Building permits jump 47.5 percent

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Building permit values in Baton Rouge jumped 47.5 percent from $11.24 million a year ago to $16.38 million during September, led by the construction of a five-story office building in the United Plaza office park off Essen Lane.

With that project, new commercial construction reached nearly three times the $2.5 million reported a year ago. The increase also was led by a 38-percent jump in the value of single-family housing construction in September compared to September 1988.

United Companies Life Insurance Co. and Turner Industries Ltd. are joint partners in the 111,424-square-foot office building project, TIL, a major industrial construction and maintenance company in Baton Rouge, will move most of its offices into about 30,000 square feet of the leaseable space in the building.

The building permit issued by the inspection division of the city-parish Department of Public Works was valued at $4.89 million.

However, the total project value is estimated at about $8 million, officials said when the office building was announced in September. Buetet and LeBlanc is the builder.

September's permits pushed

Permits

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construction valuations for the year to $13.5 million, up 31.4 percent above the $10.45 million recorded in the first nine months of 1988.

Among the larger projects for September was a $1 million permit issued to St. Jude Catholic Church and St. Jude Elementary School at 9190 Highland Road for the construction of a 21,696-square-foot activity center building. Harvey Honore Construction Co. is the builder.

Louisiana and its Department of Agriculture and Forestry are undertaking $479,000 in construction for buildings housing a seed laboratory and maintenance/storage, and weights and measures facilities. The project totals 19,200 square feet. The state was listed as the builder.

During September, the inspection division issued eight permits for new commercial construction valued at $7.35 million, compared to five permits valued at $2.5 million in September 1988.

Commercial additions — often associated with an interior finish-out for offices or retail outlets — accounted for 60 permits last month valued at $2.85 million, compared to 55 permits in September 1988 valued at $3.34 million.

There were 62 permits issued for single-family residences valued at $5.99 million. That compares to 47 permits last year at $3.97 million. One permit was issued during September for a duplex, valued at $85,350. No duplex permits were issued in September 1988.

Residential additions and remodeling contributed 92 permits last month, valued at $399,490, vs. 114 permits at $81,428 last year.

Accessory construction — demolitions, house moving, swimming pools, signs and fences — totaled 135 permits at $279,015. That compares to 127 permits a year ago at $347,536.

New commercial construction and additions related to finish-outs of retail or office space included: