

CAPITOL PARK INTERPRETIVE PLAN

State Capitol Complex
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Esleew' Interpretive Planners
Post Architects Master Planners

15 SEPT 99

Letter of Submission

Facility Planning and Control,
State of Louisiana Division of Administration
Attn: Lisa Smeltzer
1051 Third Street, Room B31
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

September 15, 1999

re: Capitol Park Interpretive Plan
Contract Reference #01-07-00-82B-10, Part 4

Dear Lisa:

On behalf of Eskew+, I am pleased to present the Interpretive Plan for the development of the Capitol Park Campus in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This plan, blended with the Campus Master Plan developed by Post Architects should provide Facility Planning and Control with an architectural roadmap for future development decisions. The challenge of creating an Interpretive Plan for such an historic site as the State Capitol is a daring adventure. It is our goal as designers of this plan to develop a mix of informational and educational venues that will bring the history of the Capitol Park site to life. We seek to deliver a unique physical and cultural experience for our visitors -- a "Taste of Louisiana" that captures the essence of our great state.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Allen Eskew
Eskew+ Architecture.Environments.Urban Design



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Interpretive Plan Profile

Observation Since the construction of the New State Capitol in 1931-32, the area in and around the Capitol has been the seat of State Government. Through the years, office buildings have been constructed in the immediate vicinity to accommodate the growing spatial demands of government. These administrative and legislative operations have been woven around a collection of historic structures, landscapes, and a neighborhood, all of national significance. Today, this assemblage of public buildings arranged in a loosely defined campus of approximately 250 acres is designated as the "Capitol Complex".

Opportunity Currently, the Capitol Complex supports 6500 full time State employees, an annual influx of Legislators, Lobbyists and Citizens for the annual legislative session. A significant number of visitors, including organized school groups, individual tourist and tour bus groups visit the collection of facilities. For this current audience, the "Visitor Experience" is underdeveloped. This Interpretive Plan seeks to reposition the Capitol Complex as "Capitol Park" and use contemporary techniques of exhibit design and attraction management to showcase Louisiana History and Culture to the visiting public.

Vision "CAPITOL PARK: A Celebration of Louisiana"

Purpose To establish Capitol Park as a distinguished Public Attraction and Educational Resource focused on Louisiana History, Culture, and Industry.

Mission In order to comprehensively launch the implementation of Capitol Park, and thereby maximize the "Visitor Experience", the State must initiate the following actions:

What can be done now to fulfill the Purpose and Vision?

- Replace Capitol Complex designation with "CAPITOL PARK" in all marketing/promotional materials
- Identify the Park with a clear set of CAMPUS BOUNDARIES AND GATEWAY PORTALS
- Provide a clear ARRIVAL SEQUENCE for the Visitor from Interstate 110
- Strengthen OFF-CAMPUS LINKAGES to Old State Capitol and Old Governor's Mansion
- Organize existing facilities into a clear VISITOR STORYLINE
- Construct new CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER to facilitate tourism orientation
- Upgrade visitor facilities in STATE CAPITOL PUBLIC SPACES
- Modify Interpretive content in PENTAGON BARRACKS MUSEUM
- Expand Interpretive content in ARSENAL MUSEUM
- Add Interpretive exhibits in Lobby of STATE LIBRARY
- Develop new STATE HISTORY MUSEUM within Capitol Park
- Construct new RIVERFRONT PARK along batture
- Develop a self-guided WALKING TOUR for Capitol Visitors
- Coordinate the DOWNTOWN SHUTTLE BUS LOOP with the Capitol Visitor's Center
- Install ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES for all construction within Capitol Park
- Install LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES for all construction/ maintenance within Capitol Park
- Develop a PUBLIC ART PROGRAM
- Install a comprehensive network of VISITOR AMENITIES throughout Capitol Park
- Identify SPECIAL EVENT sites in Capitol Park and install necessary infrastructure
- Develop a NAMING STRATEGY for identification of key public spaces and buildings



Structure of the Interpretive Plan

This Interpretive Plan is based on the interplay of general GUIDING PRINCIPLES and specific INTERPRETIVE COMPONENTS. This plan was developed in an open, interactive workshop format in which the Professional Planning Team received input and counsel from a Steering Committee organized to represent the collective interests of the State.

Guiding Principles
What are the underlying principles that influence the Comprehensive Strategy?
An effective Interpretive Plan must be responsive to the planning principles and initiatives present in the surrounding community. For the plan to have the greatest chance of success, it must reinforce existing priorities. For this Interpretive Plan, seven specific Guiding Principles are described that form the conceptual parameters for development of the plan.

Interpretive Components
How can the plan be implemented?
In order to effectively communicate with the visiting public, a comprehensive set of specific exhibit and tourism management components should be put in place. These interpretive components form the delivery system for the interpretive message. For this Interpretive Plan, 20 specific interpretive components are identified and recommendations for implementation are outlined. The components represent action items.

Work Plan
How has this Interpretive Plan been developed?
A 10-person Steering Committee was organized to represent the interest of the State, as well as provide background information and counsel to the Professional Planning Team.

Using a workshop format, the Steering Committee and Planning Team met periodically during 1998 to develop the plan. Workshops proceeded key milestones in the planning process:

- Workshop**
- #1 - Scope & Focus
 - #2 - Conceptual Framework
 - #3 - Preliminary Guidelines
 - #4 - Draft Plan
 - #5 - Final Plan Presentation

Steering Committee
Who participated in the Development of the Plan?

• Lisa Smeltzer	Facility Planning & Control (Project Manager)
• Carolyn Bennett	Old Governor's Mansion
• Donald J. Lemieux	State Archives
• Josette Lester	Office of State Buildings
• Steve Losavio	Capitol Architect
• Eddy Martin	Office of Cultural Development
• Elizabeth A. Moore	Office of Cultural Development
• Lewis Morris	State Archives
• Mary Louise Prudhomme	Old State Capitol
• Suzanne Turner	LSU College of Design

Planning Team

• R. Allen Eskew	Eskew+ Architects . Environments . Urban Design One Canal Place, Suite 3150 365 Canal Street New Orleans, LA 70130 Tel: 504.561.8686 Fax: 504.522.2253
• Raymond "Skipper" Post	Post Architects 12032 Bricksome Baton Rouge, LA 70816 Tel: 504.293.6964 Fax: 504.293.5189



Steering Committee Profiles

- Lisa Smeltzer** Project Manager for the Office of Facility Planning & Control. Since 1991, she has been actively involved in the development of the Capitol Complex and is currently managing the Capitol Complex West and North buildings, and the West Garage projects. Lisa graduated from Louisiana State University's School of Architecture in 1986 and is licensed to practice architecture in Louisiana. She is involved in community service organizations as well as professional groups such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and International Facility Management Association (IFMA).
- Carolyn Bennett** Executive Director of the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, a preservation and heritage education organization. The Foundation has partnered with the State of Louisiana in cooperative endeavors at the Pentagon Barracks, the Old Arsenal Museum, Shop at the Top of the Capitol, and most recently the Old Governor's Mansion. Carolyn has a B.A. from University of Maryland and M.A. from Johns Hopkins University.
- Donald Jile Lemieux** State Archivist and director of the Department of Archives, Records Management, and History, since 1974. A native of Lewiston, Maine, he has degrees from the University of New Mexico, Xavier University in Cincinnati, and Louisiana State University, having received his doctor of philosophy in Latin American Studies from the latter. He also did post graduate work at New York University. A former member of the history faculty at Louisiana Tech University, Lemieux is the author of numerous publications on French colonial history. He has also served on several historical and records advisory commissions throughout his career.
- Josetta Lester** Horticulturist supervisor for the Office of State Buildings for 19 years. She has a Master's Degree in Horticulture from Louisiana State University. Her primary responsibility includes managing the landscapes in the approximately 150-acre property surrounding the State Capitol and adjacent buildings. Josette has been actively involved in associations such as the Baton Rouge Landscape Association and the Friends of the Hilltop Arboretum.
- Steve Losavio** Louisiana State Capitol Architect for the Louisiana Legislature. He has been the project architect for major renovations, additions and restoration efforts on the State Capitol building and the Pentagon Barracks. He is a 1978 graduate of Louisiana State University's School of Architecture, and has been licensed since 1981. Steve is a former President of AIA Baton Rouge, and will serve as the 1999 President of AIA Louisiana.
- Eddy Martin** Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer in the Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. He has extensive experience with Louisiana landscapes, having practiced as a landscape architect in more than 30 years of state service.
- Elizabeth A. Moore** Architectural Historian with the Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. She has a M.S. in Architecture with a concentration in Historic Preservation from Louisiana State University and previous experience with historic preservation planning at the Capitol Complex through graduate research funded by a grant to LSU from the Louisiana State Legislature.
- Lawls Morris** Assistant Director of the division of Archives, Records Management, and History, within the Department of State. A native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Morris attended the public schools in Tioga, Louisiana, graduating from Tioga High School in 1968. He holds the B.A. and M.A. degrees in History from Mississippi State University. He has also studied at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Prior to his association with the state Archives, he worked in the newspaper business, first at the Natchez (Miss.) Democrat and later at the Concordia Sentinel in Ferriday, LA.
- Mary Louise Prudhomme** Director of the Old State Capitol. Mary Louise joined Secretary of State's Fox McKeithen's office in 1990. She raised \$2.5 million in private funds during the restoration of the Old Capitol, to fund exhibits and educational enhancements for the "new" Center for Political and Governmental History. She has been actively involved in community service and special events and is presently serving as Treasurer of the Governor's Mansion Foundation.
- Suzanne Turner** Associate Dean of the Louisiana State University's College of Design and Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture. She is a consultant for the preservation and interpretation of historic landscapes; among her projects are Shadows-on-the-Teche in New Iberia, the Hermann-Grima House in New Orleans, the Atlanta History Center, Bayou Bend Gardens in Houston, and Melrose Plantation in Natchez. She was the recipient of a summer fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, and is past-president of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

