

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This volume presents the results of a study to evaluate the National Register eligibility of the New Orleans drainage system, with special focus on five stations and their components (buildings, pumps, canals, etc.) which will be impacted by planned projects by the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers (NOD). The Southeast Louisiana Flood Control Project will involve additions to Pumping Station No. 1 which will have a visual and architectural effect on the structure, although the existing pumps and machinery will not be altered. In addition, the canals and underground drainage features will be affected as a result of this work. New Orleans Drainage Pumping Stations Nos. 3, 4, 6, and 7 will have fronting protection constructed on the outfall canal side of the stations to provide protection from hurricane storm surges as part of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project. While the existing pumps and buildings will not be altered, the project will have a visual effect on the structures as well as an effect on the discharge tubes of the station pumps.

The primary purpose of the this study was to: (1) develop a comprehensive historic context for the evaluation of the New Orleans drainage system; (2) evaluate the above-mentioned structures in terms of National Register criteria within the framework of this context; (3) assess the nature and extent of the proposed project impacts, both in terms of architectural/engineering integrity and visual effects; and (4) provide recommendations for mitigation of adverse effects to significant architectural and engineering elements. A secondary objective was the evaluation of the New Orleans drainage system as a whole in terms of National Register criteria.

Chapter 2 presents an overview of the development of drainage in American and European cities, while Chapter 3 discusses the history of drainage in New Orleans to 1893. Chapter 4 provides the history of the New Orleans Drainage system since 1893. Included in this chapter are histories of Drainage Pumping Stations 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Biographies of important individuals associated with drainage and sewerage in New Orleans are presented in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 discusses the National Register eligibility of Stations 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 and of the Drainage System as a whole. Evaluation of the effects of proposed improvements and recommendations is provided in Chapter 7.

