the perpendicularly parked cars along Caspari Street from the south lawn (Figure 69).

Southern views include the large loblolly pine and eastern red cedar trees in the south lawn with Varnado Hall and its vegetation just beyond.

Eastern Views include the trees and shrubs growing inside Horseshoe Drive with the former President's Home and the walkway to Normal Hill just beyond. This walk is poorly aligned from the west side of the property to the west side of Caspari Drive (Figure 70). The poor alignment blocks the visual connection that could link the two segments of this major walkway across campus. The three utility pods on the property are about six feet tall and block many pedestrian views across the landscape.



Figure 75. Northwestern view across front (north) lawn with the College Avenue traffic and commercial businesses in the background (OCLP, 2004).

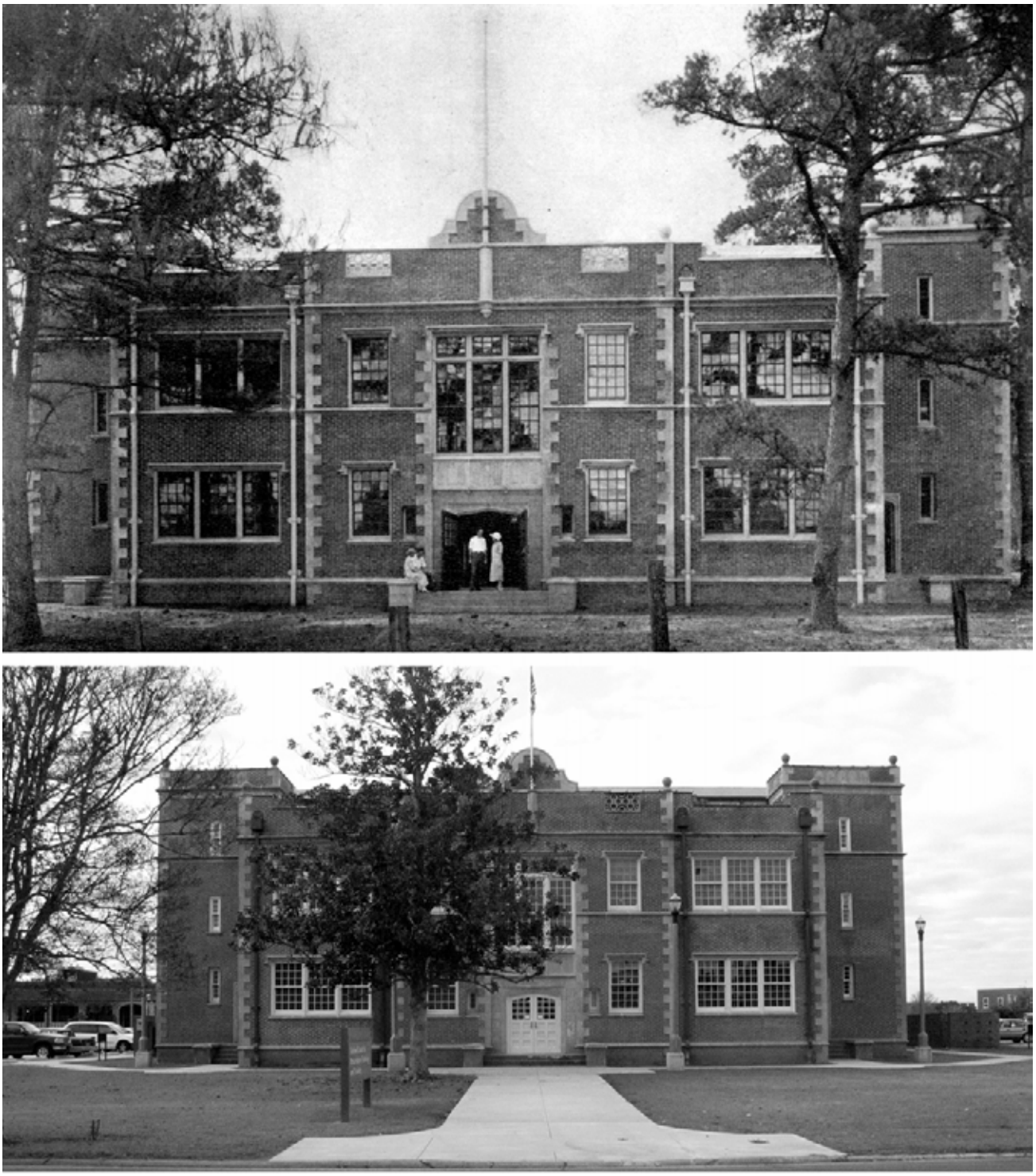


Figure 76. Northern view from the landing just before the second floor gym through the declining southern magnolia tree to College Avenue (OCLP, 2004).

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

Louisiana is within the Gulf Coastal Plain and is at the end of the extensive Mississippi River system, which drains more than forty percent of the continental United States. Natchitoches Parish, in northwestern Louisiana, is part of the greater Red River Valley. The soils that predominate in the area—Roxana, Gallion, Moreland, Latanier, and Armistead—are considered prime farmland. Based on the Department of Agriculture definition, these soils are best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops.[1] The soil on the property has an average pH of 7.47 which is slightly alkaline or basic. The NCPTT property is relatively flat with an underground stormwater drainage system. A small ditch helps to drain the northeast corner of the front lawn along College Avenue.

[1] http:www.caneriverheritage.org



Lee H. Nelson Hall (former Women's Gymnasium), Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, Top-1924, Bottom-2003 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook) & OCLP, 2003).

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE

EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY

ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

The analysis and evaluation is a critical step for sorting and integrating natural and cultural resource data so it can be used to develop appropriate treatment strategies. Analysis and evaluation generally involve two major activities: defining significance and assessing historic integrity. Both activities use the National Register criteria. The analysis and evaluation compares findings from the site history and existing conditions to identify the landscape characteristics and associated features of the NCPTT landscape that contribute to its historical significance. A cultural landscape must possess significance in at least one of the four aspects of cultural heritage defined by the National Register criteria.[1] The analysis will be based on the historical significance currently documented for the site and the nearby Normal Hill and Natchitoches Historic Districts.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Northwestern State University's former Women's Gymnasium, now Nelson Hall - home of the NCPTT, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. It is locally significant in the areas of Architecture and Education. The building served as a gym from 1923 until its condemnation during the 1970s. While the property is close to the Natchitoches Historic District to the northeast, the significance of its landscape is related more closely to the significance of the nearby Normal Hill Historic District (1908-1938) to the southeast. The Women's Gymnasium property and the Normal Hill Historic District are part of the same college and mission and share similar construction dates and architectural styles. This CLR proposes that the Normal Hill Historic District boundary be increased to include this and other adjacent campus properties with a similar heritage.

The CLR also recommends adding the Women's Gymnasium landscape to the building's National Register listing with the period of significance as 1923 to 1939 to reflect the pre-war years following the building's 1923 construction up to the 1939 construction of the surrounding PWA influenced buildings and landscapes. Analyzing the seven aspects of integrity for this period, the site does not retain integrity overall, however the site does possess the individual aspects of location, setting, and association. These aspects are related to the property's landscape characteristics of spatial organization, circulation and views and vistas. Although the site does not possess the aspect of feeling, the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the 1923-1939 period may be revived with rehabilitative treatment as explored in the following chapter. Rehabilitation standards acknowledge the need to add to a cultural landscape to meet new uses while retaining the landscape's historic character.[2] Many contributing features remain and should be preserved, most importantly the building itself and some historic plants. The historic character may be enhanced with the sensitive reintroduction of other features during rehabilitation.

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS

NCPTT PROPERTY

Northwestern State University's former Women's Gymnasium, now Nelson Hall home of NCPTT, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The Tudor or Jacobean-Revival style building was constructed in 1923 by the architectural firm of Bethume, Frank, Favrot, and Livaudais. It is locally significant under the areas of Architecture and Education. Its period of significance is 1923, its year of construction. The building served as a coeducational gym until 1930, when it became the Women's Gymnasium until the building was condemned in the 1970s.

While the property is close to the Natchitoches Historic District, the significance of its landscape is related more closely to the significance of the nearby Normal Hill Historic District to the southeast. The National Register status of both proximal historic districts is explored below. The Women's Gymnasium property and the Normal Hill Historic District are part of the same college and mission and share similar construction dates and architectural styles. The greater college's rich. pre-war landscape also linked the properties. Although located near the Women's Gymnasium property and thus part of its surroundings, the significance of the Natchitoches Historic District is unrelated.

This CLR proposes that the Normal Hill Historic District boundary be increased to include other campus properties with a similar heritage including the main gate, the former Women's Gymnasium (Nelson Hall), and the neighboring former President's Home. Other considerations may include the Infirmary, Varnado Hall, and Natchitoches High School properties

NORMAL HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT[3]

The Normal Hill Historic District, southeast of the NCPTT property, comprises the oldest portion of the campus of Northwestern State University (Figure 77). When listed on the National Register in 1980, it consisted of three large brick buildings around a quadrangle, with three Doric columns from old Bullard Hall (1832-1904) standing in one corner. Fire had already destroyed Guardia Hall and has since destroyed Caldwell Hall, so only two of the original four buildings of the quadrangle remain. Guardia Hall was located northwest of the other three buildings and completed the quadrangle. The quadrangle was built thirty feet above the general floodplain level, on a site which has traditionally been known as "the Hill." It is the major spatial element of the district. Since its inception, the university has expanded in every direction with new buildings, parking lots, and roads. The district is significant at the state level in the areas of architecture and education. Its period of significance spans from 1908 to 1938 during which time all four quadrangle buildings were constructed.

The idea of a University quadrangle, designed in the English late medieval or Jacobean-Revival style, was something of a fashion for institutions of higher learning in the early-twentieth century. The old quadrangle at Northwestern was a fine example of this, and was one of only two examples in Louisiana. In addition, it constitutes one of only about six substantial examples of Jacobean-Revival architecture in the state. Most of the Louisiana State University campuses are completely modern. LSU's campus in Baton Rouge dates from the 1920s but no other state university campus had had a major educational building the vintage of Caldwell Hall (1908).

The Normal Hill Historic District is also of educational significance because it was the site of Louisiana's first major state-supported Normal School for the preparation of teachers. Louisiana Normal School was founded in 1884 with a two-year curriculum. It opened its doors in

the fall of 1885 with a faculty of three and a student body of twenty-seven. It was converted into a senior college in 1917 and eventually became the present Northwestern State University.

The Bullard Mansion, whose three columns remain on the Hill, was built in 1832 as a private home. In 1857 it became part of the Convent School of the Religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Soon after the Civil War, the nuns left. The mansion was occupied briefly in 1878 by federal troops. In 1884 the Bullard Mansion became part of the new Normal School. During this period the house was generally known as the "Matron's building." It was demolished in 1904 to make room for Caldwell Hall, named for Beverly C. Caldwell, president of the Normal School at the time of its construction.

At the turn of the century, Caldwell read a newspaper article describing a new education building recently completed at the Rhode Island State Normal School in Providence. The building was said to be an outstanding structure of its type in the nation. Caldwell wrote to Rhode Island Normal School for information on the building and received a set of blueprints and a list of building materials. These plans had considerable influence on the construction of Caldwell Hall. Its brick Jacobean-Revival exterior was symmetrically articulated and varied in height from two and a half to three stories. The various roofline combinations of triangular gables, semicircular gables, and parapets had a thick and solid appearance. Each exterior feature was emphasized with limestone or cement and designed to contrast with the red Flemish brickwork of the facade. There was quoining at each of the numerous corners and around each of the large groupings of plate glass windows. Each story was separated by a horizontal band. The front of the building marked the main approach to the campus along Caldwell Avenue. A reflecting pool in front of the central block was designed to monumentalize that façade. A devastating fire destroyed Caldwell Hall in 1982.

The brick Warren Easton Hall (1928) has a Georgian massing, with a pitched-roof central block flanked by flat-roof wings. The fenestration quoining is more restrained than Caldwell Hall, and there is no quoining at the corners of the building. The brick is laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers in the parapets over the wings forming a diamond pattern. Warren Easton Hall served as the center of the college's teacher training activities and is still used for classes.

The brick-faced Russell Hall (1938) is a one-and-one-half-story pitch roof building. The limestone detailing and massing are more restrained than Caldwell or Easton Halls. The most noteworthy feature is the pillared, segmental, and pedimented front door. The rest of the fenestration consists of large rectangular medieval-style windows. Russell Hall was the college's original main library and now is a limited use classroom building.

