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CATAHOULA PARISH ASSessor
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

**General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 1998**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been transmitted to the auditors, or designated, and the auditor or appropriate public officials. This report is available for public inspection at the Colon House office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Volume 1070 _____

**VERNON R
COON**
LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC ASSessor

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

General Purpose Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Two Years Ended
December 31, 1998

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CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Contents, December 31, 1986

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Independent Auditor's Report

HONORABLE CARMIN P. WALKER, CLU
CATAHOLA PARISH ASSESSOR
Bartonsburg, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Catahoula Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Catahoula Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 1988, and for the two years then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Catahoula Parish Assessor's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. These standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Catahoula Parish Assessor as of December 31, 1988, and the results of its operations for the two years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

WILSON AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MEMBER OF AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

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HONORABLE CARMON WALKER, CLA
CATACOLA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisburg, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report,
December 31, 1998

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated June 2, 1999, on the Catacola Parish Assessor's compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts, and my consideration of the agency's internal control over financial reporting.



West Monroe, Louisiana
June 2, 1999

**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(OVERVIEW)**

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Monroeville, Louisiana
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

Balance Sheet, December 31, 1998

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND	ACCOUNT GROUP - GENERAL FUNDS ASSETS	TOTAL BALANCE SHEET 1998
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$231,693		\$231,693
Receivables:			
All valuations taxes	175,035		175,035
State revenue sharing	16,136		16,136
Office furnishings and equipment		\$105,347	105,347
TOTAL ASSETS	\$418,864	\$105,347	\$524,211
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Liabilities - accounts payable	\$337		\$337
Fund Equity:			
Investment in general fixed assets		\$105,347	105,347
Fund balance - unrestricted - undesignated	\$418,547		\$418,547
Total Fund Equity	418,547	105,347	523,894
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$418,884	\$105,347	\$524,231

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance
For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

REVENUES	
Taxes - ad valorem	\$180,000
Intergovernmental revenues - state	
franchise state revenue sharing (net)	24,275
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	7,387
Use of money and property - interest earnings	16,994
Total revenues	<u>228,656</u>
EXPENDITURES	
General government - incident	
Personnel services and related benefits	185,726
Operating services	21,483
Materials and supplies	4,419
Travel and other charges	13,380
Capital outlay	4,349
Total expenditures	<u>229,357</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(5,121)
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>427,668</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$418,247</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSessor
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance
For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

REVENUES	
Taxes - all values	\$180,800
Intergovernmental revenues - state	
Grants - state revenue sharing (net)	29,900
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	3,400
Use of money and property - interest earnings	<u>14,721</u>
Total revenues	<u>228,821</u>
EXPENDITURES	
General government - various	
Personal services and related benefits	181,620
Operating services	21,459
Materials and supplies	3,818
Travel and other charges	<u>15,702</u>
Total expenditures	<u>222,600</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	6,221
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>409,595</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$415,816</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSessor
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget
(Cash Basis) and Actual
For the Year Ended December 31, 1998

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)</u>
REVENUES			
Taxes - all valuations	\$175,000	\$184,623	\$9,623
Intergovernmental revenues - state			
funds - state account sharing (ACS)	29,000	32,941	3,941
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	1,500	2,387	887
Use of money and property - interest earnings	13,500	16,594	3,094
Total revenues	<u>215,000</u>	<u>236,445</u>	<u>21,445</u>
EXPENDITURES			
General government - salaries			
Personal services and related benefits	190,574	193,726	4,848
Operating services	24,750	21,377	3,373
Materials and supplies	5,800	3,609	2,191
Travel and other charges	15,420	13,650	1,770
Capital outlay	10,800	5,854	5,736
Total expenditures	<u>247,344</u>	<u>239,426</u>	<u>17,918</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(32,344)	7,019	39,363
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>322,000</u>	<u>324,676</u>	<u>2,676</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$189,656</u>	<u>\$231,695</u>	<u>\$42,037</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CATABOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
 Changes in Fund Balance - Budget
 (Cash Basis) and Actual
 For the Year Ended December 31, 1997