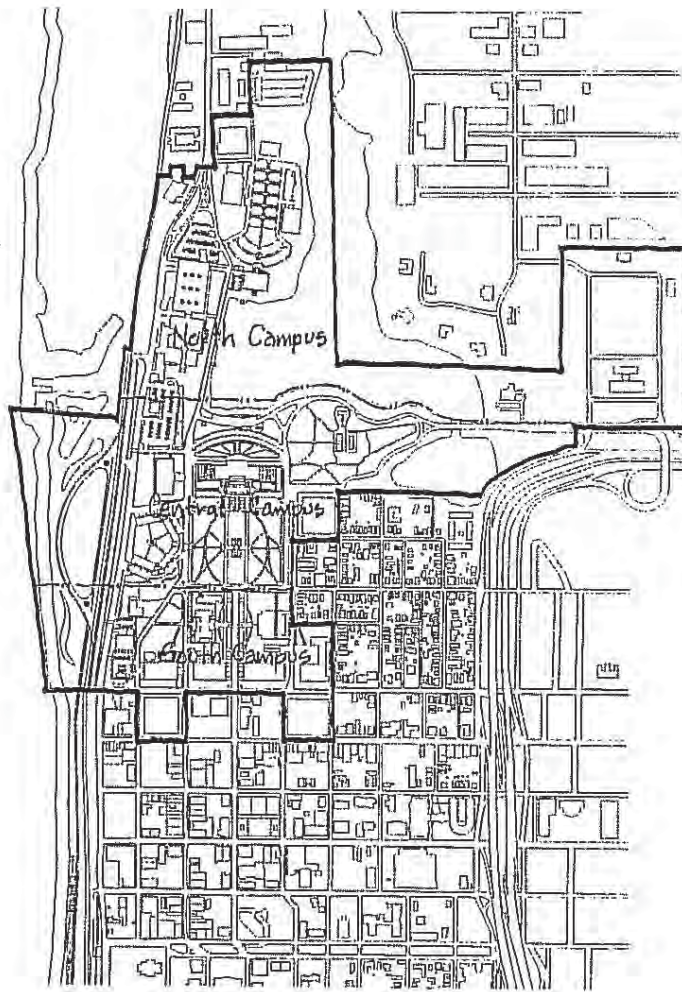


Guiding Principles



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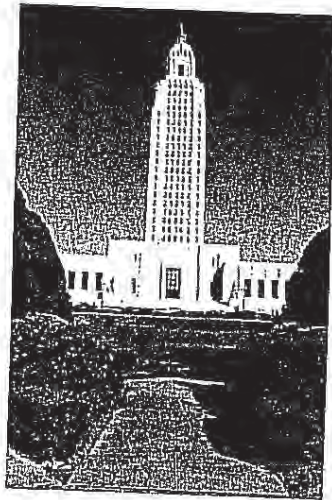
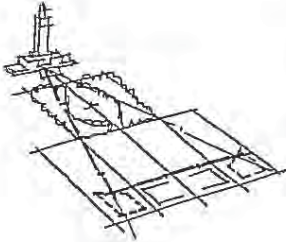
Capitol Park as Campus



Create a "sense of place" for State Government within the fabric of downtown Baton Rouge by applying techniques of established Campus Planning to the development of Capitol Park.



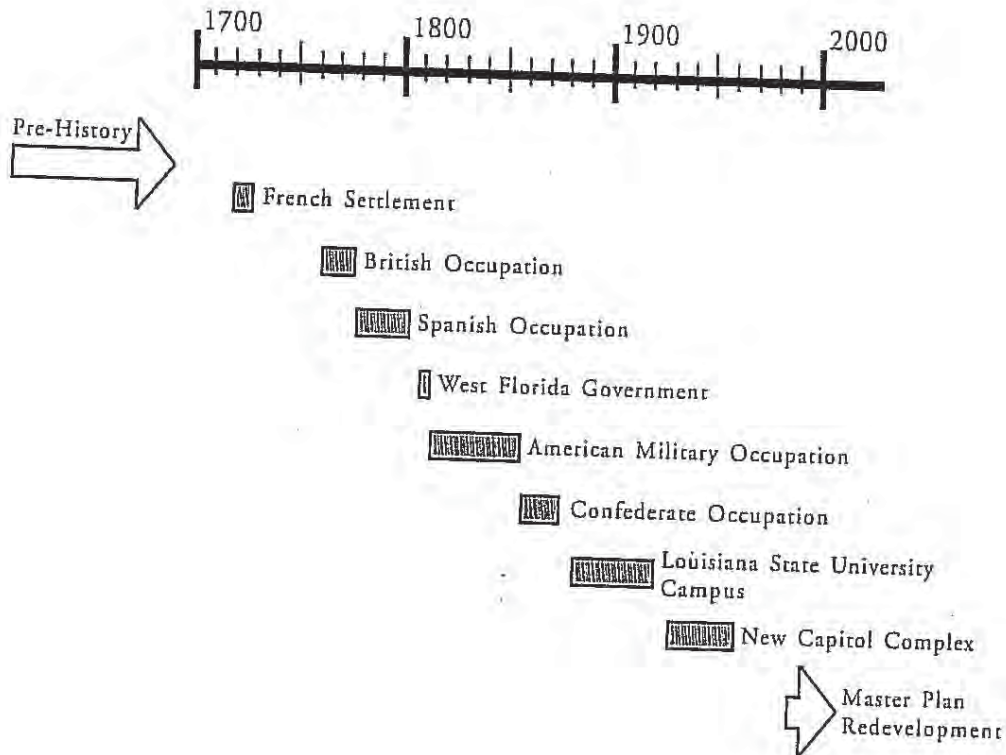
Capitol Tower as Icon



Use architectural language and sculptural ornamentation of the Capitol Tower as the major source of stylistic references for all new development within Capitol Park.



Site History



Create public awareness of key events which have shaped each of the Ten Developmental Chapters of the Site's History.



Site Timeline

Observation Currently, historical information about events occurring in and around Capitol Park are not uniformly subdivided into the major historical chapters. Historical and cultural information is unevenly interpreted.

Goal As Interpretive Storyline for various components of the Capitol Park educational material is developed, use a common historical timeline and key chapter subdivision as the organizing format.

- Recommendations**
- Center core interpretive material around events and conditions occurring on the specific timeline of the 225 acre Capitol Park site. Let interpretation focus on history of Capitol Park site verses history of State events.
 - Organize interpretive material for Capitol Park Site History Timeline into 10 distinct interpretive periods:

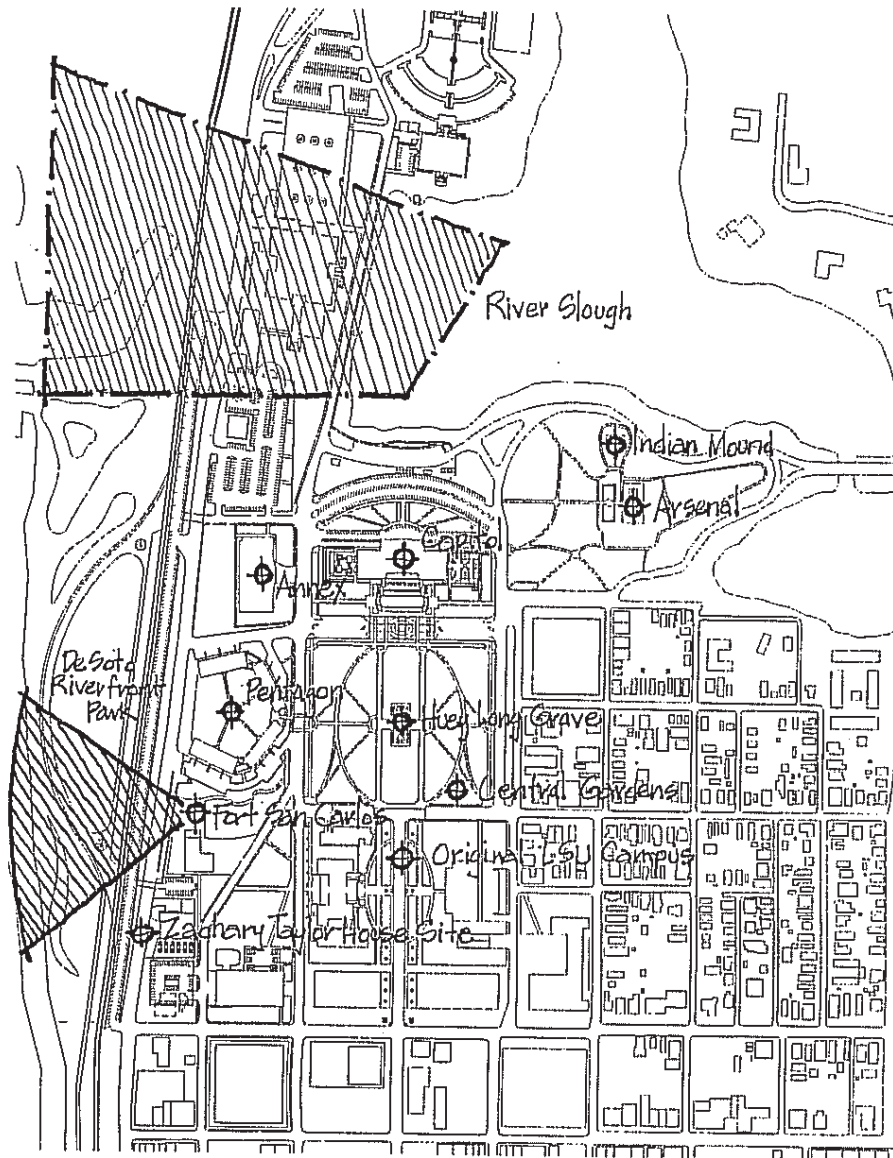
- PREHISTORY**
1000-1200 Coles Creek-Plaquemine mound constructed.
- FRENCH SETTLEMENT . OCCUPATION**
1719-1721 Earliest Baton Rouge settlement; probably near the State Capitol site.
1727 French Settlement is known to be abandoned by this date.
- BRITISH OCCUPATION**
1763 Florida Parishes, including Baton Rouge, ceded to British.
1779 British build earthenwork fort in the area south of where the Pentagon Barracks are now located.
- SPANISH OCCUPATION**
1779 Galvez assumes control of the fort in support of the U.S. and residents of Baton Rouge are required to pledge an oath to Spain
1779-1781 The British Fort, called Fort San Carlos by the Spanish, is repaired and rebuilt.
1805 Spanish Town (east of current State Capitol) planned and developed.
- WEST FLORIDA GOVERNMENT**
1810 Government takes command of the fort and finally makes an official occupation of the area.
- AMERICAN MILITARY OCCUPATION**
1816 Baton Rouge selected as a site for a major ordinance depot.
1819 Property purchased from Fergus Duplantier for \$13,500.
1819-1824 Pentagon Barracks constructed.
1838 Arsenal constructed (third of its kind at the garrison).
1848 Zachary Taylor elected to presidency while stationed at Pentagon Barracks and living in Commandant's house south of Pentagon at fort site.
1859 Zachary Taylor house demolished.
- CONFEDERATE OCCUPATION**
1861 Confederates take control of Garrison prior to Louisiana's secession.
1862 Battle of Baton Rouge; Union forces regain control of Garrison.
1865 Civil War ends.
1879 Army deactivates Baton Rouge post.
- LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**
1886 Louisiana State University assumes control of the Garrison Buildings, including the Pentagon Barracks and 1838 Arsenal, at the urging of William T. Sherman (first LSU President)
1886-1925 LSU constructs a number of university buildings and operates the "Ole War Skule"
1925 LSU moves to its present location.
- NEW STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX**
1931-1932 State Capitol building and gardens constructed.
1935 Long assassinated in New State Capitol and buried in Memorial Garden.
1937-1938 Capitol Annex constructed.
1963 New Governor's Mansion constructed during Governor Jimmie Davis' administration.
- MASTER PLAN REDEVELOPMENT**
1991-1998 Master Plan