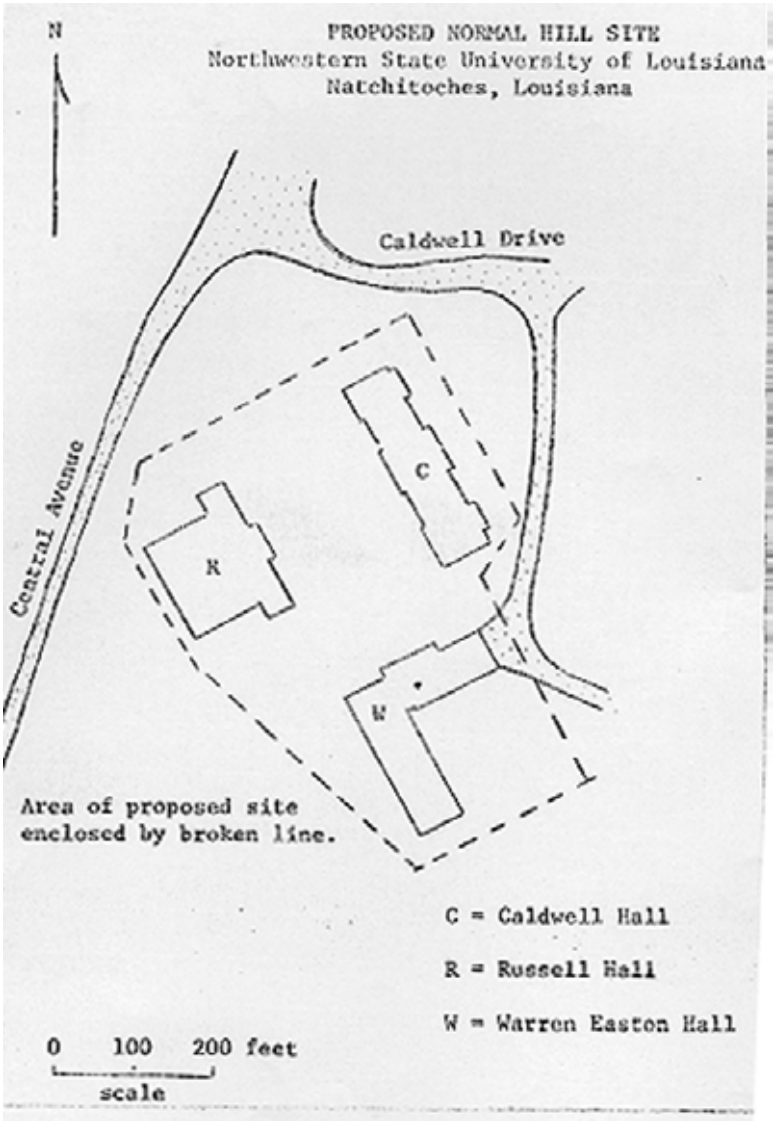


Figure 77. Normal Hill Historic District, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Caldwell Hall was later destroyed by fire, while the fourth quadrangle building (the northwestern edge), Guardia Hall, had burned in 1967 before the listing (National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, National Register Information System,

NATCHITOCHES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Across from the NCPTT property, the Natchitoches Historic District is a mixture of late-eighteenth century, nineteenth-century, and early-twentieth-century architecture (Figure 78).[4] Many of the homes are Victorian, but the district is nationally significant for its large number of boussilage buildings. Boussilage construction consists of a mixture of mud, moss, and deer hair placed between posts. Batting holds the boussilage in place until it dries, and then exposed areas are covered with clapboard. The largest boussilage type construction in the South and possibly in the United States is known as the Prudhomme-Rouquier House (1806), which is located within the historic district at 436 Jefferson Street.

The district was listed on the National Register in 1974 and the boundaries have subsequently been expanded twice. It now covers thirty-three blocks and includes over fifty homes and commercial buildings. The district is significant at the national level in the areas of architecture, commerce, and exploration/settlement. The historic district's period of significance spans from 1800 to 1924.

The plan for the town developed from property-lines radiating from the river. In the late 1700s, these property lines became streets, and later were intersected by other streets forming rectangular blocks. The area retains the atmosphere of a rural town with well-kept lawns and homes. The business area and the residential area are clearly defined due to early zoning restrictions. The brick-paved Front Street stretches the length of the business district overlooking Cane River. The bank is terraced down to the river, and landscaped with crepe myrtles and oak trees. The majority of the opposite bank is also landscaped and belongs to the city. Old trees shade the business district, and new buildings have been designed to be compatible to the surroundings.

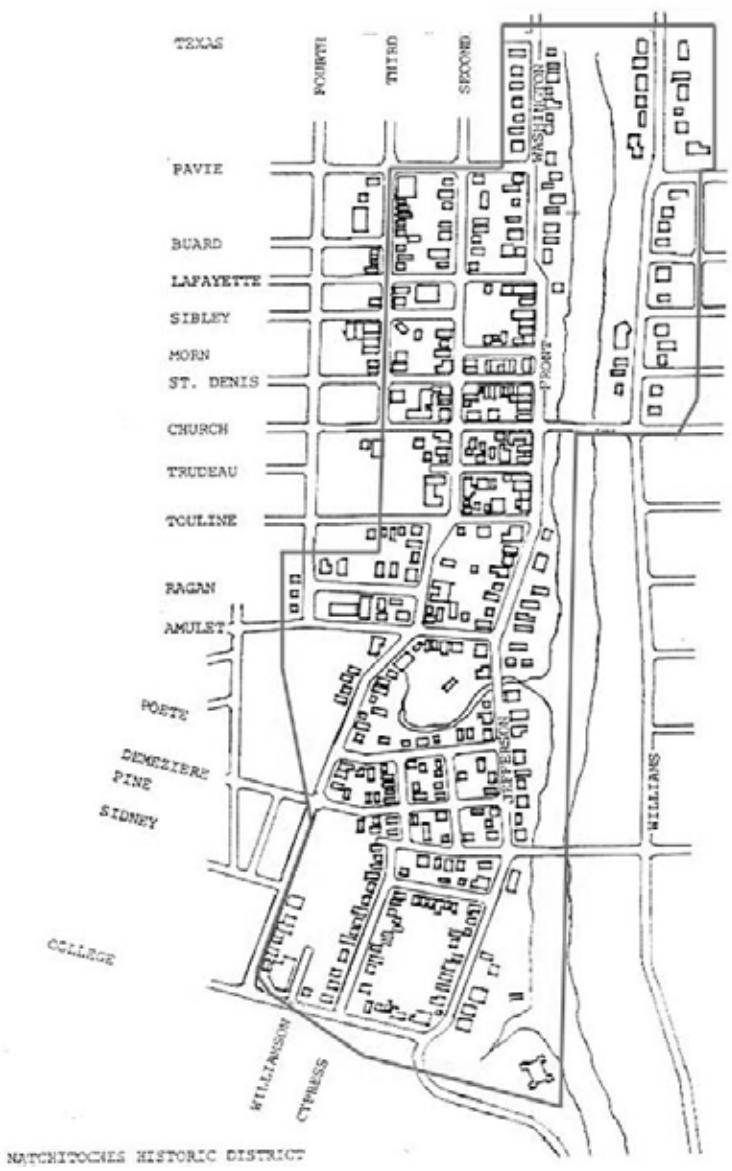


Figure 78. Natchitoches Historic District, Natchitoches, Louisiana (National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, National Register Information System, http://www.nr.nps.gov).

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the former Women's Gymnasium building, Nelson Hall, is listed on the National Register with the period of significance coinciding to its construction date of 1923, its landscape has continued to evolve. The surrounding NSU landscapes contribute to the significance and historic character of the Women's Gymnasium landscape. The period of significance for the Women's Gymnasium landscape must reflect its own significance as well as the significance of these surrounding landscapes.

The college and students valued the outdoors greatly in the years leading up to World War II and created a rich landscape that enhanced the Jacobean-Revival buildings, which included the Women's Gymnasium and those of Normal Hill. Landscape improvements included hedge-lined lawns; walkways lined with ornate electroliers, large shade trees, and ornamental vegetation; and walkways sheltered by elegant pergolas. Many of these features were also included in the Women's Gymnasium landscape during this period, including large pine trees, hedge-lined lawns, and a pergola-covered walkway.

In 1939, the college used PWA funds to construct Varnado Hall immediately south of Nelson Hall and Natchitoches High School to the west across Caspari Street. These two buildings and associated landscapes contribute to the character of the Women's Gymnasium landscape. As part of the construction of Varnado Hall, the college installed Horseshoe Drive directly east of the Women's Gymnasium to provide direct access to the new building from College Avenue. The adjacent Horseshoe Drive landscape and the Varnado Hall foundation plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs and large loblolly pine trees are visually linked to the Women's Gymnasium landscape.

In general, the condition and detail of the campus landscape declined during and after World War II first due to a shortage of manpower and second to an intensive modern building expansion to meet increased enrollment. Today, the pergolas and most of the shade trees, ornamental vegetation, and hedgerows are gone. Only a few electroliers remain near the main gate along with a significant grove of live oak trees. With Caldwell and Guardia Halls having been destroyed by fire, many of the Normal Hill walkways lead to nowhere.

The Women's Gymnasium landscape continued to be maintained and used for various women's sports and exercise until the building's condemnation during the 1970s. Updates during this period included the planting of crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue.

This report recommends that the period of significance for the Women's Gymnasium landscape is 1923 to 1939 to reflect the pre-war years following the building's 1923 construction up to the 1939 construction of the surrounding PWA influenced buildings and landscapes. The landscape is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, namely as the state's normal school and later college. NSU was Louisiana's first major state-supported Normal School for the preparation of teachers. The Women's Gymnasium, which began as a coeducational facility in 1923, was the first gymnasium built for the college. During its use as a gym, the building and landscape contributed to the physical education of many students.

EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance for the period of significance. While evaluation of integrity is often a subjective judgment, it must be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance.

The historic integrity and significance of each landscape characteristic and associated feature are evaluated in the context of the Women's Gymnasium landscape as a whole. Historic integrity is assessed to determine if the landscape characteristics and associated features and the spatial qualities that shaped the landscape during the historic period, are present in much the same way as they were historically.

The National Register defines seven aspects of integrity that address the cohesiveness, setting, and character of a landscape, as well as the material, composition, and workmanship of associated features.[5] Retention of these qualities is essential for the property to convey its significance, though all seven qualities need not be present to convey a sense of past time and place. Historic integrity is determined by evaluating the extent to which the general character of the historic period is evident, and the degree to which incompatible elements that obscure the character can be reversed. Historic character is the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a cultural landscape's history, i.e. the original configuration together with losses and later changes.[6]

When evaluating the seven aspects of integrity, the site does not retain integrity overall; however, the site does possess the individual aspects of location, setting, and association (Table 1). For location, the property remains in its historic site and represents a campus-like setting. Regarding association, the NCPTT property and the greater university still promote education. Although the site does not possess the aspect of feeling, the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the 1923-1939 period may be revived with rehabilitative treatment as explored in the following chapter. Since 1923, the property has never had a comprehensive landscape design, and the landscape has continued to evolve. With these changes many of the historic materials and workmanship have been lost.

Table 1: Summary of Landscape Integrity for Women's Gymnasium landscape.

Periods of Significance	Overall	Location	Design	Setting	Materials	Workmanship	Feeling	Association
1923-1939	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

This section explores the landscape characteristics and features of the Women's Gymnasium landscape. Cultural landscape characteristics include tangible and intangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who developed, used and shaped the landscape, and provide a basic analytical framework of themes within the broader categories of processes and physical forms. Landscape characteristics addressed include spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, small-scale features, views and vistas, topography, and natural systems. The evaluation includes a brief description of each characteristic's historic and existing condition, as well as a determination regarding the contribution of each existing characteristic or feature to the significance of the landscape as a whole. Characteristics or features defined as "contributing" are those that were present in the historic landscape that survive or are those which are replacements of historic features. The narrative description is followed by a table of landscape characteristics and individual features noting whether or not they contribute to the physical character of the Women's Gymnasium landscape (Table 2). Contributing characteristics and features should be retained in order preserve the character of the site. Guidelines for treatment are described in the next chapter.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

Historic Condition: The Women's Gymnasium was built in 1923 at the intersection of College Avenue and Caspari Street. The location of the building divided the property into a north (front) and south (rear) lawn. Many open fields, including athletic fields, surrounded the property. The old Fine Arts Building to the east was the only adjacent building. The construction of Varnado Hall and Horseshoe Drive in 1939 led to the demolition of this building, and together with the construction of Natchitoches High School to the west, altered the spatial character surrounding the property.

Existing Condition: The NCPTT headquarters (Nelson Hall, the former Women's Gymnasium) is located on the Northwestern State University (NSU) campus in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The property is southeast of the College Avenue and Caspari Street intersection along the northern edge of the campus. The approximately 1.7 – acre site is bounded by Horseshoe Drive to the east and Varnado Hall to the South. The building faces College Avenue to the north. Campus academic, residential, and office buildings border Nelson Hall to the south, east, and west. Small commercial businesses are located across College Avenue.

Evaluation: The spatial organization of the Women's Gymnasium property has changed little since 1939. The only minor change is associated with the c. 2000 construction of the Horseshoe Drive parking area which removed a portion of lawn and increased automobile activity near Nelson Hall. Overall the property's spatial organization contributes to its significance.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Historic Condition: Since its construction in 1923, the Jacobean-Revival style Nelson Hall has been the only building located on the Women's Gymnasium property. A small external staircase provided egress to the second floor rear (south) entrance. During the 1920s and 1930s, a pergola sheltered the walkway to the rear entrance. For the next few decades small wooden trellises were used along the south façade to support climbing vines.

Existing Condition: The 1923 Nelson Hall is the only building on the Women's Gymnasium property. Fire gutted the building in 1997 but spared the exterior. A large steel staircase was added to the south façade during the subsequent renovation to provide egress to the second floor. Three brick utility pods were constructed during the renovation to conceal HVAC equipment along the walkways. Two of these six-foot high structures flank the rear entrance and a larger pod sits west of the building.

Evaluation: The Women's Gymnasium (Nelson Hall) contributes to the significance of the property. It has been the only building on the property since its 1923 construction. The exterior reflects its historic condition. A larger, more elaborate staircase than the original provides egress to the second floor on the south side, but the modern stairway is in the same location as the original. The historic pergola was removed during the period of significance, and thus its absence does not impact the property's historic character. The modern, obtrusive utility pods detract from the historic character.