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)</u>
REVENUES			
Taxes - ad valorem	\$168,000	\$173,889	\$7,889
Intergovernmental revenues - state			
- funds - state revenue sharing (net)	25,000	28,174	3,174
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	1,500	2,403	903
Use of money and property - interest earnings	12,000	14,721	2,721
Total revenues	<u>206,500</u>	<u>221,187</u>	<u>14,687</u>
EXPENDITURES			
General government - taxation:			
Personal services and related benefits	186,582	181,629	5,353
Operating services	27,800	21,340	6,460
Materials and supplies	1,800	3,765	(1,965)
Travel and other charges	15,420	15,639	(219)
Capital outlay	10,800		10,800
Total expenditures	<u>242,802</u>	<u>222,373</u>	<u>20,429</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(36,302)</u>	<u>(1,186)</u>	<u>35,116</u>
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>218,000</u>	<u>225,880</u>	<u>7,880</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$181,698</u>	<u>\$224,694</u>	<u>\$42,996</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Two Years Ended December 31, 1998

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years, beginning January 1 following the year in which elected. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission and other governmental bodies as prescribed by law. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as necessary for the efficient operation of his office and to provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and personally responsible for the actions of the deputies.

At December 31, 1997, there are 8,462 real, movable, and public service assessment listings totaling \$52,988,538. This represents an increase of 118 assessment listings. The total assessed valuation increased by \$524,860.

At December 31, 1998, there are 8,583 real, movable, and public service assessment listings totaling \$53,804,518. This represents an increase of 121 assessment listings. The total assessed valuation decreased by \$481,828.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Catahoula Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Catahoula Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 establishes criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Catahoula Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has ten forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

- a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or;
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
 3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the assessor's office is located, the assessor was determined to be a component unit of the Catahoula Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the assessor and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

R. FUND ACCOUNTING

The assessor uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. An account group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities (general fund assets and general long-term debt) that are not recorded in the "funds" because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources. They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position, not with the measurement of results of operations.

Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSessor
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. Proprietary funds are used to account for assets held for others. The assessor's current operations require only the use of governmental funds (General Fund). Ad valorem tax revenue authorized by Act 17 of 1993 is accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

**C. GENERAL FIXED ASSETS AND
LONG-TERM DEBT**

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. Fixed assets provided by the police jury are not recorded in the general fixed assets account group. All fixed assets are valued at actual historical cost. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. The assessor has no long-term debt at December 31, 1998.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements for these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for reporting all governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they are both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The assessor uses the following practices in recognizing and reporting revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

All valorem taxes and the related state revenue sharing are recognized in the year the taxes are due and payable. All valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, attach as an enforceable lien, and become due and payable on the date the tax rolls are filed with the recorder of mortgages. Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1993 requires that the tax roll be filed on or before November 15 of each year. All valorem taxes become delinquent if not paid by December 31. The taxes are normally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recorded in the year prepared. Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured. Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, all valorem taxes, state revenue sharing, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

6. BUDGET PRACTICES

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the cash basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the assessor at the object level of expenditures. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the assessor.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original adopted budget amounts.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSessor
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

The following reconciles the excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses as shown on the budget comparison Statements D and E (budget basis) to the same amount shown on Statements B and C (GAAP basis):

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures (budget basis)	\$7,609	(\$1,081)
Adjustments:		
Receivables	(12,128)	5,294
Payables	(251)	(371)
	<u>(\$14,570)</u>	<u>\$3,842</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures (GAAP basis)	<u>(\$7,961)</u>	<u>\$4,783</u>

F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The assessor may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 1988, the assessor has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$251,683, as follows:

Demand deposits	\$27,683
Time deposits	<u>224,000</u>
Total	<u>\$251,683</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Cash (bank balance) at December 31, 1988, is secured as follows:

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Bank balances	<u>\$124,328</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$124,328
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>51,890</u>
Total	<u>\$280,546</u>

Because the pledged securities are held by a custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank rather than in the name of the assessor, they are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Codification 330.106. However, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 90 days of being notified by the assessor that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, LRS 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the assessor's name.

G. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

All employees are granted from two to three weeks of noncumulative vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. Sick leave is granted on an individual basis with proper documentation of actual illness. At December 31, 1998, there are no accumulated and vested benefits relating to vacation and sick leave that require accrual or disclosure.

The cost of these privileges, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section 360, is recognized as a current-year expenditure in the General Fund when leave is actually taken.

III. RISK MANAGEMENT

The assessor is exposed to various risks of loss related to theft, fire of, damage to, and destruction of and injuries to employees. To handle such risks of loss, the assessor maintains commercial insurance policies covering his automobile and professional liability. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which exceeded the policies' coverage amounts. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the two years ended December 31, 1998.