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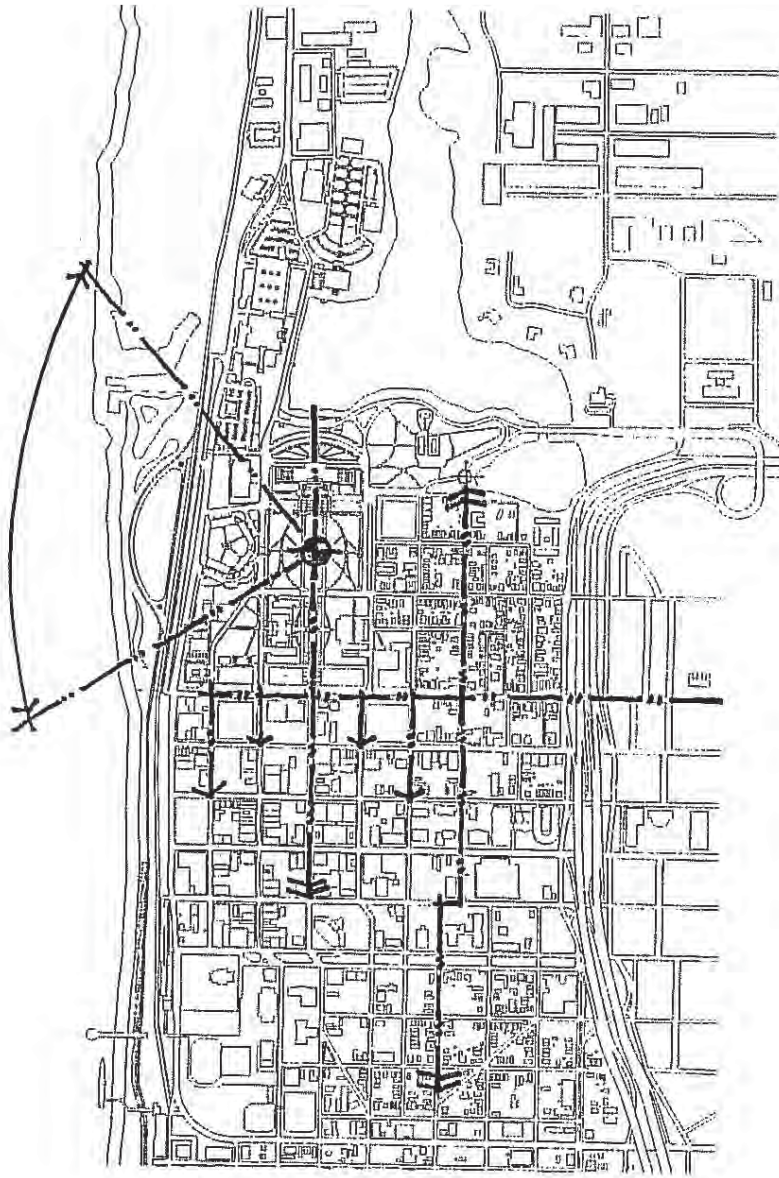
Site Treasures



Use the rich collection of existing historical artifacts and structures as keystones in the development of Capitol Park as a major State Heritage Site.



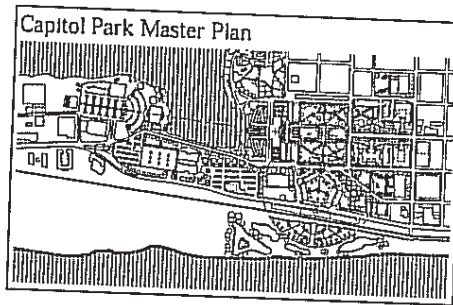
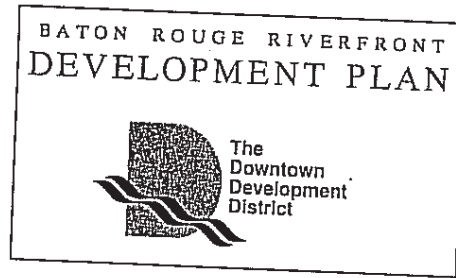
Connections



Anchor the Capitol Park Campus to both the urban fabric of Baton Rouge and the natural setting of the Mississippi River.



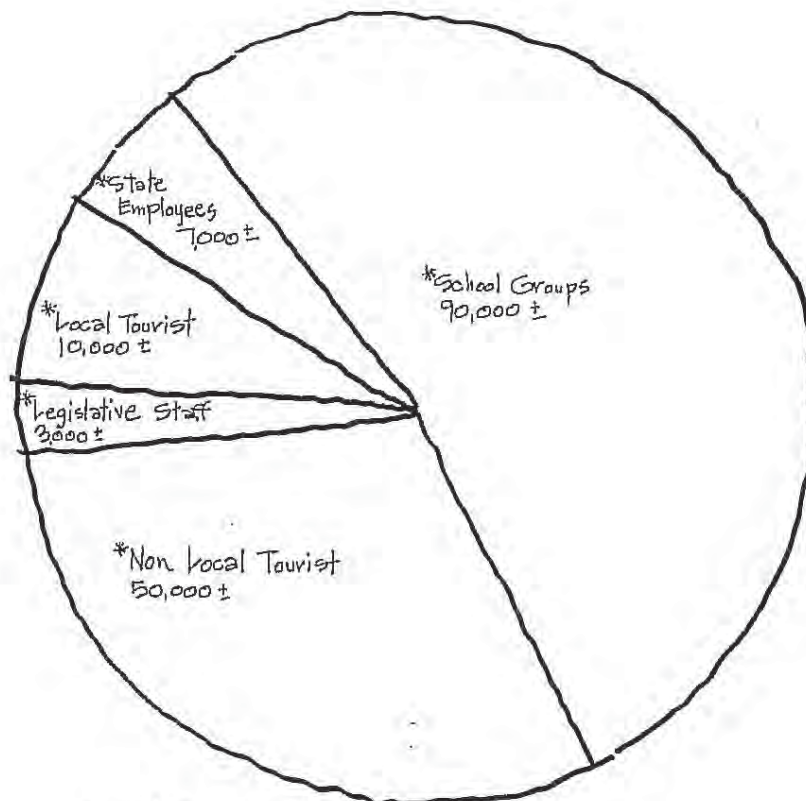
Compatibility with Pre-Existing Plans



Use key planning strategies described in three existing downtown master plans as foundation for the creation of a comprehensive interpretive plan.



Audience Profile



Annual Audience = 160,000 Visitors ±

*Numbers for this chart are based on a "best estimate" approximation, more specific documentation being developed.

Provide educational opportunities through interpretive storytelling for a rich diversity of user audience.



Interpretive Components



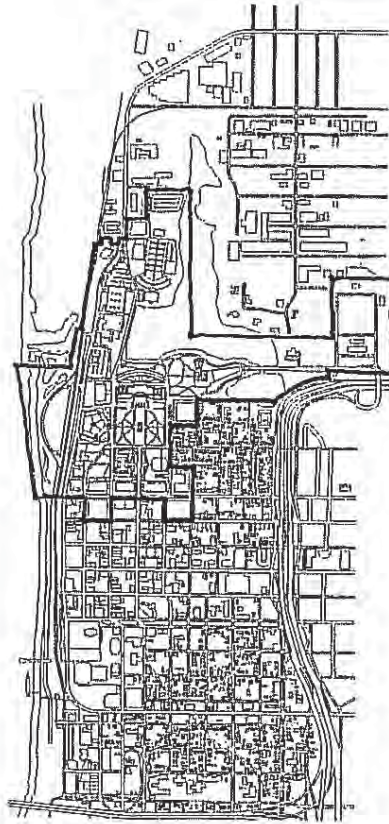
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Capitol Park Identity

Observation The Capitol Grounds are currently referred to as "The Capitol Complex". This designation lacks visitor appeal, and disregards the significant collection of historical artifacts located in a beautiful set of urban gardens.

Goal The marketing and image profile of the Capitol Grounds should be revised to elevate public awareness of Capitol Park as a major cultural and civic treasure for the State. It should also create an image of Capitol Park as a place where the excitement of contemporary State Government is showcased against a backdrop of comprehensive historical interpretation and cultural storytelling.

- Recommendations**
- Officially rename the Capitol complex as "CAPITOL PARK".
 - Notify all State Agencies, especially tourism related interests, of the name change and direct them to execute name change as soon as possible in all published and broadcasted material.
 - Staff key public contact locations within Capitol Park with professionally trained hospitality staff that can provide both basic visitor information and supplemental interpretive educational material.
 - Implement consistent uniform standards for all hospitality staff.
 - Implement trilingual language services at all visitor facilities and in all tourism publications. (English, French, Spanish)
 - Initiate an "Event Calendar" of annual public events that occur within Capitol Park. Such events should focus on the cultural and ethnic diversity of State. Coordinate and promote such events with Baton Rouge Downtown Development District (DDD) to maximize public awareness.
 - Initiate "Legislative Calendar" that lists times and locations of all public meetings and hearings associated with State Government. Such public access would strengthen the accessibility of State government for concerned citizens.
 - Develop Capitol Park Web Site to promote facilities and special events.

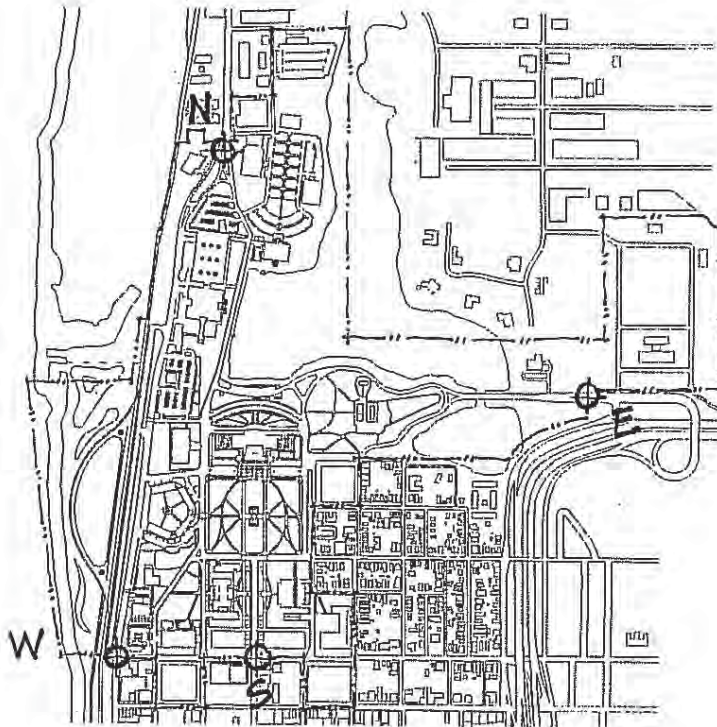


Boundary and Portals

Observation The core of the Capitol Grounds are clearly marked by the presence of the Capitol Tower and the Central Gardens. However, the perimeter of the Grounds merge vaguely with the general fabric of Downtown Baton Rouge. Key vehicular routes into the Capitol do not announce arrival onto the Grounds.

Goal To establish the physical presence of the Capitol campus by reinforcing landscape edges and constructing ornamental entrance portals at each of four major vehicular entrances.

- Recommendations**
- Adopt a Boundary Map outlining the major configuration of Capitol Park.
 - Begin thinking of Capitol Grounds as a "Campus", and seek ways to reinforce sense of place through unified design guidelines and property management techniques.
 - Use this Boundary Map as "Capitol Park Key Plan" whenever locating visitor services.
 - Develop Gateway Portals at 4 major vehicular entrances into Capitol Park:
 - North Gate @ River Road and new Data Center.
 - South Gate @ 4th Street and North Street
 - East Gate @ Capitol Access Road near Governor's Mansion
 - West Gate @ River Road and North Street
 - Use Capitol Tower Crown Lantern as design inspiration for each of the Gateway Portals. Using the four allegorical corner figures from the top of the Tower as thematic reference, script each portal individually:
 - North as Law Gate
 - South as Science Gate
 - East as Philosophy Gate
 - West as Art Gate
 - Develop major landscape treatments at each Gateway Portal.
 - Develop 60' ft. State building setback and landscape zone along north side of North Street from River Road to 6th Street. Plant Oak trees within setback to reinforce "edge of campus" meeting the fabric of Downtown Baton Rouge.
 - Celebrate 4th Streets ceremonial axis linking State Government with Municipal Government.
 - Extend axis of Spanish Town Road to the west as the major pedestrian crossing of River Road thereby physically linking Spanish Town neighborhood and Capitol Park with the Mississippi River.



CAPITOL PARK INTERPRETIVE PLAN

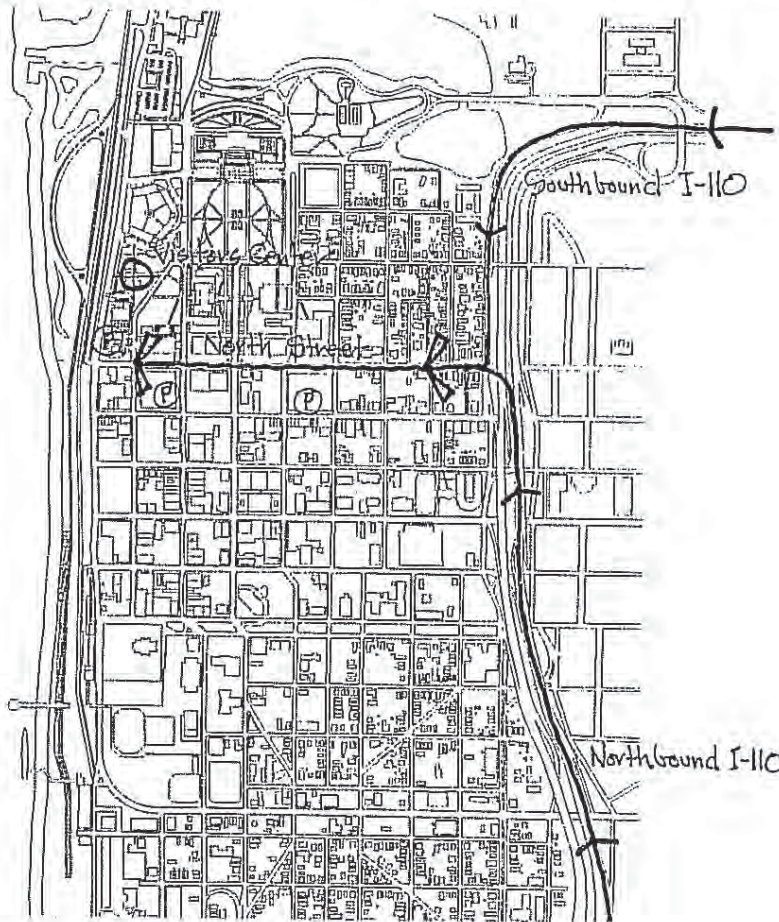
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Vehicular Arrival Sequence

Observation The majority of all visitors approach the Capitol complex from the Interstate highway system. Signage is poorly placed and lacks sufficient information to properly direct the first-time visitor to Capitol Park.

Goal As a motorist approaches the Capitol, roadway signage does not adequately communicate the primary visitor destinations. The interstate approach should be marked with trailblazing signage beginning at least 5 miles from Capitol and focusing all visitor wayfinding to the North Street approach to Capitol Park.

- Recommendations**
- Begin trailblazing signage at least 5 miles from Capitol Park.
 - Select North Street as primary vehicular access for visitors to Capitol Park.
 - Use street and roadway signage to direct visitors to new Capitol Park Visitors Center, located at River Road and Spanish Town Road.
 - At foot of North Street at River Road, construct Visitor Center Parking Lot on Northeast corner of intersection. This surface lot should be prioritized as primary parking facility for New Visitors Center. Once parked (in metered lot), visitor can walk 1 short block to visitor center along heavily landscaped and well lit sidewalk.
 - Alternate parking for Capitol Park visitors should be well marked with directional signage and located in the three New Parking Garages to be constructed adjacent to new State Office buildings.
 - Modify I-110 Northbound signage text to mark North Street, Exit 1D, as access to Capitol Park Visitor center.
 - Modify I-110 Southbound signage text to mark N. Ninth Street, Exit 1G, to North Street, as access to Capitol Park Visitors Center.

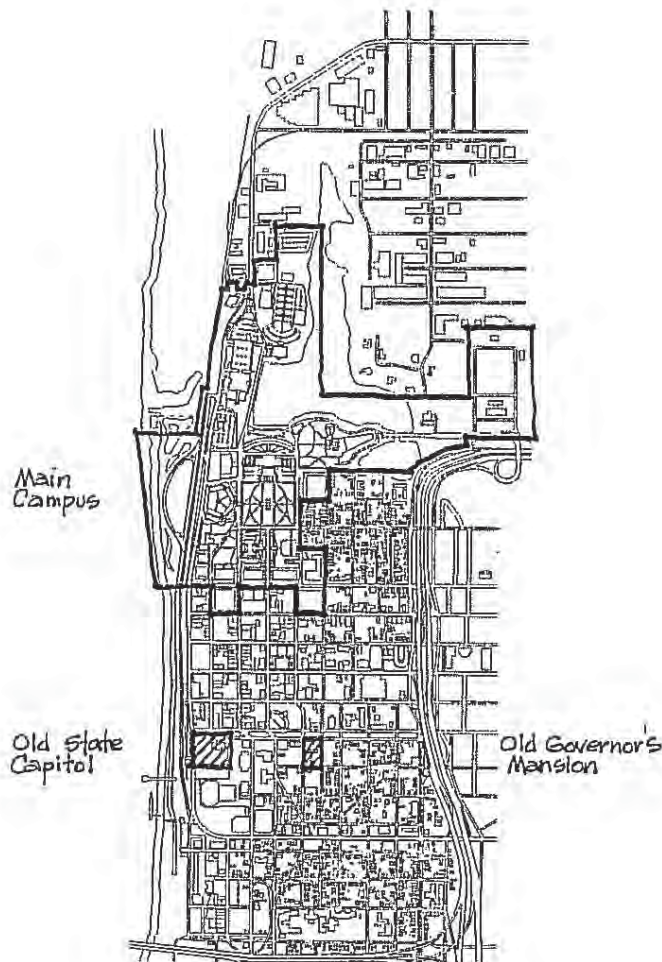


Off-Campus Linkages

Observation Two significant State cultural facilities, the Old State Capitol and the Old Governor's Mansion, are remotely located from the Capitol Park Main Campus. Neither have convenient access or linkage to that campus. These two facilities are excluded from the visitor experience for the majority of the Capitol Park audience.

Goal Strengthen the relationship of the Old State Capitol and the Old Governor's Mansion to the visitor experience of the Main Capitol Park Campus and provide vehicular access and interpretive linkages.

- Recommendations**
- Provide shuttle bus linkage at each of the two facilities to the Main Campus.
 - Coordinate landscape design guidelines from the Main Campus.
 - Integrate signage and graphic standards from Main Campus.
 - Implement consistent uniform standards for all hospitality staff similar to Main Campus.
 - Implement trilingual language services. (English, French, Spanish)



Focused Facilities

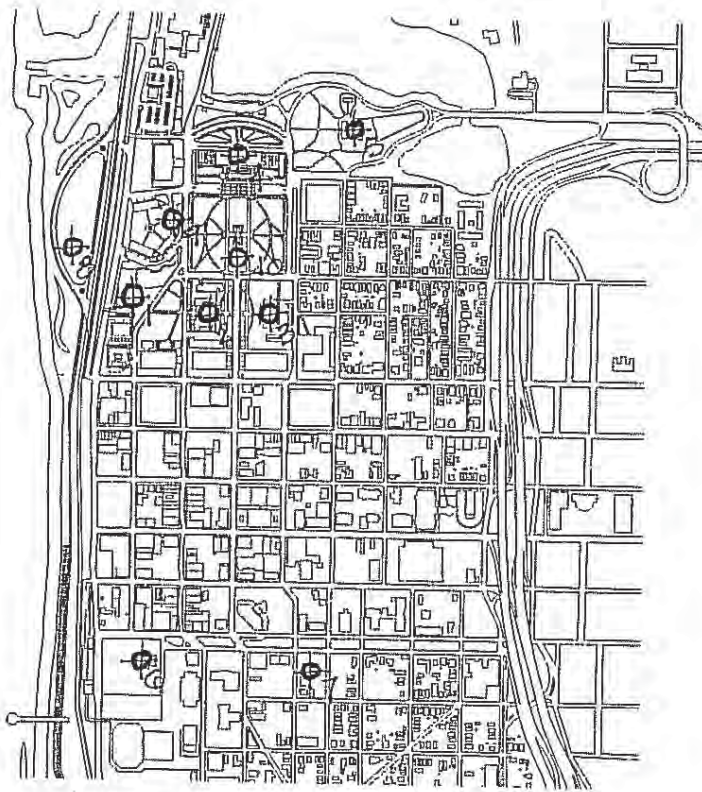
Observation Currently, existing and proposed facilities that house interpretive material lack governmental coordination regarding presentation of educational subject matter. Lack of master coordination with Interpretive Storyline results in both redundancy of material and/or gaps in the subject matter being presented.

Goal Tie all Capitol Park facilities into a consolidated Interpretive Storyline.

Recommendations

- Where possible, assign key focus areas of storyline to existing facilities, thereby reinforcing their current focus. For new facilities, assign missing focus areas for individual development.
- Assign key facilities with major subscripts of the Master Interpretive Storyline. The subscripts should become the major thematic focus of each of these facilities:

Facilities	Focus
1. Visitor Center (New)	General Visitor Orientation & Overview
2. State Library	Literary History
3. State History Museum (New)	Cultural History
4. Capitol	Civic History/Legislative Process
5. Arsenal	Military History
6. Old State Capitol	Political History
7. Old Governor's Mansion	Heritage Education
8. Riverfront Park (Proposed)	Environmental History
9. Pentagon Barracks	Architectural History
10. Central Gardens	Landscape Heritage

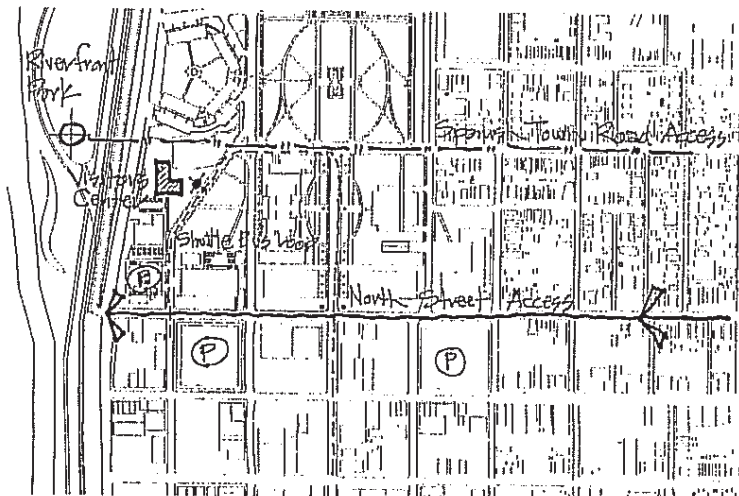


Visitor Orientation

Observation A first time visitor to Capitol Park is not adequately oriented to the educational resources and interpretive experiences of the 225 acre campus. Consequently, visitors oftentimes miss major components of the interpretive storyline.