CIRCULATION

Historic Condition: The Women's Gymnasium was built near the intersection of College Avenue and Caspari Street. College Avenue, the larger of the roads, has historically separated the university from the city. Caspari Street served the western portion of the campus which was relatively undeveloped until later in the twentieth century. During the 1920s and 1930s, two walkways connected the property to Normal Hill. The more northerly of these walkways led to the front (north) door and was covered with a pergola near the old Fine Arts Building to the east. The more southerly walkways led to Caspari Street near the Infirmary with a pergola-covered spur leading to the south (door) of the gym. With the construction of Varnado Hall and Horseshoe Drive in 1939, both of the walkways to Normal Hill were removed or altered. Horseshoe Drive and its sidewalks east of the gym, allowed vehicular and pedestrian access from College Avenue. The replacement walkway to Normal Hill paralleled the front façade of Varnado Hall and then

curved near the Infirmary. The pergola-covered spur that connected to the gym was replaced with a diagonal path from this curve. A simple, asymmetrical walkway system directed visitors to the front and back entrances. Since the 1920s, a walkway connected the front door of the gym to College Avenue.

The walkways leading to and from Nelson Hall were altered completely with the c. 2000 renovations. The diagonal connection to the campus walkway was removed, so no direct pedestrian connection to the campus remains. The simple, asymmetrical walkways near the building were also removed and replaced with a more elaborate and symmetrical walkway system. This system directly connects to the two new parking areas and primarily leads visitors to the rear (south) entrance. A new walkway to College Avenue replaced the former one.

Existing Condition: The Women's Gymnasium faces College Avenue and is in the southeastern corner of the College Avenue (LA Route 6) and Caspari Street intersection. College Avenue is a busy highway, and the intersection is the most traveled gateway into the university. NCPTT perpendicular parking spaces have been added along the east side of Caspari Street, adjacent to the western edge of the property. Horseshoe Drive provides vehicular access to and from College Avenue, and perpendicular parking spaces accessed from the drive are located along the eastern façade of the building. A broad walkway leads from the front door to College Avenue. There are no crosswalks for pedestrians to cross the highway near the property. The building is encircled by a complex and symmetrical network of concrete walkways (c. 2000) that connect to the two parking areas. The layout directs visitors to the rear (south) entrance which is currently set up as the main, ADA-compliant entrance.

Evaluation: Since 1939, much of the surrounding roads and walkways have remained virtually unchanged including College Avenue, Caspari Street, Horseshoe Drive, and the walkway along Varnado Hall to Normal Hill. While a number of the surrounding historic walkways and roads remain and are important historic features, the c. 2000 walkways and parking areas surrounding the Women's Gymnasium detract from the historic character of the landscape. Connections to the campus, a walkway along College Avenue, and safe crosswalks are needed for the pedestrian traffic.

VEGETATION

Historic Condition: Between 1923 and 1939, the Women's Gymnasium divided two turf lawns, the north lawn and the south lawn, and many mature pine trees grew on the property providing shade. One substantial loblolly pine tree towered over the south lawn just west of an eastern red cedar tree. Hedgerows lined the property edges, and ornamental shrubs grew along the building's foundation. By the 1950s, crapemyrtle trees lined the property along College Avenue and Horseshoe Drive. The surrounding vegetation of the Infirmary (1924), Varnado Hall (1939), and Horseshoe Drive (1939) have been part of the scene at the Women's gym since their installations. The foundation plantings of the two buildings included ornamental trees and shrubs with two large loblolly pine trees along Varnado Hall. Horseshoe Drive basically encircled a formal lawn surrounded by hedges with two large pine trees. During the 1970s, a southern magnolia tree was planted northeast of the front door of Nelson Hall.

Existing Condition: The north grass lawn is devoid of any other vegetation northwest of Nelson Hall. The northeastern section of the north lawn has three old crapemyrtle trees growing along College Avenue and two additional crapemyrtle trees along Horseshoe Drive. The southern magnolia tree by the front door is in a declining state of health. The south lawn supports two trees in the middle of the southeastern section, an eastern red cedar and a large loblolly pine tree. A waxleaf privet hedge borders the south lawn to the west. Many trees and shrubs grow along the front façades of Varnado Hall and the Infirmary buildings including two large loblolly pine trees, crapemyrtle trees, and spirea, Oregon grape holly, and nandina shrubs. The area within Horseshoe Drive east of the property supports a diverse collection of trees as well as two crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue.

Evaluation: Much of the historic vegetation has been lost including all but one of the pine trees, the foundation

shrubs, most of the hedges, and some of the crapemyrtle trees. The eastern red cedar and large loblolly pine tree remain in the south lawn as does a section of waxleaf privet hedge. These specimens and the remaining crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue and Horseshoe Drive should be preserved. The substantial loblolly pine tree should be carefully monitored and cared for to ensure its preservation. In addition to preserving these historic specimens, new plants should be added to rehabilitate the historic character of the property and to make it a more welcoming landscape. The southern magnolia tree by the front door does not contribute to the significance of the landscape, is in poor health, and may be removed. The surrounding foundation plantings and trees of the Infirmary and Varnado Hall appear remarkably similar today as they do in historic photos.

SMALL SCALE FEATURES

Historic Condition: Historically, there were not many small scale features in the Women's Gymnasium landscape. Around 1940, concrete lamppost standards were installed on and surrounding the property to provide illumination.

Existing Condition: Small scale features at the NCPTT property include signs, lampposts, benches, concrete utility slabs, and drainage grates. The main NCPTT sign is mounted on two posts along the east side of the walkway from College Avenue to the front door of Nelson Hall. Three NCPTT parking signs and three handicapped parking signs mark the parking areas. Three types of lampposts light the property. Circa 1940 concrete lamppost standards illuminate the sidewalk along the front of Varnado Hall, the area within Horseshoe Drive, and the north lawn along College Avenue. Taller, c. 2000 lamppost standards illuminate the areas immediately surrounding Nelson Hall. Steel, shepherd's crook lampposts illuminate the steel staircase on Nelson Hall's south façade. Two benches provide respite on the south lawn. Numerous concrete slabs mark utilities throughout the north and south lawns, while drainage grates cover the numerous drains in the lawns and along the building.

Evaluation: Although there were not many small scale features on the property other than the c.1940 lamppost standards, of which many remain today, the modern features are necessary and do not detract from the historical character. The signs are unobtrusive, direct visitors, and in fact, more are needed. The modern lampposts, added during the c. 2000 renovations, complement the historic standards and provide necessary illumination. The benches are in poor condition and may be replaced with matching standards sympathetic to the historic character of the site. The concrete utility slabs do detract from the historic character of the lawns and should be concealed if possible.

VIEWS AND VISTAS

Historic Condition: In 1923, views from the Women's Gymnasium were screened by large pine trees and included College Avenue to the north and Caspari Street to the west. The views were expansive through the trees with fields covering much of the surrounding landscape. By 1939, Natchitoches High School was built to the west, Varnado Hall to the south, and Horseshoe Drive to the east framing the views with their manicured landscapes.

Existing Condition: Northern views from Nelson Hall include the expansive front lawn with bustling College Avenue just beyond. Some crapemyrtle trees filter this view of cars and commercial businesses, but views to the northwest of the College Avenue/Caspari Street intersection are completely exposed. The declining southern magnolia impedes some views to and from the front door. Western views include Caspari Street and its associated parking areas and Natchitoches High School and its grounds. The waxleaf privet hedge screens the perpendicularly parked cars along Caspari Street from the south lawn. Southern views include the large loblolly pine and eastern red cedar trees in the south lawn with Varnado Hall and its vegetation just beyond. Eastern Views include the trees and shrubs growing within Horseshoe Drive with the former President's Home and the walkway to Normal Hill just beyond. This walk is poorly aligned from the west side of the property to the west side of Caspari Drive. The poor alignment here blocks the visual connection that could link the two

segments of this major walkway across campus. The three utility pods on the property are about six feet tall and block many pedestrian views across the landscape.

Evaluation: The surrounding views have changed little since 1939, except for fewer trees and the modern construction of commercial businesses across College Avenue. The non-historic and declining southern magnolia tree should be removed to open historic views from Nelson Hall to College Avenue. The poor alignment of the walkway to Normal Hill near and across Caspari Street could be improved with a few strategic moves, namely shifting two portions of the walkway near the Infirmary as well as the Caspari Street crosswalk a few feet to the north. In this way, there would be a continuous linear view toward Normal Hill to draw pedestrians. The impact of the obtrusive utility pods on the historic character of the landscape may be softened with climbing vines.

Table 2: Summary of Landscape Characteristics and Features for the NCPTT landscape.

CHARACTERISTIC/FEATURE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Spatial Organization		
Location - Sited at intersection of College Avenue & Caspari Street	Contributing	Unchanged since 1923
Building dividing North (front) & South (rear) lawns	Contributing	Unchanged since 1923
Setting - Surrounded by former President's Home, Varnado Hall, Horseshoe Drive, and Natchitoches High School	Contributing	Unchanged since 1939
Buildings and Structures		
Women's Gymnasium (Nelson Hall)	Contributing	1923
Brick utility pods (3)	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
Rear steel staircase	Non-contributing	c. 2000, replaced original stairs.
Circulation		
College Avenue (Jefferson Highway & Rt. 6)	Contributing	Since 1923, off property, but contributes to setting
Caspari Street	Contributing	Since 1923, off property, but contributes to setting
Walkway to Normal Hill (along Varnado Hall)	Contributing	Since 1939, off property, but contributes to setting
Walkway to College Avenue	Contributing	c. 2000, but replaced one dating to 1920s.
Symmetrical Walkway System surrounding Nelson Hall	Non-Contributing	c. 2000, similar to original walkway, but more elaborate and symmetrical
Parking area – Caspari Street	Non-Contributing	c. 2000, off property
Parking area – Horseshoe Drive	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
Vegetation		
Loblolly pine tree on south lawn	Contributing	Pre-1923
Eastern red cedar tree	Contributing	c. 1930
Waxleaf privet hedge	Contributing	c. 1940s, replaced hedges dating to 1920s
North and south lawns	Contributing	1923
Varnado Hall and Infirmary foundation plantings	Contributing	Off the property, but contribute to setting
Loblolly Pine trees along Varnado Hall	Contributing	Off the property, but contribute to setting
Horseshoe Drive trees	Contributing	Off the property, but contribute to setting
Crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue and Horseshoe Drive	Non-Contributing	c. 1950
Southern magnolia tree by front door	Non-Contributing	1970s
Small Scale Features		
NCPTT/NPS Sign	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
NCPTT and Handicapped Parking Signs	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
Concrete Lamppost Standards (along Varnado Hall, Horseshoe Drive, and College Avenue)	May Contribute	c. 1940
Lamppost standards surrounding Nelson Hall	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
Shepherd's crook lampposts on rear staircase	Non-Contributing	c. 2000
Concrete Benches (2)	Non-Contributing	Post-1939
Concrete utility slabs and drainage grates	Non-Contributing	Post-1939
Views and Vistas		
Northern view	Non-contributing	Post-1939 businesses and loss of vegetative screening
Southern view	Contributing	c. 1939
Western view	Contributing	c. 1939, but expanded traffic and parking on Caspari Street
Eastern view	Contributing	c. 1939

[1] The National Register of Historic Places Program determines a historic property's significance in American history through a process of identification and evaluation. Historic significance may be present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association and which meet at least one of the following National Register criteria:
A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity who's components may lack individual distinction; or
D. That has yielded or may be likely to yield information in prehistory or history.

[2] The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

[3] National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, National Register Information System, http://www.nr.nps.gov).

[4] National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, National Register Information System, http://www.nr.nps.gov).

[5] Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the historic event occurred. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property. Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, which include plant materials, paving and other landscape features. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

[6] The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.



Proposed Pergola Garden Room for the southwest corner of the NCPTT property at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA, 2004 (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation).

TREATMENT

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT ISSUES AND GUIDELINES

PLANT SPECIFICATIONS

SITE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

TREATMENT PLAN

TREATMENT

The treatment section articulates a preservation strategy for long-term management of a cultural landscape based on its significance, existing conditions, and use. It considers management goals, such as public access, contemporary use, and interpretation. The foundation for the treatment strategy is the site history, existing conditions, and landscape analysis sections. A primary consideration in determining treatment is the physical integrity of the landscape; that is, the ability of a property to convey its significance.

The treatment section was prepared in collaboration with NCPTT management and staff to ensure that management goals are addressed and that the proposed treatment can be implemented and maintained over time.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of the Interior has specified standards for four distinct, but interrelated, approaches to the treatment of historic properties. These alternative treatment approaches and their implications at the NCPTT property are described below.[1]

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. This approach would prescribe the maintenance and repair of the site as it currently exists, and would allow existing features to be replaced in kind, yet would not permit the addition of new features. A preservation strategy would no longer reflect the historic landscape since there have been many changes since 1939. Due to the desired active uses for the site, a preservation approach is too restrictive and does not allow for the alterations and additions necessary for compatible uses.

Restoration is undertaken to depict a property at a particular time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. This approach would require depiction of the site at a certain date or period of time. The period of significance of 1923-1939 as proposed by this CLR would imply restoration of the site to its c.1939 appearance. A restoration strategy would require the removal c.2000 renovations including the parking areas and walkway system. Restoration would also prevent future changes based on modern needs. Clearly, restoration is not a feasible alternative.

Reconstruction recreates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for historic purposes. This approach would only be appropriate if the site had been destroyed or if the earlier landscapes were determined so significant that their re-creation was critical to the site's interpretation. Rarely selected, reconstruction is not considered a feasible option for this site.

Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to meet continuing or changing uses through alterations or new additions while retaining the property's historic character. It allows for repairs or alterations of the cultural landscape and for improving the utility and/or function of landscape features while preserving those portions or features of the site that contribute to defining its historical significance. These changes would best serve management goals, and therefore, the most sound treatment approach for the NCPTT site is rehabilitation.

PREFERRED TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE - REHABILITATION

The CLR recommends rehabilitation as the treatment approach for the NCPTT property, since it allows for the repair, alterations, and additions necessary to accommodate recent and future changes to the site, and without overall historic integrity, depiction of the landscape at a particular period of time is not appropriate.

[1] The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT ISSUES AND GUIDELINES

The landscape issues described below were identified by NCPTT management and staff and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The guidelines provide written recommendations or solutions for treatment of the cultural landscape. These guidelines supplement the treatment plan (Figures 88-91). Treatment guidelines set forth seek to embrace the site's proposed period of significance, 1923-1939. Project goals include making the landscape more inviting and hospitable with vegetation and congregational spaces. Further goals include improving circulation for NSU students passing through while preserving and evoking the history of the landscape. The rehabilitated landscape in turn may influence the preservation and design of the surrounding university landscapes. The design borrows from the historic palette of the site and the greater university's landscapes and is intended to meet NCPTT's contemporary needs.

VEGETATION

ISSUES

- Preserve historic vegetation.
- Rehabilitate the historic character with new plantings that create a place of destination.
- NSU President desires crapemyrtle trees along College Avenue.
- Set good example for the university with xeriscaping (water-conserving method of landscaping in arid or semiarid climates, low maintenance) using drip irrigation system, soil amendments, mulch, and plant choice.
- Collaborate with Richard and Jessie Johnson of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, Briarwood, for selecting and obtaining native and/or regionally appropriate plant specimens. Create joint interpretation/collaboration opportunity. Renew historic Dormon relationship with NSU.
- Natchitoches mayor likes flowers and trees and requires them for new construction. City beautification efforts have been initiated along College Avenue, but were discontinued just short of NSU. The University is currently improving various aspects of its landscape such as entryways, signage, and plantings.
- Collaborate with John Harris, Natchitoches City Horticulturist, regarding plant selection.
- Desire for color.
- Tradition of arboretum at library and elsewhere on campus.
- Choose foundation plantings that don't damage the foundation with roots or irrigation.
- Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) in north lawn is in decline. Public may not want to see it go, but it does not date to the proposed 1923-1939 period of significance for the site.
- Garden rooms desired for south lawn. The lawn is too broad and unprotected now, and the campus lacks places for outdoor classrooms or for private and intimate contemplation.
- Shade and wind protection.
- Utility Pods southeast and southwest of the building are obtrusive and harsh, block important views of the landscape, and give the surrounding walkways a tight and narrow feel.

GUIDELINES

General:

Plant selections were made in consultation with Richard and Jessie Johnson of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve of Saline, Louisiana and with John Harris, Natchitoches City Horticulturist. The partnership with the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve will hopefully revive the historic connection the university once had with the renowned naturalist, Caroline Dormon. The partnership with John Harris and Natchitoches stresses the growing importance of horticulture in promoting commerce, tourism, and civic pride. In November 2003, the author toured the preserve and various Natchitoches gardens with the consultants. In July 2004, the consultants visited the NCPTT property for an insightful charette with NCPTT staff and the author resulting in many specific plant recommendations that represent the exciting diversity of plants in Louisiana.

The soil will require amendments before and after planting. According to 3 soil samples, the pH of the soil surrounding Nelson Hall averages 7.47 (slightly alkaline or basic). Most ornamental plants of Louisiana prefer a slightly acidic pH of 6.0 with azaleas preferring a range of 4.5 - 6.0. In general 1.5 lbs. of ground elemental sulfur should be added per 100 square feet of garden space to lower the pH by 1/2 point, so in total add 4.5 pounds of ground sulfur per 100 square feet to lower the pH from 7.47 to 6.0. Enrich the plant bed soil with organic matter such as leaf mold and/or peat moss. Mulch all new plantings with pine straw mulch to about two inches thick.

New trees will provide necessary shade and visual structure. Ornamental flowering or fruiting shrubs will highlight key areas around signs, by doorways, and along walkways and intersections thereby directing visitors. Select shrubs in one or two gallon containers and specimen trees as large as the budget will allow. Selected plants will require irrigation during their first year. Once the plants are established, irrigation may not be required except for the six vine planters in the two south lawn utility pods.

Vegetation is the most prominent historic characteristic in the NCPTT landscape and includes a large loblolly pine and eastern red cedar south of the building, crapemyrtles along Horseshoe Drive and College Avenue, and a waxleaf privet hedge along Caspari Street. The formal lawn is also a historic and integral part of the landscape. These individual features should be preserved and properly maintained over time.[2] Rehabilitation may include the reintroduction of lost features such as the extensive hedge that was located on the property. Any other newly introduced plants should complement the historic character of the landscape. The contributing vegetation associated with Horseshoe Drive, Varnado Hall, and the Infirmary should also be preserved.

Detailed specifications are provided in the plant list (Table 3) and planting notes within the Plant Specifications section later in this chapter.

South Lawn (Figures 88 and 89):

According to the requirements of NCPTT and the historic use of the site, the proposed treatment plan for the south (rear) lawn will be less formal than for the north (front) lawn. The south (rear) lawn will also accommodate two garden rooms for congregating or contemplating. A proposed ornamental shrub bed at the southwest corner of the property will direct pedestrians and visitors to and by the NCPTT complex without blocking views. The bed will contain Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara'), a very hardy, low-maintenance shrub with pink or white flowers, and dwarf summersweet clethra (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird'), a very fragrant, low-growing shrub. A second shrub bed at the northwest corner of the south lawn will direct visitors and provide interest near the live oak tree for the proposed Pergola Garden Room. This bed will also contain Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara') and dwarf summersweet clethra (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird'). A third shrub bed at the northeast corner of the south lawn will direct visitors, screen the Horseshoe Drive parking area, and make the proposed

[2] From the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36 CFR Part 67), ten basic principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs.

Loblolly Garden Room more intimate. This bed will primarily contain smallflower paw paw (*Asimina parviflora*), a shrub with edible fruit and beautiful yellow fall color. Zebra swallowtail butterflies only lay their eggs on the paw paw and the name of Natchitoches may be derived from the native word for paw paw, "Nashitosh." The bed will also contain one mayhaw (*Crataegus opaca*), an excellent shade tree with a growth habit similar to the apple; one sweet olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*), a large evergreen shrub with nice blossoms and sweet scent; and one banana shrub (*Michelia figo*), a large evergreen shrub with fragrant flowers.

The historic waxleaf privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) hedge along the Caspari Street parking area will be pulled three to four feet away from intersecting sidewalks for security reasons. Removed specimens will be transplanted to infill the gap. The missing section of hedge will also be replanted along the remaining length of the Caspari Street parking area west of the building. The hedge very effectively screens out views of the parked cars. The inside edge of the privet hedge will also be softened and highlighted with low ornamental shrubs. Pink Encore Azaleas® have been specified, since they bloom repeatedly from the spring until the fall.

A proposed live oak tree (*Quercus virginiana*) will lend additional shade and architectural interest to the Pergola Garden Room. This deciduous tree will balance the evergreen loblolly pine that dominates the center of the south (rear) lawn. This is a slow-growing tree, so a large specimen should be selected and planted before the other surrounding landscape plants. Large vehicles may be needed and could damage other plantings. A Carolina silver bell (*Halesia diptera*) and Florida sugar maple (*Acer saccharum ssp. floridanum* (syn. *Acer barbatum*)) will also be planted to provide important shade for the garden room.

The magnificent loblolly pine will dominate the area for many years while the new plantings mature. The "Sentinel Pine" once graced Normal Hill and was captured in many historic photographs. "Grandpappy" pine presides over the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve as a remnant of a primeval forest (Figure 79). Perhaps NCPTT could name their existing large pine for future generations to enjoy, much like the tradition of the "Ghost of Normal Hill" who now resides in the building.

The large pine tree and the eastern red cedar tree will shade the proposed Loblolly Garden Room, but a proposed large leaf magnolia tree (*Magnolia macrophylla*) would further shelter the congregational space from the ever-shifting sun. The tree's large deciduous leaves would provide an excellent contrast to the evergreen foliage of the two conifers. The bed for this tree should be mounded four-feet wide by one-foot high. Three specimens should be planted and later thinned to one vigorous specimen.

Key small trees will serve as focal points and add spring interest. A proposed dogwood tree (*Cornus florida*) and an ornamental shrub bed will contribute spring blooms to the shaded walkway along Varnado Hall.

The two large, obtrusive utility pods will be camouflaged with a climbing vine growing from planters inside the structures (see Site Materials and Furnishings section later in this chapter for planter specifications). The vines could grow up and over the structures and cascade down their surface. Trellises, like those located behind the Women's Gymnasium during the 1940s, could be attached to the pods if necessary. The vines will be planted in six planters placed within the two southernmost utility pods. Each of the three planters in each pod will contain a separate species (Carolina yellow jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), trumpet vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*), passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea*)). Permanent irrigation will be required.

The sides of the external steel staircase will support Yellow banksia roses (*Rosa banksia* 'lutea'), three on each side, trained to climbing up the structure with supporting cables if necessary. The two beds surrounding these roses will be planted with Carolina yellow jasmine (*Gelsemnium sempervirens*) that will soften the glaring concrete walkways.

A new campus walkway is proposed to safely guide students from residential areas along Caspari Street to the commercial businesses across College Avenue. Currently students walk through the Caspari Street parking area and then cut across the north lawn. The walkway will begin north of the Infirmary and lead due north to College Avenue. The walk will pass by the Pergola Garden Room and along the west façade of the building. The pink Encore Azaleas® and hedgerow will line the walkway to

the west, and ornamental shrub beds, the Pergola Garden Room, foundation plantings, and the north lawn will line the walkway to the east.

Foundation plantings have been selected for their ornamental, non-invasive, and low-maintenance qualities. Foundation plantings include dwarf yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria* 'nana') along the south facade, Sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) along the east, Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara') along the west, and oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quericifolia*), winterberry (*Ilex verticilata*), and holly ferns (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) along the north.

North Lawn (Figures 88 and 90):

Currently NCPTT's north (front) lawn seems barren, lacking spatial definition. The proposed plantings rehabilitate the lawn's historic formal character and make it more welcoming to visitors (Figure 80).

The views and noises of automobiles and convenience stores along College Avenue infiltrate the landscape. Five existing crapemyrtle trees screen some views of the businesses along the avenue, but nothing screens the views and noise of the heavy traffic. Four new crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) are proposed to supplement the existing group to provide a uniform presence along the avenue and Horseshoe Drive. In order to match the tree form of the existing crapemyrtle trees, the new plantings should be imbed up and never topped. This maintenance will allow views underneath for both aesthetic and security reasons.

A proposed hedge will further frame three sides of the north lawn and selectively screen views of the avenue and Caspari Street. It will begin near the northern edge of the Caspari Street parking area and continue the line of the waxleaf privet hedge. The evergreen, low-maintenance and ornamental shrub, sasanqua camellia (*Camellia sansanqua* 'Shi-Shi Gashira') has been specified. The camellia hedge will produce large pink flowers, and will be lined with pink Encore Azaleas® along the western edge of the north lawn. This hedge row is inspired by a former one that dated to the 1920s (Figure 81). The hedge will be maintained at two to three feet in height and at least four feet away from intersections with walkways. The combination of the hedge and aerial hedge (limbed up crapemyrtle trees) will frame the space and selectively screen views.

The southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) tree growing along the north (front) lawn's central walkway probably dates to the 1970s and has been in decline since the building was rehabilitated in c. 2000. Historically, there were no trees directly in front of the gymnasium. This magnolia should be removed during the proposed landscape installation. If this poses a political problem, it may be removed after it dies.

Two American holly trees (*Ilex opaca*) will frame the northeast and northwest corners of the building. The northeast one will be planted in the same spot as the historic pine that was located there until the building's recent rehabilitation. The northwest one will be planted a little further (west) from the corner to provide interest along the proposed new walkway to College Avenue and to screen the Caspari Street parking area. Both holly trees should not be limbed up unless absolutely necessary, since hollies have a beautiful natural form.

Ornamental shrub beds are proposed for important viewpoints and intersections. The selected shrubs require low maintenance and thrive under local conditions. The holly trees and the ornamental shrub beds near the front foundation will act as anchors that draw visitors toward the front door and attract passing motorist's curiosity. In addition to the front foundation plantings described earlier in this section, two triangular beds will flank the front walkway and contain bumalda spirea (*Spirea x bumalda*). Additional shrub beds will highlight proposed new NCPTT signs and views from College Avenue. These three beds will contain pink Encore Azaleas®, and the central bed at the end of the front walkway will have a border of Indian hawthorns (*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara').

The west side of the north lawn will remain undeveloped to allow for the new entrance gate design area that will be developed in the future by NSU for this, the busiest intersection of the university.

