LAND TRANSFER DUE IN IBERIA

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

NEW IBERIA, La. - Four buildings and some 22 acres at the former Naval Air Station will be turned over to the Iberia Parish School Board within three weeks by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The buildings will house units of a vocational-technical school with full implementation by the third year of operations. Present plans call for a 40 per cent utilization the first year and 70 per cent for the second year.

Superintendent of schools Claude Duhon said some 500 students and 25 instructors are expected when the total utilization is achieved. "The potential of the programs offered are unlimited," he said, and predicted that nearly all fields of vocational training will be offered to Iberia Parish students.

The former enlisted men's mess hall will be the object in the first phase of the program and primary plans call for this unit to serve as a storage of food commodities. Later it will be utilized for instructional services for those students desiring a career in baking and cooking.

The Gulf South Research Institute, also located at the former air base site, has agreed to return 316 acres of the original allocation from HEW and will retain four barracks buildings and 65 acres.

The newly acquired buildings will require little renovation Duhon noted, and what will be done with local funds.