Goal Develop a state-of-the-art Visitor Center that presents the visitor with a comprehensive overview of the interpretive material and educational resources available at Capitol Park. The Visitor Center also becomes a major state tourism hospitality station offering information and assistance with accommodations at sites and facilities throughout both the Baton Rouge community and the State.

- Recommendations**
- Construct a new, state-of-the-art Visitor's Center.
 - Locate the new Visitor Center near the site of the original founding settlement, Fort San Carlos. This site is south of the Pentagon Barracks between River Road and Lafayette Street and at the terminating axis of Old Spanish Town Road.
 - The Visitor Center program should include the following components within approximately 10,000 S.F. of enclosed building area:
 - Arrival Courtyard (Zachary Taylor Memorial)
 - Orientation/Information Hall
 - Permanent Exhibit Gallery
 - Temporary Exhibit Gallery
 - Reference Library
 - Orientation Theater (60 seats - 10-12 minute orientation film)
 - Gift Shop
 - Administrative Offices
 - Public Restrooms
 - Space for After-hours Parties/Receptions
 - Exterior Courtyard for Special Events (Fort Baton Rouge Memorial)
 - Catering Support Kitchen (for Special Events support)
 - Offsite Bus Storage for Tour Buses
 - Visitor Center is the starting and finishing point for the visitor's self-guided walking tour of Capitol Park.
 - Visitor Center is the primary boarding location for the Downtown Shuttle Bus Loop.
 - Provide pedestrian access across River Road to Riverfront Park with extension of Old Spanish Town Road.
 - Provide catering support so that Visitor Center can be used to support civic and legislative Special Events.
 - Execute the new Visitor Center in a contemporary architectural language befitting its mission as a "cultural orientation" facility. Do not execute design in the Art Deco language of the State Capitol - this language is reserved for governmental facilities. Do not execute design in replicated historical language - this false history blurs the distinction between authentic historical structures and new construction.

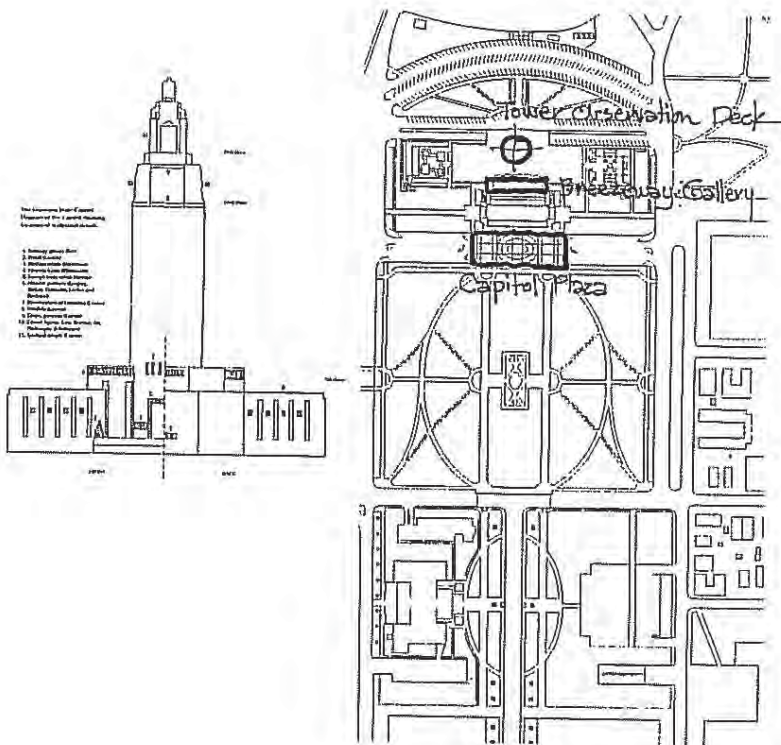


New State Capitol

Observation The new State Capitol is a historical and architectural landmark of national distinction. Recent renovations have restored Memorial Hall and the House and Senate Chambers to their original beauty. Exterior lighting has turned the Capitol Tower into a beautiful icon on the nighttime skyline of Baton Rouge. Such thoughtful restoration of the Capitol will certainly increase its attraction as a cultural tourism site. Existing visitor services within the Capitol are ill suited to efficiently handle increased tourism activity.

Goal Integrate effective and efficient tourism management systems and facilities into the Capitol so that the interpretive opportunities for the visitor are maximized without interrupting the ongoing legislative activities.

- Recommendations**
- Modify the tourist information counter in Memorial Hall to function as an Interpretation Education Station. Major tourism brochure racks should be relocated to new Visitor Center.
 - Provide interpretive panels discreetly around the Capitol describing the historic and symbolic content of the Capitol's building's decoration and ornamentation.
 - Refurbish the cab of the visitor elevator with interpretive images of historical events in the Capitol.
 - Convert the Tower Observation Gallery to a interpretive gallery of the changing Baton Rouge skyline throughout time. On the outside Observation Deck provide orientation panels and telescopes at each of the 4 sides. Relocate Foundation for Historical Louisiana shop to ground floor Breezeway.
 - At Breezeway Gallery, replace Folklife and Folk Arts exhibit with exhibit focused on the Capitol Building itself, the original construction and ongoing restoration efforts.
 - At Breezeway Gallery, redesign concession stand to serve both sundry sales and Capitol souvenir purchases.
 - Modify parking lot in front of Capitol so that full width of Capitol steps extends across and into Central Gardens. This new Capitol Plaza should be provided with utility services so that it can be tented and used for special event functions.
 - No construction in the Central Capitol Campus should be allowed to exceed the 5th floor setback of Capitol Tower.
 - No construction in the North and South Capitol Campus should be allowed to exceed the 22nd floor setback of Capitol Tower.

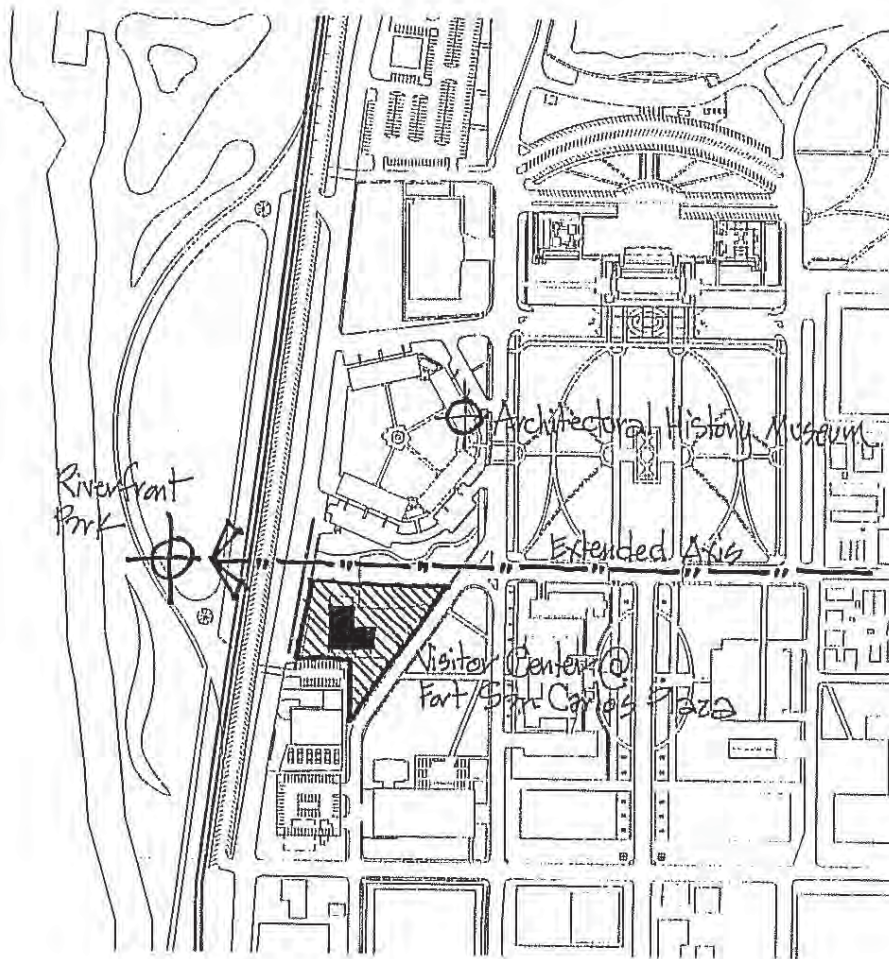


Pentagon Barracks

Observation Pentagon Barracks is a major architectural and historical landmark of national distinction. It has been recently restored and converted to offices, legislative residences and a small interpretive museum. The exterior spaces in and around the complex receive significant special event usage during the annual legislative session.

Goal Showcase Pentagon Barracks as a major architectural landmark and an example of adaptive restoration for contemporary use.

- Recommendations**
- Modify the interpretive content of the Pentagon Museum. The current exhibits tell the history of the Capitol Complex/Park site down through the years beginning with the Indian Mounds through the building of the skyscraper capitol. These exhibits should be expanded to include the architectural history of all the key buildings of Capitol Park.
 - At River Road face of Pentagon Courtyard, provide interpretive overlook describing relationship of Garrison Construction to its strategic fortification location along the Mississippi River.
 - Construct Fort San Carlos Plaza on the side of the Complex between the new Visitor Center. This new plaza should be supplied with appropriate utility services and be capable of being rented for special events. This location corresponds to the historical location of Fort Baton Rouge, a British Army fortification constructed in 1779.