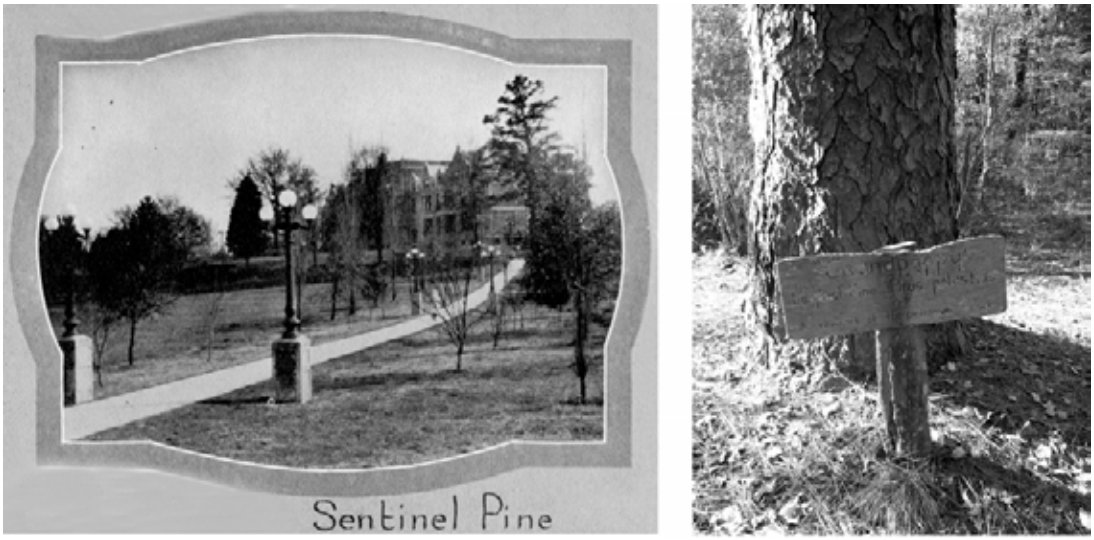


Figure 79. NSU's "Sentinel Pine," 1928, and the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve's "Grandpapy Pine," 2003 (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook) and OCLP).



Figure 80. Top: NCPTT's existing north (front) lawn and crapemyrtles with view of College Avenue, 2003 (OCLP). Bottom: Proposed hedge row and shrub planting provides spatial definition and softens view, 2004. (OCLP).

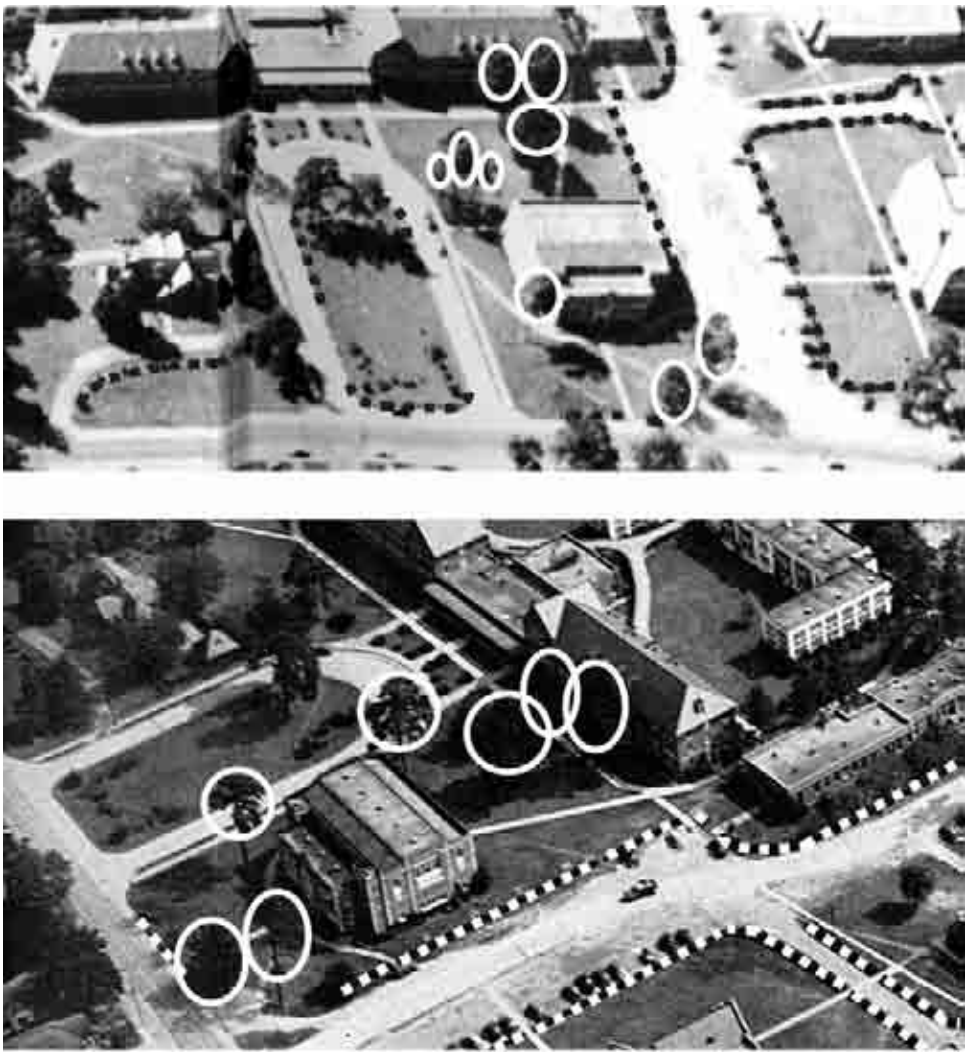


Figure 81. 1948 aerial photo (top) and 1951 aerial photo (bottom) showing hedges (dashed lines) and pine trees (circled) at and near the Women's Gymnasium (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).

CIRCULATION

ISSUES

- Intersection of Caspari Street and College Avenue at the northwest corner of the NCPTT property is the most traveled gateway to campus. NSU will eventually install a gate and lighting at the intersection similar to the Main Gate at Second Street.
- Students cut across property on their way from student housing to College Avenue businesses. Accommodate foot traffic and encourage students to enjoy the landscape.
- Lack of crosswalks and traffic signals at the intersections of Caspari Street and Horseshoe Drive with College Avenue prohibit safe access between the university and the businesses on the other side of the avenue.
- Need for sidewalk along College Avenue. Leave room for crapemyrtles.
- Two guide wire utility poles in the north lawn along College Avenue will have to be removed for a future sidewalk.
- Have primary, secondary, and tertiary walkways that differ in scale and material. Perhaps use brick for the more intimate walkways.
- Control circulation with the landscape.
- Reestablish the north (front) door as the main entrance again instead of the south (rear) door.
- Rethink sign placement (number/location).
- Consider installing electroliers (historically used on campus) to illuminate circulation.

GUIDELINES

General:

New circulation infrastructure within the NCPTT landscape should not damage the extant historic plants.[3] Proposed concrete walkways should contain an aggregate that complements the older, warm-toned examples on campus. Newly built walkways on campus are glaringly bright under the intense Louisiana sunshine.

Three permanent NCPTT signs are proposed. One will be placed at each of the intersections along the proposed College Avenue sidewalk. These will be surrounded by flowerbeds, each visible to a different lane of traffic. The third sign will be placed at the southwest corner of the property. It may be the existing NCPTT sign recycled and relocated from the north (front) lawn. Underground electric conduit should be run to the proposed sign locations early during the landscape installation.

Portable signs could be placed at key intersections during events to direct visitors to the front door. Additional signage and/or rope chains could be mounted on the utility pods to further guide visitors.

This plan explored but rejected the idea of extending the side parking lots northward to add a few parking spaces and entice visitors to go to the front (north) door instead of the rear (south) door. This action would do more harm than good. Only a few additional parking spaces would be added, while the front landscape would be altered dramatically with the presence of parked vehicles and reduced lawn.

South Lawn (Figures 88 and 89):

Currently there is no walkway along Caspari Street, so as a result, many students cut across the parking lot west of NCPTT. This plan proposes the addition of a sidewalk

[3] From the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36 CFR Part 67), ten basic principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs.

along Caspari Street inside the historic hedge row to improve student safety. From the 1910s through the 1940s, the campus was connected with a series of beautiful walkways that were sheltered with pergolas and lined with electroliers and ornamental plantings (Figure 82). Walking was more than a mundane activity, it was a romantic procession. A tiered pergola sheltered the former orthogonal walkway to the gymnasium's back door. This plan recommends that a reminiscent tiered pergola be constructed over the new student walkway. The pergola will attract student pedestrians to use the walkway instead of the parking lot and will shelter and shade the proposed Pergola Garden Room.

The plan proposes some additional circulation that would tie into the existing concrete projection in south of the rear entrance. The Loblolly Garden Room plaza would abut the projection, and a proposed walkway would link this projection to the proposed Pergola Garden Room, creating an intimate path between the two congregational spaces.

At the southwest corner of the NCPTT property, many important campus sidewalks come together at a point that this plan has named "Demon Crossroads" (Figures 83 & 91). Many students use these walkways daily, traveling between dormitories, classrooms, and College Avenue businesses. Currently, the sharp right turns, curves, and plantings at the crossroads in front of the University Health/Police building discourage or confuse pedestrians. This plan suggests the replacement of noncontiguous walkway segments with a more graceful and logical connection to provide pedestrians with a clear line of sight. This design action will result in an unimpaired and linear connection along the walkway from south of the library, across Caspari Street, all the way to Normal Hill. This design requires shifting the Caspari Street crosswalk about five feet south usurping one parking space. Replaced existing sections of walkway would be removed and seeded with turf, and the affected waxleaf privet shrubs could be removed and transplanted to fill in the gap in the hedge to the north. This realignment option may exceed the NCPTT landscape rehabilitation budget, and may only be implemented if funding allows.

North Lawn (Figures 88 and 90):

NSU is planning to construct a new gate at the northwest corner of the NCPTT property, at the Caspari Street and College Avenue (State Highway 6) intersection. The design for the gate will take inspiration from the historic Main Gate at the intersection of Central and College Avenues. The university may also landscape the area immediately surrounding the new gate and add sidewalks, fences, and plantings along the College Avenue edge of campus. This treatment proposed in the CLR leaves the west side of the north lawn undeveloped to allow for the new entrance gate design.

This plan proposes a new concrete sidewalk along College Avenue in the north (front) lawn (Figure 84). Currently two guide wire poles stand along this path. In 2004, NCPTT and NSU requested their replacement with freestanding poles from the City of Natchitoches. The mayor has agreed to replace the western pole, and the second pole will be replaced with the construction of the new university gateway/installation of new traffic lights. This plan also proposes four new crosswalks to negotiate Caspari Street, Horseshoe Drive, and College Avenue. Approval and design for these crosswalks and any required traffic lights will be negotiated by NCPTT, NSU, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. This plan suggests the removal of the northern end of the current orthogonal walkway leading from NCPTT's front door to College Avenue. As it is now, this walkway encourages pedestrians to cross the busy avenue far from any intersections without a crosswalk or traffic light.

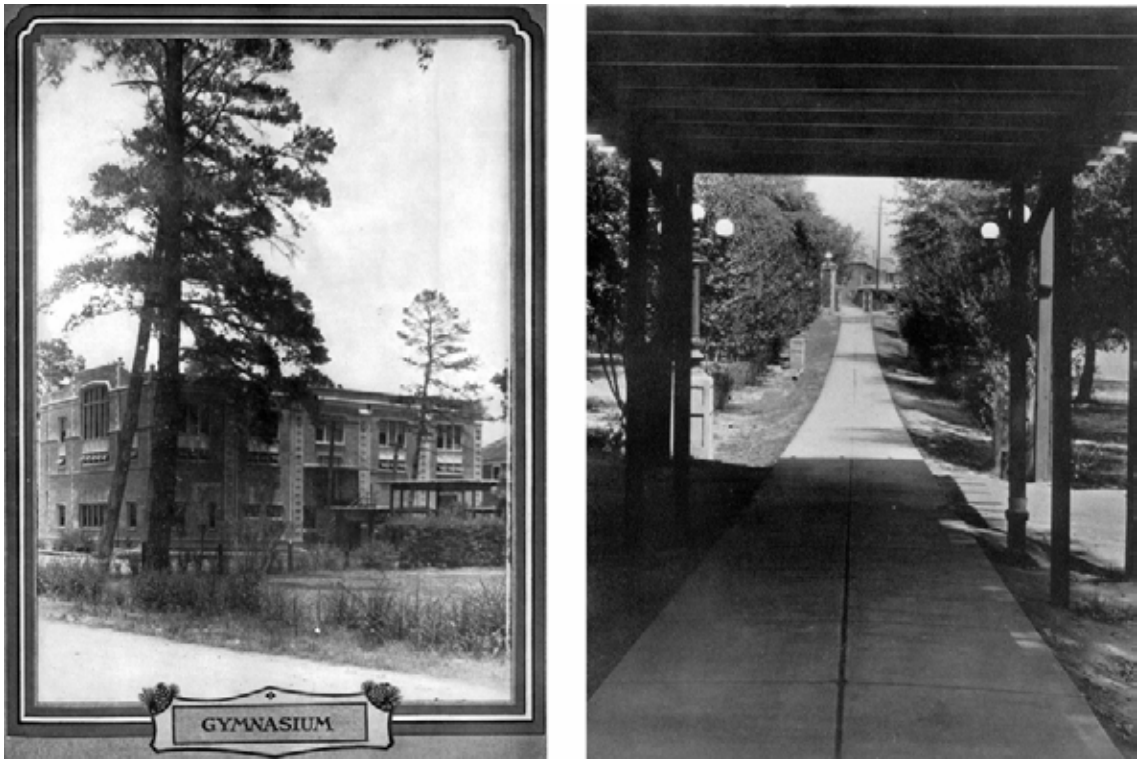


Figure 82. Left: 1926 photo showing tiered pergola covering the walkway behind the Women's Gymnasium. Right: 1932 photo showing walkway passing through one of the campus' many pergolas (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 83. Existing "Demon Crossroads" southwest of the NCPTT building beside the University Health/Police building, 2003. Note the noncontiguous walkways (OCLP).



