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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/INPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Toy House, DeRidder, Beauregard Parish, LA

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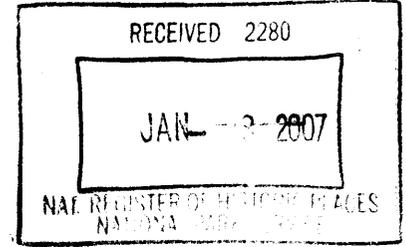
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Toy House

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 205 West Fourth St.

Not for publication: NA

City/Town DeRidder

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Beauregard Code: 011 Zip Code: 70634

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: ___ Statewide: ___ Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker,
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

1/5/07
Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper: [Handwritten Signature]

Date of Action: 2-21-07

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing
1

Non contributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic Sub: single dwelling
Current: domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Craftsman

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: weatherboard
Roof: asphalt
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Toy House is a two-story Craftsman-style wood frame house located in an area of DeRidder platted for the Hudson River Lumber Company. James D. Toy, the doctor for the lumber company, purchased the land in 1914 from the Company. The first Sanborn map of the area, dated 1916, shows the house on the site. For the purposes of this nomination, we will use 1915 as the date of construction. The house survives largely unaltered.

Typical of a Craftsman-style home, the exterior is accentuated by deep overhangs, exposed rafter tails, and recessed and thrusting elements. Two front-facing gables rest on decorative brackets, and the overall effect is one of asymmetry. Further visual interest is created by a polygonal bay on the second floor and the use of two different siding materials. The second floor is sided with a fine gauge board with a rounded bottom edge, and the first floor is covered in a wider gauge drop-lap siding. A deeply recessed porch stretches across the entire façade. The gabled entrance is skewed to one side. Thick brick piers outlining the gallery are surmounted by slightly tapered paneled wooden posts. They support a thick entablature covered in drop-lap siding. The solid railing enclosing the porch imparts a feeling of substance; the interior-facing portion of the railing features the same drop-lap siding that is found on the exterior of the first floor. The feeling of an interior space is explicit here, due to the low-reaching entablature and the solid railing. A smaller porch is located on the second floor under the gable. It is covered by a shed roof, with a pair of multi-lite doors opening onto it.

Some windows have decorative glazing bars in a lozenge pattern over single lites, while others are one-over-one. The windows throughout have highly decorative drip moldings. The front door is a darkly stained wood and has the same decorative glazing bar motif as most of the windows, over a single solid panel. The play of recessed and thrusting elements continues around the sides of the home. On the west-facing elevation, windows lighting the staircase and the study jut out from the main wall and are each covered by their own highly detailed shed roof. Each has decorative brackets with ornamental caps and

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exposed rafter tails. Even the side door into the kitchen has a small gable roof supported by the same decorative brackets. Each elevation repeats some of the same details found on the façade, though the rear lacks the highly decorative brackets and the lozenge patterned lites.

The front door opens onto a small entryway. To the right, the living room is separated from the entryway by a typical Craftsman divider with a paneled base and splayed paneled columns above. Another divider separates the living room from the dining room, which is located directly behind it. To the left of the entryway is a small library or study accessed by paneled pocket doors. The paneling on the base of the room dividers is repeated as a decorative wainscot in the entryway on either side of the study's pocket doors. Directly through the entryway is a small hall that has a staircase ascending to the second floor. Behind the hall is a kitchen. Three bedrooms and a bathroom are arranged around a central upstairs hall.

The most distinctive feature by far of the interior is the extensive use of curly pine. Characterized by irregular knots and intense graining, it is dramatic in appearance. All woodwork throughout the home, including doors, baseboards, crown molding, door and window surrounds, mantels, and built-in cabinetry, is curly pine. Curly pine's decorative nature was much sought after, and it is clear that only the upper echelon of workers at the Hudson River Lumber Company would have had access to such prized material. Of particular note are the two built-in cabinets: one located in the study, the other in the dining room. Both are finished with decorative leaded glass and have period hardware in a decorative fan shape. This same hardware can be found on doors throughout the home. The curly pine exposed ceiling beams (non-structural) in the living room are particularly decorative.

Alterations/Assessment of Integrity:

Very little alteration has been done to the Toy House. The kitchen and bathrooms have been updated. No changes have been made to the floorplan upstairs, and the only alteration to the original floorplan on the first floor was to add a bathroom in a corner of the kitchen. A rear porch was enclosed at some point, but from the consistency of the weatherboards, it appears to have been done within the period of significance for the home.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A_X B__ C__ D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: industry

Period(s) of Significance: 1915-1923

Significant Dates: 1915

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Toy House is locally significant in the area of industry as an important survivor to represent the lumber boom history of DeRidder. The period of significance spans from 1915, when company doctor James D. Toy had the house built, to 1923, when he died. His widow lived there until 1926, at which time she sold the house.

DeRidder traces its founding to the arrival of the Kansas City Railroad in 1897. The southern expansion of the Kansas City Southern Railroad from Shreveport to Port Arthur, Texas in the 1890s made possible the harvesting of millions of acres of long leaf pine. Various Kansas City lumber companies were quick to follow the new railroad into southwest Louisiana. Among them were Central Coal and Coke Company, the W. R. Pickering Company, and the Long-Bell Lumber Company. Long-Bell had production facilities at DeRidder, Bon Ami, Longville and Lake Charles.