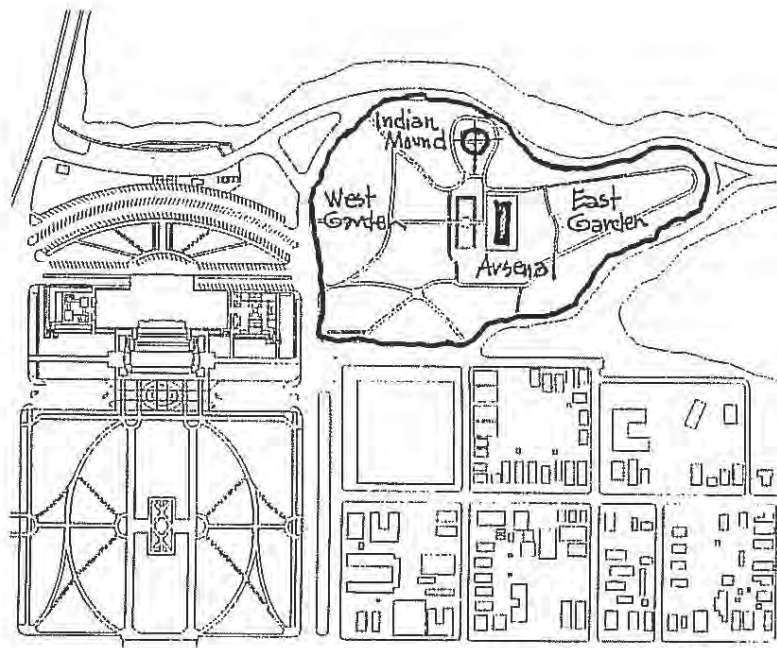


Arsenal Museum

Observation The Old Arsenal Museum built in 1838 is located between the site of the old Baton Rouge Post cemetery and an Indian mound. The museum was opened to visitors in 1962 with the theme "Louisiana Under Ten Flags". It continues today to present a modest exhibition designed primarily for children that focuses on the building's origins as a Powder Magazine and it's changing use over the years.

Goal Increase public visitation to this architectural landmark and cultural resource by editing the collection and refocusing the exhibits on the military history of Louisiana.

- Recommendations**
- Reposition and distinguish the Museum within the larger collection of Capitol Park Museum by focusing its mission on the military history of Louisiana.
 - Rename the museum: Old Arsenal Military Museum.
 - Upgrade the exhibit presentation of the existing collection.
 - Add new exhibits on Louisiana Military History.
 - Increase promotion of Museum in Statewide Louisiana material.
 - Develop oral and video archive of military experiences of Louisiana citizens. Provide selected access to this archive to visitors.

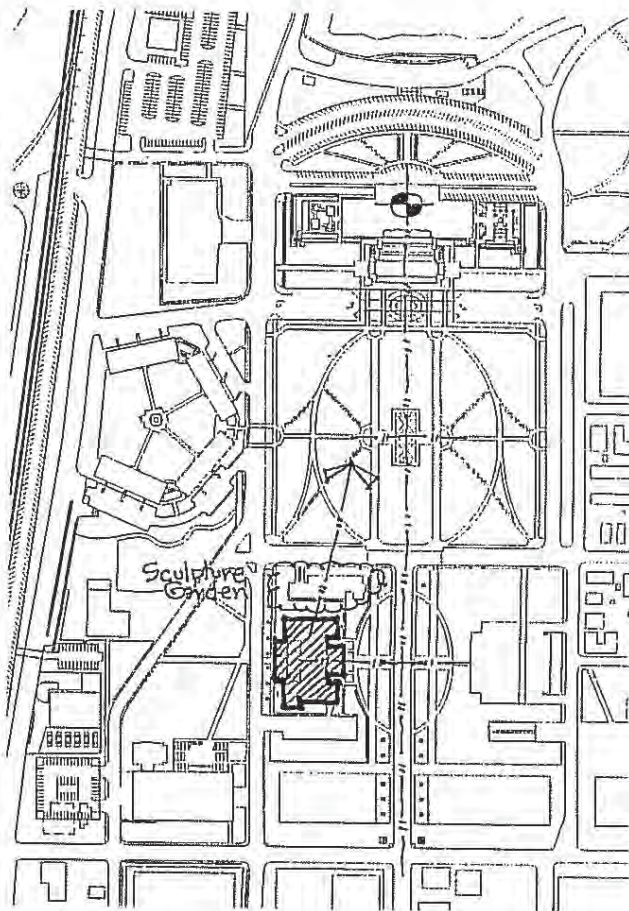


State Library

Observation The State Library has recently completed a major expansion and renovation. The Library houses the major State collection of reference material. The Library offers small topical exhibits located throughout the public areas. However, such exhibits are quite modest in scope and serve a limited audience, primarily scholars and researchers using the collection. Currently, there is limited public visitation to the library by the average tourist visiting the Capitol.

Goal Increase public visitation to the State Library by focusing the opportunities for exhibitry in public spaces on the Literary History of Louisiana.

- Recommendations**
- Reposition and distinguish the Library within the larger collection of Capitol Park museums by focusing its mission on the Literary History of Louisiana.
 - Develop an "Louisiana Educator's Hall of Fame" to celebrate the careers of significant teachers and administrators.
 - Develop an "Louisiana Writer's Hall of Fame" to celebrate the contributions and works of significant writers.
 - Develop permanent exhibit on the Literary history of Louisiana.
 - Develop program of changing exhibits focusing on significant historical and contemporary events that shaped the history of education in Louisiana.
 - Develop a permanent exhibit on the founding and original siting of Louisiana State University on the Capitol Park grounds.

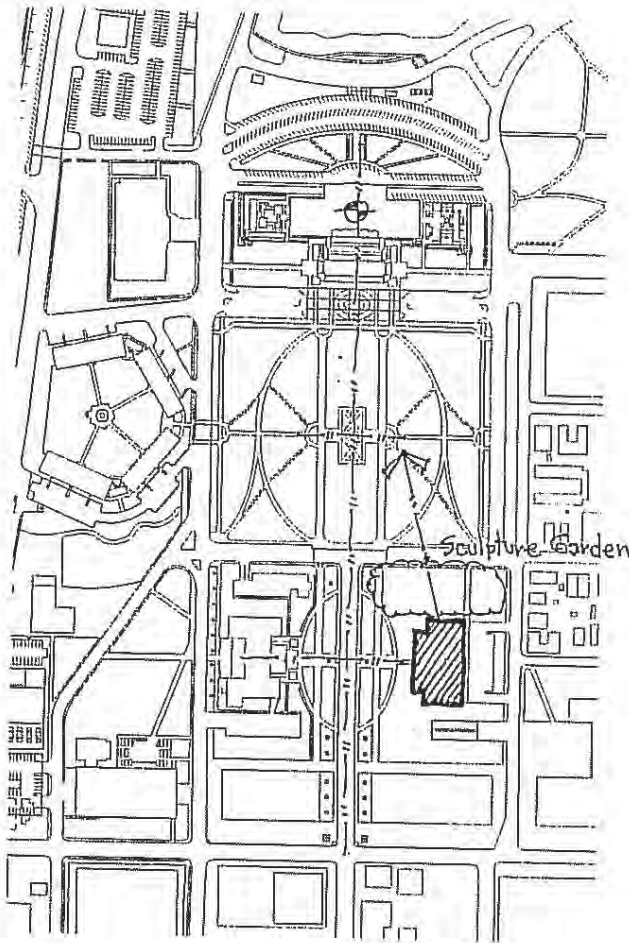


State History Museum (New)

Observation The flagship History Museum of Louisiana is located in a collection of historic structures in New Orleans. The Museum needs to expand its facilities and is in need of additional space. Presently, Louisiana is one of only six remaining states that does not have a State History Museum at the Capitol.

Goal Significantly augment the Cultural History component of the Interpretive Plan of Capitol Park with the construction of a new museum facility.

- Recommendations**
- Reserve the site directly across from the State Library at 4th Street and Spanish Town Road for a State History Museum.
 - With the site plan organization, complete the elliptical entrance plaza configuration that has been established by the State Library across 4th Street.
 - Establish the vertical height of the new museum to correspond to the height of the existing State Library.
 - Execute the new History Museum in a contemporary architectural language befitting its mission as a significant "cultural" facility. Do not execute design in the Art Deco language of the State Capitol - this language is reserved for governmental facilities.
 - Provide easily accessible public amenities (toilets, telephone, general information) near the public lobbies so as to serve general visitors to the Capitol Gardens.
 - Provide food service facilities within new museum on an upper level deck overlooking the Central Capitol Gardens, thereby providing a visitor overlook opportunity to Central Gardens and Capitol Tower.

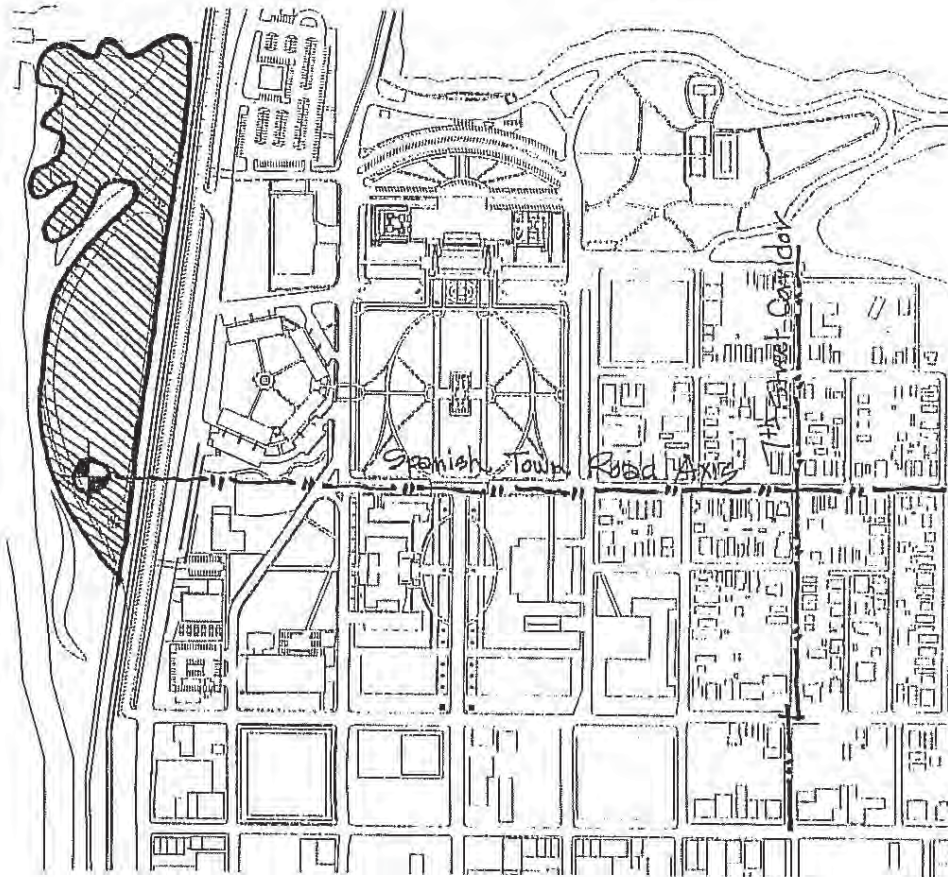


Riverfront Park

Observation The contested ownership of the Riverfront land adjacent to Capitol Park is being cleared. The State will acquire clear title to this 20 acre parcel of batture land. Consideration is being given to the creation of a new public park.

Goal Create a public park that augments the Interpretive Plan of Capitol Park by focusing on the environmental history of this Riverfront site.