Figure 84. Top: NCPTT's existing north (front) lawn, barren with a dying magnolia tree, 2003 (OCLP). Bottom: Proposed College Avenue campus walkway, supplemental crapemyrtle trees, flowerbeds, hedge row, and American holly, 2004 (OCLP).

GARDEN ROOMS

ISSUES

- Garden Rooms desired for south lawn. The lawn is too broad and unprotected now, and the campus lacks places for outdoor classrooms or for private and intimate contemplation.
- Soften the congregational area(s), so the hardscape is not overwhelming.
- Shade and wind protection.
- Accommodate students walking across the property .
- Need for trash receptacles.
- Need for seating.
- Need staff eating/meeting area.

GUIDELINES

South Lawn (Figures 88 & 89):

Currently, the NSU landscape does not have many comfortable congregational spaces for students and staff to relax and enjoy the outdoors. This treatment plan proposes two such spaces for the NCPTT landscape. NCPTT staff may use the spaces as outdoor classrooms or for staff meetings and breaks. Students traversing the busy walkways nearby will also be welcome to enjoy the spaces.

A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.[4] The landscape of Nelson Hall and NSU in general historically has been formal and simple. Congregational space and circulation design gestures thus should be formal and simple keeping with the historic character and small size of the NCPTT landscape.

The proposed "Pergola Garden Room" will incorporate the pergola covered portion of the new walkway southwest of the NCPTT building (Figures 85 & 86). A brick plaza will adjoin the proposed concrete walkway under the shade and protection of the structure. The forty plus-foot long pergola will be tiered with the southern third taller than the northern two thirds like the historic examples. The roof will be solid for maximum shade and rain shelter as they were historically on campus. It will be constructed of tube steel and pressure treated lumber painted and/or stained black. The historic hedge row and new low shrub beds will border the plaza, and a live oak, Florida sugar maple, and Carolina silver bell tree will provide additional shade and interest. The plaza will include six benches. This mixed-use area will encourage interaction between passing students and NCPTT functions. The pergola will be discretely lit from within and two electroliers will light the plaza from its eastern edge. Underground electrical conduit should be run to the locations of all three new NCPTT signs, to both electroliers, and to the pergola early during the landscape installation.

The proposed "Loblolly Garden Room" will be located beneath the shade of the large pine and eastern red cedar trees on the south lawn. A brick plaza with at least three picnic tables will provide a place for contemplation or relaxed outdoor events. The curves of this plaza will respond to and respect the grand pine tree. The picnic tables would benefit NCPTT staff and students, especially residents of nearby Varnado Hall. Visitors to this room could relax at the tables under the shade of the evergreens. A large leaf magnolia tree will be planted to shade the space from the morning light. Low shrub beds and small ornamental trees will provide additional interest to the space.

The brick pavers selected for both garden rooms and their connecting walkway should complement those found on the rear entrance landing beneath the steel staircase. Brick and other material and site furnishing specifications are provided in the Materials and Furnishings section later in this chapter.

[4] From the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36 CFR Part 67), ten basic principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs.

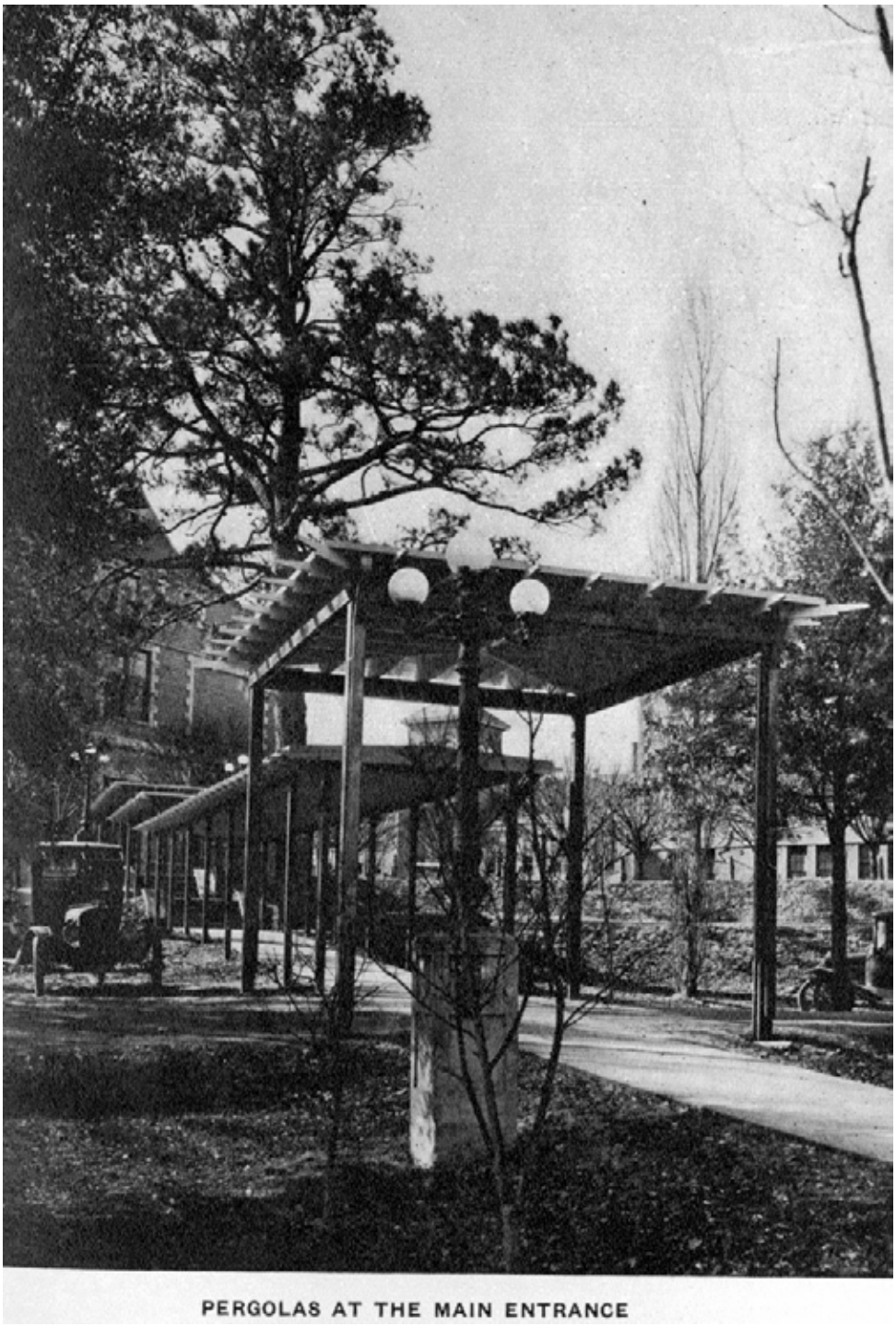


Figure 85. Tiered pergolas along the campus' main walkway in 1924. Note the craftsmen inspired exposed rafters (Northwestern State University, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center (Potpourri Yearbook)).



Figure 86. Top: NCPTT's existing south lawn, waxleaf privet hedge, and parking area, 2004 (OCLP). Bottom: Proposed new walkway to College Avenue lined by azaleas, Pergola Garden Room, and shade trees, 2004 (OCLP).

PLANT SPECIFICATIONS

Table 3. Planting List for NCPTT Landscape Treatment*

COMMON NAME & QUANTITY	SPECIES NAME	NOTES
TREES		
1 Florida sugar maple	*Acer saccharum* ssp. floridanum *(syn. Acer barbatum)*	Small specimens available at Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve.
3-4 large leaf magnolia	*Magnolia macrophylla*	Mound soil to 4' wide by 1' high for drainage and plant 3 specimens to be thinned to 1 later after establishment. Small specimens available at Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve.
1 southern live oak	*Quercus virginiana*	Slow-growing, so choose a large specimen and plant before other plants.
1 flowering dogwood	*Cornus florida*	
1 mayhaw	*Crataegus opaca*	An excellent small shade tree with a growth habit similar to the apple.
1 Carolina silver bell	*Halesia diptera*	
2 American holly	*Ilex opaca*	"Outstanding - cannot compare with anything else" - Jessie Johnson.
4 crapemyrtle	*Lagerstroemia indica*	
SHRUBS		
46 smallflower paw paw (dwarf)	*Asimina parviflora*	Does well in higher pH. Zebra swallowtail butterflies only lay their eggs on Paw Paw. Edible fruit and beautiful yellow fall color.
13 sweet shrub	*Calycanthus floridus*	Hardy and fragrant
75 summersweet clethra (dwarf)	*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird'	Very fragrant
4 oakleaf hydrangea	*Hydrangea quercifolia*	Prefers a higher pH than most hydrangeas, blooms late May, and has excellent fall color foliage.
12 winterberry	*Ilex verticilata*	Native shrub; attracts birds; spreads by suckers; best fruit production in full sun. Dioecious - Choose a red-berried, heavy fruiting female like 'Cacapon' and a male pollinator like 'Jim Dandy' or 'Southern Gentleman."
21 yaupon (dwarf)	*Ilex vomitoria* 'nana'	"Tough as nails" - Jessie Johnson.
1 banana shrub	*Michelia figo*	Evergreen and fragrant
1 sweet olive	*Osmanthus fragrans*	Specimens of this evergreen available at Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve with orange blossoms and apricot scent.
125 Indian hawthorn	*Raphiolepis indica* 'Clara'	Very hardy and low maintenance, with white or pink flowers. 'Clara' is resistant to leaf spot and has attractive reddish new growth. See additional notes below.
127 Encore Azalea ®	*Rhododendron x* (Encore Azalea ®)	An everblooming azalea (blooms repeatedly spring, summer, fall). www.encoreazalea.com See additional notes below.
macrantha azalea	*Rhododendron eriocarpum*	Possible Encore azalea substitute. See additional notes below.
southern Indica azalea	*Rhododendron indicum*	Possible Encore azalea substitute. See additional notes below.
52 compact Korean azalea	*Rhododendron yedoense var. poukhanense 'Poukhanense Compacta'*	A compact, full sun azalea. See additional notes below.
32 compact bumalda spirea	*Spirea x bumalda* 'Goldmound' or 'Dolchica' or 'Coccinea'	See additional notes below.
HEDGE		
66 sasanqua camellia	*Camellia sasanqua* 'Shi-Shi Gashira'	Evergreen, low maintenance, and single flower.
18 waxleaf privet	*Ligustrum japonicum*	Very drought resistant and great for poor soils.
GROUND COVERS		
@20 holly ferns	*Cyrtomium falcatum*	Evergreen, suitable for xeriscaping, 3 by 3 feet, part sun to shade.
VINES/CLIMBERS		
16 Carolina yellow jasmine	*Gelsemium sempervirens*	Evergreen, hardy, and native. Makes excellent groundcover too. For 2 of the 6 pod planters as well as groundcover near rear stairs.
4 trumpet vine	*Lonicera sempervirens*	For 2 of the 6 pod planters.
4 passion vine	*Passiflora caerulea*	For 2 of the 6 pod planters.
6 yellow banksias rose	*Rosa banksiae* 'lutea'	Climbing, evergreen, rose that can grow into tree size. Awesome spring color with thornless canes that arch to about 12 feet tall. Full sun and average water. Can train up stairs with cables or trellis.

* Plants recommended during July 2004 site visit by John Harris, Natchitoches horticulturist, and/or Richard and Jessie Johnson of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve . Most are suitable for xeriscaping and will require little irrigation once established.

PLANTING NOTES

INDIAN HAWTHORN

Indian hawthorn has white or pink flowers, is very hardy, requires low maintenance, and is azalea like in character. Indian hawthorns are grown for their attractively neat, mounded form and clusters of flowers. The fragrant, crabapple-like flowers open in clusters above the foliage in mid-April to May. Bluish-black berries appear in late summer and persist through the winter. The leathery, dark evergreen leaves are rounded, about two to three inches long, turning purplish in winter. The compact cultivars of Indian hawthorn are suitable for use as foundation shrubs, while larger cultivars may be used for hedges, mass plantings or screening. 'Clara' is resistant to leaf spot and produces beautiful reddish new growth.

AZALEA

No irrigation should be needed for azaleas once they are established. Use pine straw mulch. The Encore azaleas will be shaded by the hedge, and the compact Korean azaleas thrive in full sun.

Encore Azaleas:

These are everblooming azaleas, blooming repeatedly during the spring, summer, and fall. They prefer part sun/part shade conditions. They were developed by Robert E. Lee of Independence, LA and are available at many nurseries nationwide including popular home supply centers like Lowes. www.encoreazalea.com

Good varieties for this project:

1. Autumn Carnival Rhododendron Hybrid - Autumn Carnival has brilliant medium pink blooms. Heavy summer flowering is typical for this variety. Autumn Carnival is great for borders or as a specimen. It grows three feet high by four feet wide and prefers morning sun and afternoon shade.

2. Autumn Chiffon Rhododendron Hybrid - Autumn Chiffon has frosted pink blooms with a splash of purple in the center. It is a compact grower bearing huge quantities of flowers. It has single form blooms. 2.5 feet high by 3 feet wide and prefers morning sun and afternoon shade.

