



# Louisiana Landmarks Society & Pitot House

1440 Moss Street, New Orleans, LA 70119

Ph. 504-482-0312. [www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org)

February 27, 2017

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Orleans Parish School Board  
3520 General DeGaulle Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70114

Re: Carrollton Courthouse

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your recent reply concerning the scheduled Carrollton Courthouse auction. We will continue to look for options that will allow this historically significant site to remain as an asset to the community. For the last 6 months, we have worked with representatives from the French Consulate, the Alliance Française and CODIFIL to reuse the site as a centerpiece for French education and culture. There has been advancement and support for this project in this short time. It is unfortunate that the deadline for auction is proposed now, thwarting the progress made. We believe the French House would provide the highest and best use of the site in terms of public interests, and what the neighborhoods would most support.

Regardless of the final outcome, the community felt a slight comfort in the fact that at numerous public meetings, representatives of the Orleans Parish School Board committed to work with Louisiana Landmarks Society to create a conservation easement to protect the site. In your February 21, 2017 email, you state that since the Carrollton Avenue corridor will be under Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) review after March 1, you believe that will provide sufficient protection. Quite frankly, it will not!

An easement is a private, perpetual agreement --- whereas there are numerous examples of the City Council overruling the HDLC. An easement can protect the project from political and developer whims. An easement can place restrictions on the grounds and interior, which the HDLC cannot. Without an easement on the whole property, it will be up to City Planning Commission and the HDLC to approve the location, height and design of new additions.

Placing a conservation easement on the property is the guarantee to which the Orleans Parish School Board publically agreed. It assures the community and statewide stakeholders that the building will be protected from inappropriate renovations, additions, or alterations to the invaluable historic features.

Orleans Parish School Board's commitment to create a conservation easement is an important part of the rehabilitation and reuse of the Carrollton Courthouse. It is imperative to the community and the State of Louisiana, that this exceptionally significant site be upheld to the highest preservation standards.

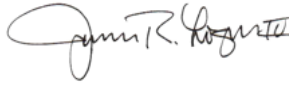
We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with the board about this. Please let us know when this might be possible.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Sandra Stokes  
*President*



James R. Logan  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*



Michael Duplantier  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

cc: Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Superintendent, Orleans Parish School Board  
John Brown, Sr. – District 1, President, Orleans Parish School Board  
Ethan Ashley – District 2, Orleans Parish School Board  
Sarah Newell Usdin – District 3, Orleans Parish School Board  
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Nolan Marshall, Jr. – District 7, Orleans Parish School Board  
Sue Robinson, Deputy Chief of Facilities  
Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor, State of Louisiana