- Recommendations**
- Celebrate the majesty and might of the Mississippi River by developing a publicly accessible park that responds to the seasonal fluctuation of water level.
 - Name the new riverfront park "DeSoto Riverfront Park" in honor and recognition of the Spanish explorer who discovered the Mississippi River.
 - Provide major public access to new Park with development of pedestrian grade crossing at river Road and extension of axis of Spanish Town Road.
 - Develop interpretive kiosk as termination of Spanish Town Road axis. Within kiosk, present interpretive material describing the environmental issues present at this prominent Riverfront site. Also, interpret the historical facts of the site relative to the original landing party that established the Baton Rouge settlement.
 - Along the riverside edge, develop as an ecological park demonstrating the native ecology of the Mississippi floodway.
 - Along the landside edge of the park, generally parallel to the railroad corridor, develop an overlook plaza protected from rising water by new bulkhead construction. On the new overlook, interpret the historical transportation and commerce issues of this great River.
 - Provide public parking lot along railroad corridor.



Capitol Park Walking Tour

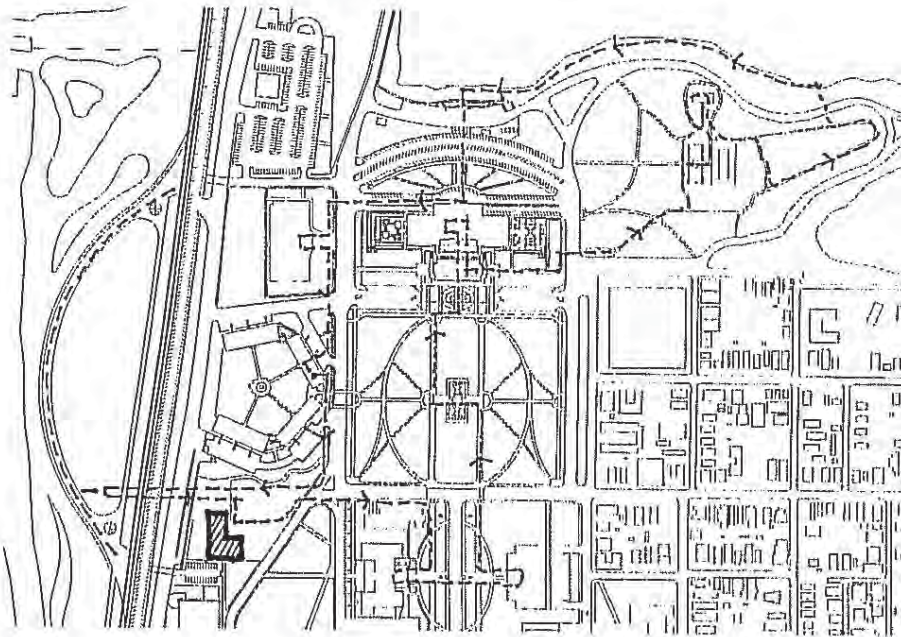
Observation Currently, the directional pathway for a visitor to Capitol Park wishing to experience a self-guided tour of the Capitol facilities and grounds is poorly organized and for the most part, non-existent. Visitors are oftentimes unaware of the variety of points-of-interest because of poor identification and limited directional signage.

Goal Develop a clearly marked self-guided walking tour of the Capitol grounds that presents the interpretive storyline of Capitol Park in an educational and informative sequence.

Recommendation

- Begin a 20 station walking tour of Capitol Park with a 10-12 minute historical orientation film at the Visitor Center. Develop appropriate interpretive exhibits and/or information at each of the tour stations
- Provide golf cart type shuttle for special access requirements (disabled, seniors, VIP's, etc.)

- Station 1** Visitor Center
- 2 Fort San Carlos Plaza
 - 3 Central Gardens
 - 4 State Library
 - 5 History Museum
 - 6 Huey Long Memorial
 - 7 Capitol Steps
 - 8 Capitol Memorial Hall
 - 9 House & Senate Chambers
 - 10 Capitol Tower Observation Deck
 - 11 Capitol Breezeway Gallery
 - 12 Old Arsenal Military Museum
 - 13 Indian Mound
 - 14 Arsenal Gardens
 - 15 Capitol Lakes
 - 16 Capitol Slew
 - 17 Capitol Annex
 - 18 Pentagon Barracks
 - 19 Riverfront Park
 - 20 Downtown Shuttle Bus Loop

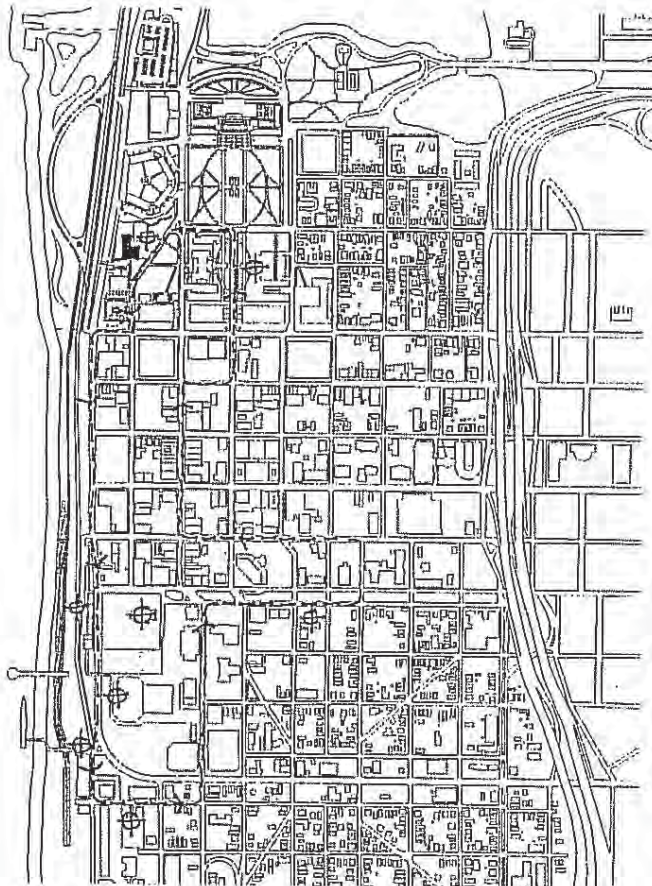


Downtown Shuttle Bus Loop

Observation Very little pedestrian activity occurs between facilities on the Capitol Grounds and Downtown Baton Rouge. Such a walk is physically uncomfortable for many because of humid climate and distance.

Goal In order to provide access to Old State Capitol, Old Governor's Mansion, and Downtown goods and services for the employees, visitors, and tourists of Capitol Park, a shuttle bus loop will be operated to provide a convenient alternative to private vehicular use.

- Recommendations**
- A shuttle bus loop should be operated throughout the Downtown, in order to provide convenient access to Spanish Town, Beauregard Town and the institutional and commercial core of Downtown.
 - Service should be offered at frequent dependable intervals using small energy efficient, nonpolluting, climate controlled vehicles.
 - Visitor attractions include the following:
 1. Old State Capitol
 2. Louisiana Arts and Science Center
 3. Planetarium
 4. Naval Museum
 5. Centroplex
 6. Catfish Town Neighborhood
 7. Beauregard Town Neighborhood
 8. Old Governor's Mansion
 9. Downtown Baton Rouge Business District
 10. Spanish Town Neighborhood



CAPITOL PARK INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Eskew* Interpretive Planners
Post Architects Master Planners

Architectural Guidelines

Observation The architectural quality of building within Capitol Park varies greatly with regard to stylistic expression and quality of construction. There are no unifying design guidelines in place that would promote visual harmony and interpretive consistency.

Goal To establish mandatory Architectural Design Guidelines for all development within Capitol Park. A goal of the Capitol Masterplan is to support the Capitol Park as the functional seat of government and the symbolic heart of the State of Louisiana. The incorporation of the Art Deco style of architecture in sympathy with the existing historic structures will help to create a unified governmental campus. With appropriate historical precedent and an eye to the future, each new building can be designed as an important piece of a dynamic and culturally significant whole.

Recommendations

- Recognize the existing context.

The Louisiana State Capitol is a building of immense historical and cultural importance, not only as the symbolic heart of the State, but as a significant landmark in the development of our country's architectural heritage. It is one of only two state capitols that incorporate the monumentality of the skyscraper, breaking the mold of the "wing and dome" architecture, modeled on the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. It also deviates from its neoclassical predecessors by incorporating modern influences and allegorical works of art into a style popularly referred to as Art Deco.

- Interpret the Art Deco Language.

The architectural movement known as Art Deco includes a rich variety of building features and types: vertical and horizontal, public and private, monumental and vernacular. It is "an architecture of ornament, geometry, energy, retrospection, optimism, color, texture, light and at times even symbolism..." (Patricia Bayer, "Art Deco Architecture", NY 1992, p.8). An Art Deco building can be of many characters; massive, delicate, exotic, streamlined, colorful or monochromatic. In general, the movement attempts to update the Beaux Arts traditions of its predecessors by combining conventional elements of classicism with modernist imagery and ideals. It is an architecture of transition between these two movements, occupying a unique segment of space and time.

- Use Capitol Tower as Source of Standards and References.

The Louisiana State Capitol is essentially a neo-classically organized building rooted in history and precedent, combined with a modernist skyscraper looking forward to a prosperous future. It tells the story of a state's past, present and future through this combination of elements and through the application of storytelling elements - the stylized ornamentation that adorns its essentially simple masses and volumes. The building serves as a public monument that documents and embodies the shared history, concerns, and successes of the State.

- Incorporate "Architecture of Literature".

The architecture of the Capitol tells a number of stories ranging from scenes of Louisiana history and life, to spiritual imagery representing a higher plane of concerns. The basic message however is one of prosperity and progress, with a sprinkling of propaganda. Whether or not the message is immediately evident, it is clear that the ornamental beauty is a cherished public treasure.

- Follow the Existing Master Plan.

It is in this regard that the Capitol Masterplan attempts to protect and enhance this symbol of our state, while concurrently providing for its continued viability as the center of a working government. Controlled growth and the housing of government functions around the Capitol are one aspect of this masterplan. Another aspect is the preservation and enhancement of the Capitol and its environs as a significant public place. The Master Plan is an attempt to create a campus of buildings that take their design direction from the state Capitol.



Architectural Guidelines

- Establish Goals for Design.