Alternative Azaleas:

If Encore Azaleas are cost prohibitive try pink or lavender blooming hybrids of:

Rhododendron eriocarpum or *Rhododendron indicum* hybrids include the southern indica and macrantha hybrids. This group includes Gumpo and Satsuki varieties and is made up of low growing, true dwarf and trailing shrubs. They have large flowers which are late in blooming, often into June. They include: Getsutoku (white/pink), Gumpo Oink (pink), Formosa, and Hi-Gasa (bright pink).

Compact Korean Azaleas are low growing and thrive in full sun conditions. They grow two to three feet tall and produce an early season bloom with light pink/orchid blooms. Good variety for this project: *Rhododendron yedoense* var. poukhanense 'Poukhanense Compacta'

BUMALDA SPIREA

Bumalda Spireas (*Spirea* x *bumalda*, a cross between *Spirea albiflora* and *Spirea japonica*) are all low, shrubby spireas, which bloom in summer to fall. They grow two to three feet tall and slightly wider and have pink or white flowers depending on the variety. Spireas are valued for their form and flowers. They are used as a specimen plant or as a hedge, screen, or border. The shrub prefers partial to full sun. Plant in full sun and open areas for best flowering. Spireas are tolerant of many soils except those that are extremely wet. The plant also likes mulch and summer watering. Prune the summer-blooming, shrubby spireas in winter or early spring. After flowers fade, remove them to stimulate additional flowering. 'Anthony Waterer' is the best known variety. It grows to a height of only three feet and has reddish-pink flowers held in little umbrellas on the tips of the branches. The foliage is maroon-tinged. 'Coccinea' is like 'Anthony Waterer', but grows to two feet and has brighter flowers. 'Dolchica' grows to two feet and has deeply cut leaves and bright pink flowers and purplish new growth. 'Goldflame' has foliage that turns from green-gold to yellow to bronzy-orange in the fall. The flowers are crimson. 'Goldmound'

is a compact, one to three foot shrub with yellow to chartreuse foliage and pink flowers.

SASANQUA CAMELLIA

The leaves of Sasanqua Camellias are much smaller and denser than the Japanese Camellias, making for a smaller more compact shrub. Like the Japanese Camellia, Sasanqua Camellias need a moist acidic soil. The 'Shi-Shi Gashira' Camellia is a late bloomer (fall and early winter), its form is low spreading, and its flowers are semi-double and deep pink or rose in color. Its waxy, leather leaves coupled with blooms that are as pretty as roses reveal that these camellias are not only good as shrubs but also for use as foundation plantings. The foliage is as pretty as waxleaf privet. Moisture will most likely be critical the first summer, so it is best to plant camellias, as well as other trees and shrubs, in the fall. Feed established plantings with a slow-released camellia fertilizer or balanced (8-8-8) fertilizer in late spring at one pound per 100 square feet of planted area. Azalea or camellia blends of fertilizer are also good. Water during dry periods and keep well mulched. Prune after blooming to shape. The Shishi Gashira works well adjacent to evergreens such as hollies like Festive or Little Red. They also work well in combination with Southern Indica type azaleas such as Formosa and Judge Solomon.

TURF

Warm-season grasses, such as bermudagrass, centipedegrass, and St. Augustinegrass or a mix thereof are appropriate choices for permanent turf in Louisiana. A variety or mix should be selected that will be drought tolerant and will not require irrigation once the turf is established.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

According to 3 soil samples, the pH of the soil surrounding NCPTT's Nelson Hall averages 7.47 (slightly alkaline or basic). Most ornamental plants of Louisiana prefer a slightly acidic pH of 6.0 with azaleas preferring a range of 4.5 - 6.0. In general add 1.5 lbs. of ground elemental sulfur per 100 square feet of garden space to lower the pH by 1/2 point, so in total add 4.5 pounds of ground sulfur per 100 square feet to lower the pH from 7.47 to 6.0.

Enrich plant bed soil with organic matter such as leaf mold and/or peat moss.

Fertilize plants according to local nursery specifications.

Selected plants will require irrigation for their first year. Once established, irrigation may not be required except for the 6 vine planters in the utility pods.

Mulch all new plantings with pine straw mulch to about 2 inches thick.

RECOMMENDED NURSERIES

Hickory Hill Nursery, 10 Martin Springs Road, Forest Hill, LA 71430, (318)748-6838, contact-Pat Brister

Prairie Basse Nursery, Carencro, LA, (337)993-2473, contact-Bill Fontenot

June Walker Nursery, Sunset, LA, (337)662-3563 or (337)662-5060, contact-June Walker

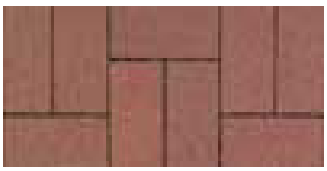
Briarwood - Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, 216 Caroline Dormon Road, Saline, LA 71070, (318)576-3379, contact-Richard and Jessie Johnson Note: This preserve is not a commercial nursery but the Johnson's have graciously offered some free specimens for this project as noted in the above plant table. Other specimens may also be available.

SITE MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

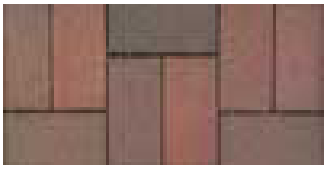
BRICK PAVERS

Interlocking clay pavers for Pergola Garden Room and Loblolly Garden Room, selected to complement the bricks of Nelson Hall and the terrace beneath the rear stairs

Pine Hall Brick
800-334-8689
www.pinehallbrick.com


English Edge - Red

English Edge -"Red" or "Autumn"
English Edge® is a good interlocking paver for sand-based applications. Made from hardened Triassic shale, this paver features beveled edges on both bed surfaces making it easy to install and to flip over should the need arise. Spacer nibs provide consistent joints with virtually no edge chippage even on driveways. This paver has durable color. Pavers exceed the ASTM standards with high strength water absorption (5-6%).


English Edge - Autumn

-or-


Traditional Edge - Pathway

Traditional Edge - "Pathway Red"
Square edge pavers offer the classic brick look. Square edge pavers can be laid in sand or mortar. All pavers exceed the ASTM standards with high strength (10,000 psi+) and low water absorption (5-6%).

Distributors

Acme Brick Company
4747 Choctaw Dr.
Baton Rouge LA 70805
225-356-5281

Acme Brick Company
11201 Old Gentilly Rd.
New Orleans LA 70129
318-234-4531

Acme Brick Company
2500 Cameron Avenue
Lafayette LA 70506
318-234-4531

Gats Masonry, Inc.
670 St. George
Jefferson LA 70121

BENCHES

Traditional early twentieth-century bench with black metal work and wooden slats, selected to complement Nelson Hall and the new pergola. Quantity needed - 7



Plainwell bench

Landscape Forms
1-800-430-6209
www.landscapeforms.com/

-or-

American Titan
1-800-378-3080
www.americantitan.com/



WORLD'S FAIR BENCH MODEL B-16



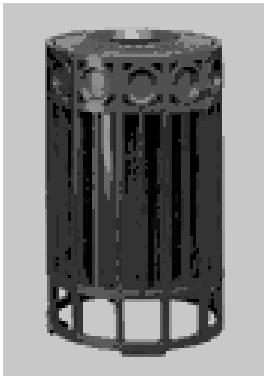
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MODELB-18



COPLEY BENCH MODEL B-20

TRASH RECEPTACLES

Sturdy black metal, unobtrusive style selected to complement benches. Quantity needed - 4



TR-85

American Titan
1-800-378-3080
www.americantitan.com/

-or-



MLWR200-20

Maglin Furniture Systems Ltd.
1-800-716-5506
www.maglin.com



MLWR200-32

-or-



BANICO™, BCT

Creative Pipe
1-800-644-8467
Creativepipe.com



ASTOR, MODEL AST



FUVISTA, FVT

ELECTROLIERS

Existing Historic Electroliers

Select electroliers that match the existing historical (c. 1919) examples that remain near Northwestern State University's main gate. Quantity needed - 2



King Luminaire
(205) 339-0711
www.kingluminaire.com/products/poles/index.asp
Similar electrolier: 'Capircorn' Globe (white glass globes) and 'Florentine Junior' black pole, with 3-arm electrolier.



-or-

Sun Valley Lighting
www.sunvalleylighting.com/SV-Mainframe.htm
Similar electrolier: LG14-YA Globe, 16 flutes & Tapered

-or-

Herwig Lighting
www.herwig.com/





TABLES

Stainless steel, heavy table and chair unit for the Loblolly Garden Room that is secure, yet can be moved when necessary. Metallic finish will complement the galvanized metal staircase at Nelson Hall. Umbrella holes should be specified in case umbrellas are desired. Quantity needed - 3



VISTA ENSEMBLE

Forms+Surfaces
1-800-451-0410
www.forms-surfaces.com

-or-

Landscape Forms
1-800-430-6209
www.Landscapeforms.com
"Carousel picnic table"

PLANTERS

Sturdy, inexpensive, plain rectangular planters to contain vines within the utility pods/corrals. Quantity needed - 6 (3 per utility pod)

Quick Crete Products Corporation
1-900-737-6240
www.quickcrete.com (photos available in pdf format on website)

"Classic" (24" W, 36" L, 22" H) - preferred dimensions

-or-

"Mendocino" (18" w, 48" L, 18" H)

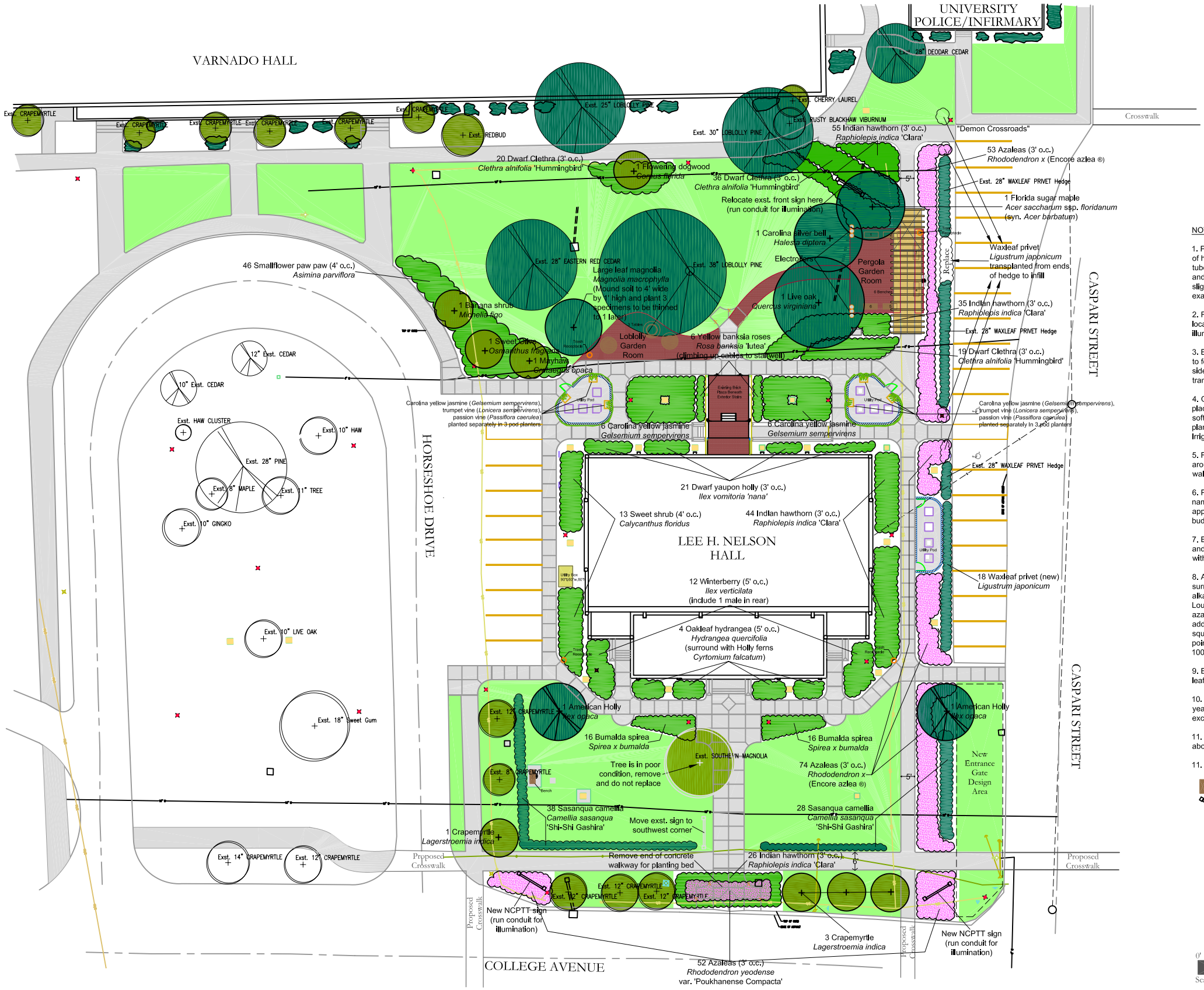
-or-

"California" (24" W, 24" L, 30" H)

TREATMENT PLAN

The treatment plan is synthesized from the chronological site history, the existing conditions, and the evaluation of the significance and integrity of the landscape presented within this report. Four sheets are presented (Figures 88-91). The plan is not a construction document, but rather a detailed, planting plan. NCPTT will have construction drawings prepared by a licensed architect and will contract out construction including the irrigation system.

