

SAINT BERNARD HOUSING PROJECT, METER HOUSE  
1451 Saint Denis Street  
New Orleans  
Orleans Parish  
Louisiana

HABS LA-1380-K  
*HABS LA-1380-K*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SAINT BERNARD HOUSING PROJECT, METER HOUSE

HABS No. LA-1380-EK

K

Location: 1451 Saint Denis Street, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates:  
29.99529624515422°, -90.07710412144661°

USGS New Orleans East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates:  
15.781981.3321862

Date of Erection: 1940

*demolished in 2008*

Architects: Herbert A. Benson, George H. Christy, and William E. Spink

Owners: Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), City of New Orleans

Significance: The Great Depression of the 1930s spurred the first peacetime federal government attempts to systematically address the lack of adequate affordable housing for low-income residents. The federal government financed local building efforts through a series of new laws. Among the third wave of these projects planned and built in the late 1930s, the construction of Saint Bernard Housing Project addressed two major issues of the era: the housing reform movement (i.e. – urban “slum clearance”) and the reemployment of large sections of the labor force.

*1940s*

History: Please see ~~historic report~~ *field notes for* HABS No. LA-1380 for the general history of St. Bernard Housing Project.

Description: The Meter House contained the intakes and valves for the natural gas lines in the entire site. The building itself was 22 feet by 19 feet. The walls were solid concrete veneered with brick. A flat concrete roof capped the walls. Five steel frame windows allowed light into the interior. A very large pipe extruded from the top of one wall branching out down into five pipes appearing out of the ground.

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