

CALLIOPE HOUSING PROJECT, METER HOUSE
(B.W. Cooper Housing Project)
1246 South Prieur Street
New Orleans
Orleans Parish
Louisiana

HABS LA-1368-H
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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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

B.W. COOPER HOUSING PROJECT, METER HOUSE
(Calliope Housing Project)

DUE TO INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AT THE
TIME OF EDITING, THIS MATERIAL MAY NOT
CONFORM TO HABS OR HAER STANDARDS.

HABS No. LA-1368-~~AX~~H

Location: 1246 South Prieur Street, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates:
29.949889201617996°, -90.08998408913612°

USGS New Orleans East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)
coordinates: 15.780866.3316795

Date of Erection: ~~1939~~ 1941¹

Architects: Sol Rosenthal, Jack J.H. Kessel, and Ernest W. Jones

Owners: Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), the 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 the B.W. Cooper 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. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the closing and demolition of the housing projects along with the destruction of eighty percent of New Orleans housing stock once again focused national and international attention on housing rights.

History: Please see ^{field notes} ~~historic report~~ HABS No. LA-1368 for the general history of the B.W. Cooper 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 hipped roof covered with 30-year asphalt shingles capped the walls. Five eight over eight light wood double-hung windows allowed light into the interior. One door allowed access.

Historians: Virginia S. Lee
Preservation Architect, M. Arch.
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New Orleans, LA 70177-0336

1. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. “BW Cooper Housing Development, Environmental Justice Study.” (New Orleans, LA 2007), 9.