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
 Harrisonburg, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

1. TOTAL COLUMN ON THE
 BALANCE SHEET

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned Memorandum Only to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis (review). Data in this column does not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

2. PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 1998 assessed valuation (amounts expressed in thousands):

	1998 Assessed Valuation	Percent of Total Assessed Valuation
Concordia Electric	\$1,288	3.80%
Bollinger	1,233	3.65%
International Paper	1,136	3.33%
Southern Heritage Bank	1,178	3.48%
Catahoula LaSalle Bank	1,100	3.25%
La Panchase II Partner	957	2.77%
Range Corp.	898	2.65%
Texas Land Co.	783	2.32%
Morrison Venture	695	2.06%
Energy Co., Inc.	657	1.97%
Total	<u>\$3,903</u>	<u>29.29%</u>

3. CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

A summary of changes in office furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance at January 1, 1997	\$108,189
Additions	50,840
Deductions	<u>(4,091)</u>
Balance at January 1, 1998	154,938

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Additions	\$4,249
Deductions	<u>NONE</u>
Balance at December 31, 1998	<u>\$105,347</u>

4. PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the Catahoula Parish Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System (system), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees.

All full-time employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment and are not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the system. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service, not to exceed 800 per cent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The system also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. This report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System, Post Office Box 1700, Shreveport, Louisiana 71166-1700, or by calling (318) 425-4446.

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 7.00 per cent of their annual covered salary and the Catahoula Parish Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.35 per cent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the system include one-fourth of one per cent (one per cent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, plus revenue sharing funds appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Catahoula Parish Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:183, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Catahoula Parish Assessor's contributions to the system for the years ending December 31, 1998, 1997, 1996, were \$8,518, \$8,661, and \$8,114, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

5. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The Catahoula Parish Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. Substantially all of the assessor's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the assessor. These benefits for retirees and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose monthly premiums are paid jointly by the employee and the assessor. The assessor recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (assessor's cost of premiums) as an expenditure when the monthly premiums are paid. For the two years ended December 31, 1998, the total amount of premiums paid were \$50,136 per year, while the amounts paid for retirees totaled \$6,057 per year.

6. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

At December 31, 1998, the Catahoula Parish Assessor is not involved in any litigation nor is he aware of any unasserted claims.

**7. EXPENDITURES OF THE ASSESSOR'S
OFFICE PAID BY THE POLICE JURY**

The Catahoula Parish Assessor's office is located in the parish courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:431, is paid by the Catahoula Parish Police Jury.

8. YEAR 2000 ISSUE Unaudited

The year 2000 issue is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other electronic equipment that may adversely affect the government's operations as early as fiscal year 1999. The Catahoula Parish Assessor has completed an inventory of computer systems that may be affected by the year 2000 issue and that are critical to continuing operations of the assessor's office. The assessor has identified the following systems requiring 2000 remediation: a financial reporting system and tax assessment system. All testing and validation of these two systems has been completed.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the assessor is or will be Year 2000 ready, that the assessor's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or part, or that parties with whom the assessor does business will be year 2000 ready.

**Independent Auditor's Report Required
by Government Auditing Standards**

The following independent auditor's report on compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts and internal control are presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



**Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and
Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisburg, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Catahoula Parish Assessor as of and for the two years ended December 31, 1998, and have issued my report thereon dated June 2, 1999. I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Catahoula Parish Assessor's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered the Catahoula Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that I consider to be material weaknesses.

VERNON COON
MEMBER AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**OFFICE OF LOUISIANA
REGISTERED PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS**

**REGISTERED ACCOUNTANT IN
CERTAIN STATES**

**MEMBER, AICPA, CPA
AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE SOCIETIES**

**FOR PROFESSIONAL STATE
SOCIETY MEMBERS,
LOUISIANA STATE
SOCIETY OF REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

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CATAHOULA PARISH ASSOCIATION

Harrisonburg, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance
And Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, etc.
December 31, 1998

This report is intended for the information of the Catahoula Parish Association. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana
June 7, 1999

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Two Years Ended December 31, 1998

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the general purpose financial statements of Catahoula Parish Assessor.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Catahoula Parish Assessor were disclosed during the audit.
3. No reportable conditions relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

None

CATAHOULA PARISH ASSESSOR
Harrisonburg, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Two Years Ended December 31, 1998

There were no audit findings reported in the audit for the year ended December 31, 1998.