The final Treatment Plan and specifications were submitted to Coco & Company, architectural company of Simmesport, LA, in early November of 2004. Proposed new plantings are labeled with Latin names, common names, and cultivar or variety when appropriate. The university's physical plant will maintain the designed landscape.



NOTES:

1. Pergola design inspired by photographs of historic examples at NSU. To be constructed of tube steel and pressure treated lumber painted and/or stained black. Southern 1/3 portion will be slighly taller than the northern 2/3 like the historic examples.

2. Run electrical conduit to all three new NCPTT sign locations, to both electroliers, and to pergola for illumination. Light pergola discretely from within.

3. Existing privet hedge will be pulled three to four feet away from intersecting sidewalks. Removed specimens will be transplanted to infill gap.

4. Cascading vines will be planted in 6 planters placed within the two southernmost utility pods to soften the obtrusive structures. Each of the 3 planters in each pod will contain a separate species. Irrigation will be required.

5. Flowering shrubs will highlight key areas around signs, by doorways, and along walkways and intersections.

6. Proposed new plantings are labeled with latin names, common names, and cultivar or variety when appropriate. Select tree specimens as large as budget allows and 1 or 2 gallon pots for shrubs.

7. Existing southern magnolia in front is not historic and is in poor condition. It should be removed without replacement.

8. According to 3 soil samples, the pH of the soil surrounding Nelson Hall averages 7.47 (slightly alkaline or basic). Most ornamental plants of Louisiana prefer a slightly acidic pH of 6.0 with azaleas preferring a range of 4.5 - 6.0. In general add 1.5 lbs. of ground elemental sulfur per 100 square feet of garden space to lower the pH by 1/2 point, so in total add 4.5 pounds of ground sulfur per 100 square feet to lower the pH from 7.47 to 6.0.

9. Enrich plant bed soil with organic matter such as leaf mold and/or peat moss.

10. Selected plants will require irrigation for their first year. Once established irrigation may not be required except for the 6 vine planters in the utility pods.

11. Mulch all new plantings with pine straw mulch to about 2 inches thick.

11. Outdoor Furniture:

Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

TREATMENT PLAN
2004

Overview
Sheet 1 of 4

National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617-241-6954

Sources:
1. Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Lawrence Coco, Coco & Company, AIA, Architect. AutoCAD. June 2001.

2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

Legend:

- EXISTING POWER POLE
- LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING GUY ANCHOR
- EXISTING WATER VALVE
- EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT
- EXISTING SIGN
- EXISTING SEWER LINE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING UNDGRD ELEC
- OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING MANHOLE
- EXISTING TP PEDESTAL
- FND. IRON ROD
- FND. CONC. R/W MONUMENT
- CONCRETE CIRCULATION
- BRICK CIRCULATION
- LARGE TREE
- SMALL TREE
- SHRUBS
- HEDGE
- AZALEAS
- LAWN

UNIVERSITY POLICE/INFIRMARY

Exst. 28" DEODAR CEDAR

Exst. CRAPEMYRTLE

CRAPEMYRTLE

Exst. REDBUD

Exst. 25" LOBLOLLY PINE

Exst. 30" LOBLOLLY PINE

Exst. CHERRY LAUREL

Exst. RUSTY BLACKHAW VIBURNUM

55 Indian hawthorn (3' o.c.)
Raphiolepis indica 'Clara'

"Demon Crossroads"

20 Dwarf Clethra (3' o.c.)
Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird'

1 Flowering dogwood
Cornus florida

36 Dwarf Clethra (3' o.c.)
Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird'

53 Azaleas (3' o.c.)
Rhododendron x (Encore azlea ®)

Exst. 28" WAXLEAF PRIVET Hedge

Relocate exst. front sign here
(run conduit for illumination)

1 Florida sugar maple
Acer saccharum ssp. *floridanum*
(syn. *Acer barbatum*)

1 Carolina silver bell
Halesia diptera

Electrolers

Pergola Garden Room

6 Benches

Trash Receptacle

Waxleaf privet
Ligustrum japonicum
transplanted from ends of hedge to infill

Replace

Exst. 28" EASTERN RED CEDAR

Exst. 38" LOBLOLLY PINE

Large leaf magnolia
Magnolia macrophylla
(Mound soil to 4' wide by 1' high and plant 3 specimens to be thinned to 1 later)

1 Live oak
Quercus virginiana

1 Banana shrub
Michelia figo

3 Tables

Loblolly Garden Room

6 Yellow banksia roses
Rosa banksia 'lutea'
(climbing up cables to stairwell)

35 Indian hawthorn (3' o.c.)
Raphiolepis indica 'Clara'

Exst. 28" WAXLEAF PRIVET Hedge

1 Sweet Olive
Osmanthus fragrans

1 Mayhaw
Crataegus opaca

19 Dwarf Clethra (3' o.c.)
Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird'

Existing Brick Plaza Beneath Exterior Stairs

Utility Pod

Carolina yellow jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*),
trumpet vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*),
passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea*)
planted separately in 3 pod planters

6 Carolina yellow jasmine
Gelsemium sempervirens

6 Carolina yellow jasmine
Gelsemium sempervirens

Carolina yellow jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*),
trumpet vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*),
passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea*)
planted separately in 3 pod planters

21 Dwarf yaupon holly (3' o.c.)
Ilex vomitoria 'nana'

13 Sweet shrub (4' o.c.)
Calycanthus floridus

44 Indian hawthorn (3' o.c.)
Raphiolepis indica 'Clara'

Exst. 28" WAXLEAF PRIVET Hedge

EDGE OF ASPHALT STREET

HORSESHOE DRIVE

CASPARI STREET

LEE H. NELSON HALL

Scale: 1"=20'

Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

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Natchitoches, Louisiana

TREATMENT PLAN
2004

South Lawn
Sheet 2 of 4

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Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617-241-6954

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2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

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- EXISTING SIGN
- EXISTING SEWER LINE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING UNDGRD ELEC
- EXISTING OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING MANHOLE
- EXISTING TP PEDESTAL
- FND. IRON ROD
- FND. CONC. R/W MONUMENT
- CONCRETE CIRCULATION
- BRICK CIRCULATION
- LARGE TREE
- SMALL TREE
- SHRUBS
- HEDGE
- AZALEAS
- LAWN

HORSESHOE DRIVE

Gelsemium sempervirens

Gelsemium sempervirens

21 Dwarf yaupon holly (3' o.c.)
Ilex vomitoria 'nana'

13 Sweet shrub (4' o.c.)
Calycanthus floridus

44 Indian hawthorn (3' o.c.)
Raphiolepis indica 'Clara'

LEE H. NELSON HALL

12 Winterberry (5' o.c.)
Ilex verticilata
(include 1 male in rear)

4 Oakleaf hydrangea (5' o.c.)
Hydrangea quercifolia
(surround with Holly ferns
Cyrtomium falcatum)

Exst. 28" WAXLEAF PRIVET Hedge

EDGE OF ASPHALT STREET

Utility Pod

18 Waxleaf privet (new)
Ligustrum japonicum

Utility Box
90"L,60"W,80"H

Trash Receptacle

Trash Receptacle

CASPARI STREET

" Sweet Gum

1 American Holly
Ilex opaca

Exst. 12" CRAPEMYRTLE

16 Bumalda spirea
Spirea x bumalda

Exst. SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

Tree is in poor condition, remove and do not replace

Exst. 8" CRAPEMYRTLE

Bench

16 Bumalda spirea
Spirea x bumalda

1 American Holly
Ilex opaca

74 Azaleas (3' o.c.)
Rhododendron x
(Encore azlea ®)

5'

New Entrance Gate Design Area

38 Sasanqua camellia
Camellia sasanqua
'Shi-Shi Gashira'

Move exst. sign to southwest corner

28 Sasanqua camellia
Camellia sasanqua
'Shi-Shi Gashira'

1 Crapemyrtle
Lagerstroemia indica

MYRTLE

Proposed Crosswalk

Remove end of concrete walkway for planting bed

26 Indian hawthorn (3' o.c.)
Raphiolepis indica 'Clara'

6'

Proposed Crosswalk

Exst. 12" CRAPEMYRTLE

Exst. 12" CRAPEMYRTLE

Exst. 12" CRAPEMYRTLE

TOP OF CURB
EDGE OF ASPHALT

New NCPTT sign (run conduit for illumination)

Proposed Crosswalk

3 Crapemyrtle
Lagerstroemia indica

Proposed Crosswalk

New NCPTT sign (run conduit for illumination)

COLLEGE AVENUE

52 Azaleas (3' o.c.)
Rhododendron yeodense
var. 'Poukhanense Compacta'

0' 10' 20'
Scale: 1"=20'

Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

TREATMENT PLAN
2004

North Lawn
Sheet 3 of 4

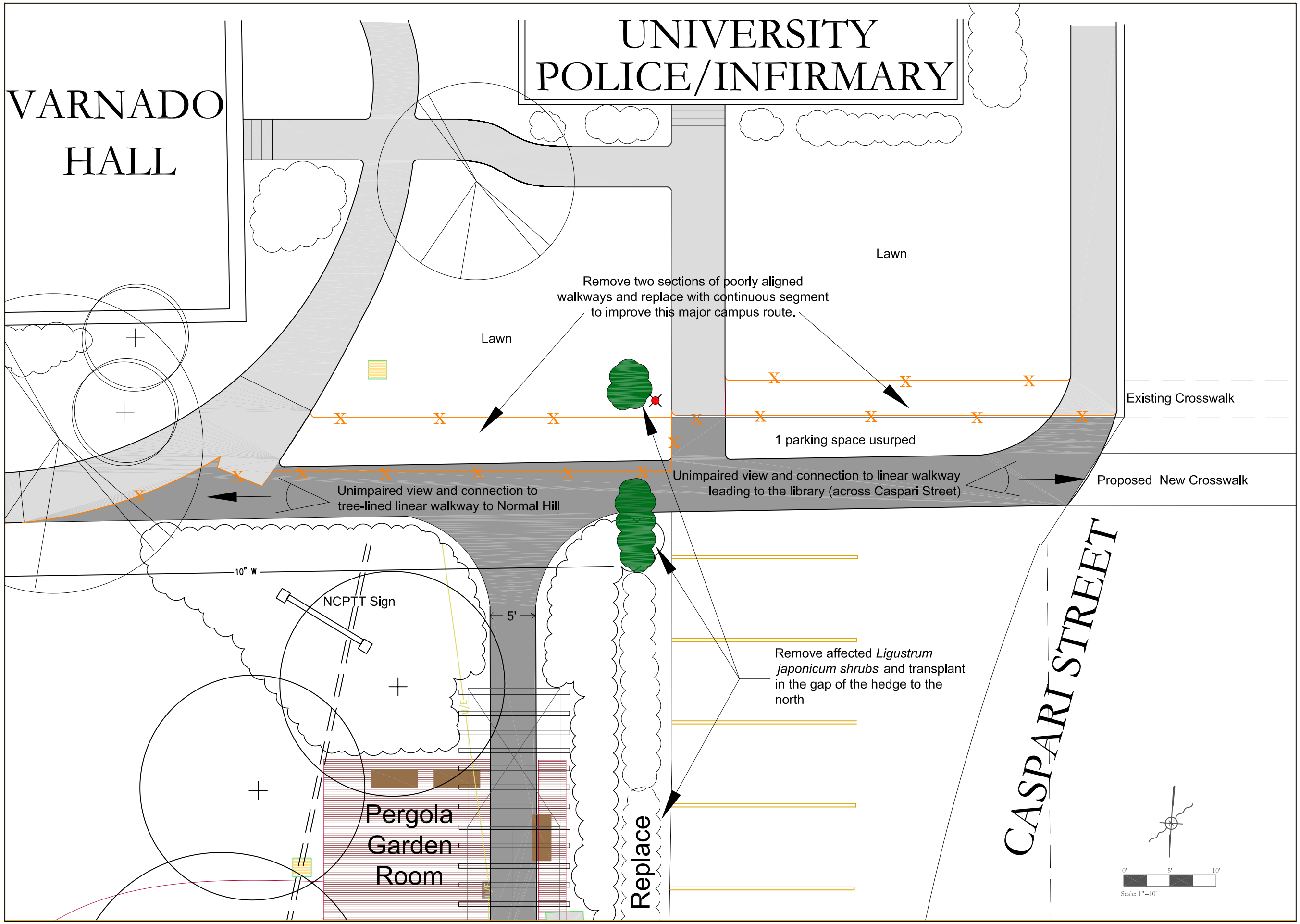
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- HEDGE
- AZALEAS
- LAWN



Cultural Landscape Report for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)

Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

TREATMENT PLAN
2004

Proposed Alignment of "Demon Crossroads" (If funding allows)

Sheet 4 of 4

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Sources:
1. Proposed Site Plan by Wayne Lawrence Coco, Coco & Company, AIA, Architect. AutoCAD. June 2001.

2. Site Visits, November 2003 and March 2004.

Prepared by:
Chris Stevens using AutoCAD. OCLP, October 2004.

Legend:
- EXISTING POWER POLE
- LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING GUY ANCHOR
- EXISTING WATER VALVE
- EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT
- EXISTING SIGN
- EXISTING SEWER LINE
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING UNDGRD ELEC
- OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING MANHOLE
- EXISTING TP PEDESTAL
- FND. IRON ROD
- FND. CONC. R/W MONUMENT
- EXISTING WALKWAY
- PROPOSED WALKWAY
- WALKWAY to be REMOVED
- AFFECTED HEDGE

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