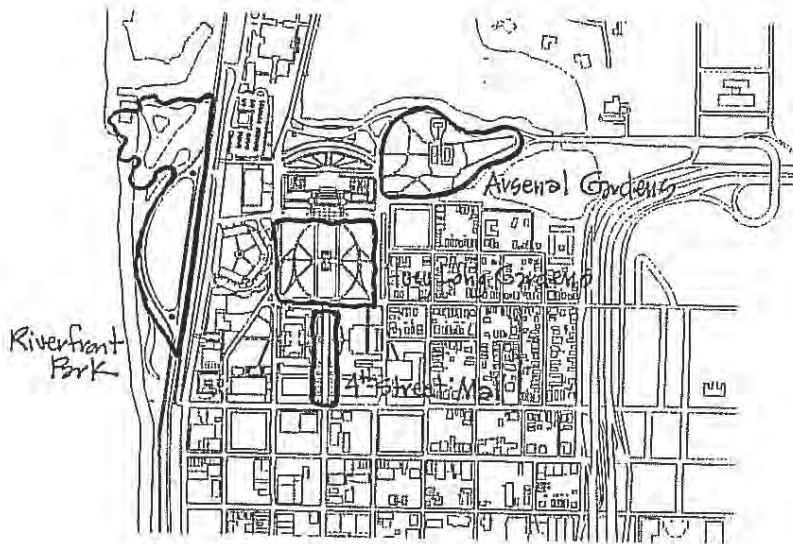
First and Foremost, the new government buildings must be compatible and sympathetic to the existing architectural and historical context as established in the Master Plan. It is clear from observation that many of the newer buildings in the Capitol Complex are not, diminishing the potential strength and cohesion of the campus. Finding the proper architectural response for the new buildings will be a major challenge for designers. Elements of design that must be considered include:

- Massing - The building should relate in mass to the base of the Capitol and to the Capitol Annex, allowing the Capitol Tower to dominate and center the composition. Building volumes should interlock and step back in harmony with these two buildings, creating human scale and meaningful exterior spaces.
- Fenestration - Windows and doors should read as punched openings in flat wall planes or recessed vertical shafts. Scale of the openings should relate in a meaningful way to the spaces behind them, larger in public spaces or common gathering areas, smaller in private office spaces.
- Ornamentation - The building should incorporate a system of public art and ornamentation that speaks to a shared history and set of concerns. A master script for content of building ornamentation should be developed as part of the detailed Interpretive Plan for Capitol Park.
- Materials - The exterior skin should relate in color and texture to the Indiana Limestone cladding of the Capitol and Capitol Annex. A mixture of stone and precast concrete may be utilized to meet budgetary constraints. Some limited areas of metal cladding may also be successfully incorporated, as was typically done in numerous Art Deco structures.
- Public Spaces - The building should create significant public gathering space in the form of ground floor lobbies and landscaped gardens and plazas. Exterior gardens should be designed as visual and physical extensions of the existing Capitol grounds, and used to make pedestrian connections to other areas of the campus.



Landscape Guidelines

- Observation** The grounds within Capitol Park have a rich collection of landscape plant material. Some of the Garden areas are historically significant. At present time, the care and management program of the Capitol Gardens does not follow established preservation guidelines for the maintenance of historic landscapes.
- Goal** To establish mandatory design and management guidelines for all landscape components of Capitol Park while following established preservation standards for historically significant gardens.
- Recommendations**
- Protect the existing cultural and historic landscapes of Capitol Park by developing guidelines for planning, treatment and management issues.
 - Prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR).
This report documents the history, significance and treatment of cultural landscape. The CLR evaluates the history and integrity of the landscape including any changes to its geographical context, features, materials, and use.
- The CLR will protect the landscape's character-defining features from undue wear, alteration or loss and provide baseline information needed to make management decisions.
- The CLR will often yield new information about a landscape's historic significance and integrity, even for those gardens already listed on the National Register. Where appropriate, National Register files should be amended to reflect the new findings.
- Prepare a Historical Plant inventory.
 - Provide plant identification tags throughout Capitol Park and develop plant inventory as a educational resource.
 - Embellish the shoreline of Capitol Lake with appropriate landscape treatments to support aquatic wildlife habitat.
 - In conjunction with husbandry staff of Baton Rouge Zoo, develop Capitol Park as urban bird sanctuary, showcasing native species of Louisiana.
 - Reinforce the Louisiana spirit of the Capitol Park Gardens by limiting all new landscape installations to use plant material indigenous to Louisiana habitats as defined and advocated by Baton Rouge Green.

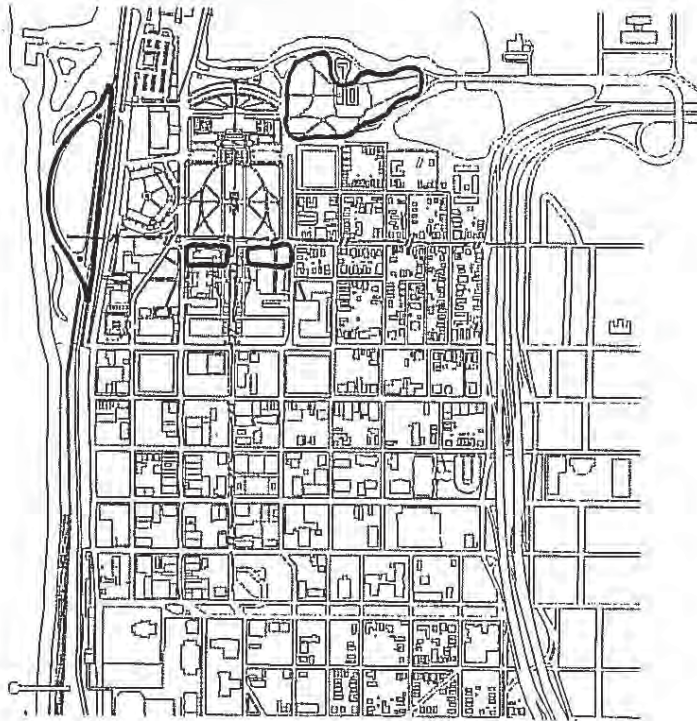


Public Art Program

Observation Louisiana's Capitol Tower stands as a treasured example of the end of the Beaux Arts architecture tradition in America. It contains an extraordinary collection of public artwork - friezes, relief sculpture, bronzework, architectural ornamentation. Unfortunately, subsequent buildings and gardens following the Capitol and Capitol Annex shield away from incorporation of public art and ornamentation. Consequently, very little public art of quality or consequence has been added to the Capitol Park in the years since.

Goal Institute a program of "Public Art for Public Places" throughout Capitol Park.

- Recommendations**
- Establish an acquisition and installation program for Public Art in both interior and exterior public places.
 - Establish a 1% construction budget set-aside for Public Art in all major State construction projects in Capitol Park. Use Federal "Percentage for Art" Program guidelines as role model.
 - Establish an Public Art Oversight Committee to manage the governmental policy aspects of a professionally qualified Selection Committee.
 - Commission and/or acquire artwork from Louisiana Artists, as defined as being either native born in Louisiana or having primary artistic studio in Louisiana.
 - Develop Gardens around Arsenal Museum as official State Sculpture Garden. Beginning with the Native American earthwork of the Indian Mound, install a collection of artifacts and/or artwork that represent each of the 10 Chapters of the Site Timeline.
 - In West Arsenal Park, focus on historical item, from pre-history to 1900.
 - In East Arsenal Park, focus on contemporary items from 1900 to present.
 - When Capitol Park building is named after historical figure or event (see Naming Strategy - Interpretive Component #20), develop ornamental and/or artistic presentation in public lobby to reinforce name selection.
 - Develop Contemporary Sculpture Garden at Riverfront Park Overlook
 - Develop flanking Sculpture Gardens at 4th Street axis.

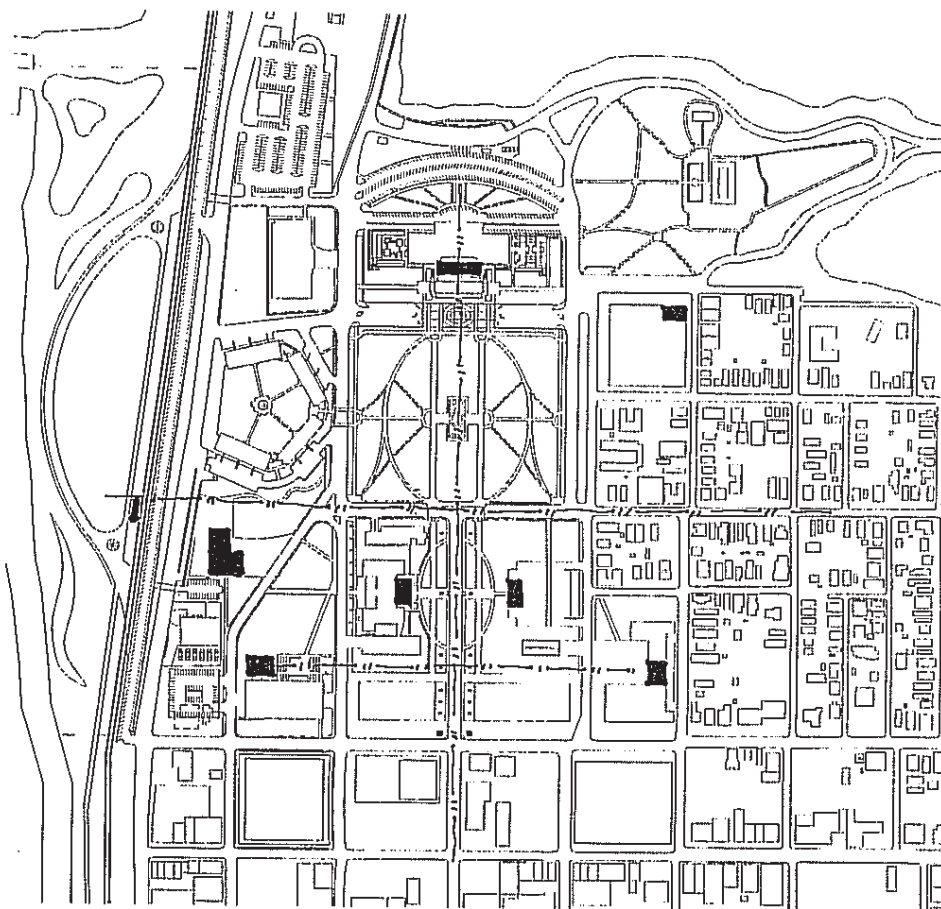


Visitor Amenities Plan

Observation Visitors and tourists do not have convenient access to basic comfort services in all areas of Capitol Park. Such service includes toilets, food service, information, telephones, trash receptacles, seating, drinking fountains.

Goal Provide and maintain exceptional standards of basic visitor comfort services throughout Capitol Park.

- Recommendations**
- Establish a Visitor Amenities Distribution Plan that provides convenient access in all areas of Capitol Park.
 - Provide safe, well-marked pedestrian crossings at all intersections.
 - Upgrade transit stops for bus service, both municipal routes and the proposed shuttle bus loop.
 - Promote implementation within Capitol Park of "Statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Plan".
 - Provide uniform signage system throughout Park to clearly marked places and features.
 - Screen perimeters of all surface parking lots with walls and/or landscaping.



Special Events Plan

Observation There are few sites in Capitol Park equipped with basic utility infrastructure to accommodate exterior public Special Events.

Goal To efficiently accommodate Special Events by providing a versatile collection of exterior public spaces that contain basic utility infrastructure (power, water, access).

- Recommendations**
- Designate specific areas within Capitol Park where Special Events may be staged.
 - Install appropriate utility infrastructure in designated areas to support Special Events Programming.
 - Develop Public Use Policy and Management Structure for Special Event Areas.
 - Promote special events during legislative session that showcase the cultural and ethnic diversity of the State.
 - Coordinate special event scheduling and promotions with Baton Rouge Downtown Development District (DDD) in order to maximize audience participation.
 - Designate following areas as official Special Event sites:
 - A. Capitol Plaza (@ Capitol Front Steps)
 - B. Fort San Carlos Plaza (@ Pentagon Barracks and New Visitor Center)
 - C. East Arsenal Park
 - D. New Riverfront Park