Long-Bell established the Hudson River Lumber Company in DeRidder in 1904. For two decades, it provided DeRidder's largest payroll. One distinctive feature of the DeRidder sawmill was that the hands received their pay in legal currency instead of tokens that could only be redeemed at the company store. In 1904, the Hudson River Lumber Company's sawmill had a capacity of 150,000 feet per day, with plenty of standing timber still available.

DeRidder was already a growing town of 2,500 inhabitants, despite it only being officially incorporated as a town in April of 1903. In addition to lumber, cotton and sheep became profitable ventures for the expanding town. Brick buildings were replacing wooden ones, and civic improvements were underway, including an elegant new schoolhouse, an opera house, and an ice plant. Electric lights were being used in part of the town, with the promise that they would soon be available for general use. DeRidder was soon to become a significant rail junction, when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad built an east-west line from Kirbyville, Texas to Oakdale, Louisiana.

In 1904, the Hudson sawmill produced 34,000,000 feet of lumber, and by February 1905, 200 mill hands and loggers were employed there. The planing mill operated 13 machines and supplied its own electric power using steam engines and dynamos. Five standard brick dry kilns were in operation, drying 100,000 feet of lumber daily. R. A. Long, president of Long-Bell, even paid a visit to the sawmill as part of a week-long trip to four of the large yellow pine mills Long-Bell owned in southern Louisiana. It was stated at the time in *Southern Lumberman*, a trade journal, that the "biggest and best of the mills [Hudson River Lumber Company] was saved for last [on the trip]." It was considered a model pine mill at the time, and the Long-Bell executives believed that it could not be improved upon.

By 1907, the Hudson River Lumber Company had established an experimental farm on 200 acres of what used to be stumps from the logging operation. The potatoes from the farm were shipped to all of the Long-Bell commissaries in Louisiana and to other markets. Cantaloupes, watermelon, onions, strawberries, and other crops were grown. A long-range plan was established in an attempt to reuse cutover lands for agriculture and other needs.

Long-Bell owned a large tract of land directly across from the mill (where the candidate is located),

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and it was subdivided in 1908. Here were located scores of company built workers' houses and the homes of middle and upper level management. Nearby, in the early years, were at least the following company-built buildings: a two story frame company office, a one story frame store, and a hotel. As was the norm, housing for African-American mill workers was in a separate area – in this case, on the other (east) side of the mill. Contrary to the norm for the lumber industry, all available evidence indicates that some employees (perhaps only management) actually owned their own homes. Also, it appears that individuals not affiliated with Hudson River Lumber Company could purchase land and build their own homes in the neighborhood.

DeRidder and the Company prospered between 1910 and 1925. DeRidder became the seat of newly created Beauregard Parish in October of 1912. Long leaf pine forests in Beauregard and Calcasieu parishes fed the mill's growing appetite for raw material. A Wood Preserving Division was opened in DeRidder in 1916, producing creosoted poles, ties, cross arms, and highway guardrail posts. The sawmill at Bon Ami was shut down and dismantled in 1925, due to the depletion of the virgin long leaf forests, and the mill at Ludington was closed in 1926. The sawmill at Longville, another division of Long-Bell, burned down in 1920, but the planing mill there produced oak flooring until 1927. The mill was closed and the flooring machinery was transferred to DeRidder. Hudson River Lumber Company soon became a mill devoted to the exclusive production of hardwood.

By the late 1920s, the lumber industry in southwest Louisiana was on the decline. Many employees of the Hudson River Lumber Company moved on to the Northwest and to Arizona. Long-Bell was hit hard by the Depression, and was eventually bought out by the International Paper Company, which operated the creosote plant until the 1980s. The remains of the old oak flooring plant burned down in the early 1970s. Huge portions of the cutover acreage were sold to the Federal government, and the Kisatchie National Forest was created on those lands by reforestation.

Properties Associated with DeRidder Lumber Industry:

Of course, the sawmill plant itself would best represent the lumber boom in DeRidder. Unfortunately, all traces of it are long gone. The original wood frame company store, wood frame office building, and wood frame hotel are gone. The store and office were replaced in the 1910s with a large two-story brick building known as Standard Mercantile. The department store was owned by Hudson River Lumber Company, and the company had offices there. This building is currently listed as a contributing element to the DeRidder Commercial National Register District. While it is documented that there were over 100 typical workers' cottages (for whites) at one time, only a handful exist today. The six to seven survivors, in varying states of integrity, are sprinkled here and there in the subdivision created by Hudson River Lumber Co. in 1908 (Hudson First Addition). Today the Hudson First Addition is characterized by a notable amount of new construction. As noted previously, shotguns for African-American workers were located on the other side of the mill. Two or three of these survive today in varying degrees of integrity.

The candidate is significant on the local level due to the critical importance of the Hudson River Lumber Company in the economic development of the Town of DeRidder. Other than the just mentioned shotguns and cottages built for white workers, there are four residences in DeRidder with documented ties to the Company. They are all homes of upper echelon white-collar workers employed by the Company. One has been too altered on the exterior to meet National Register guidelines, one is the candidate, and the other two are Register candidates.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Block, W. Early Sawmill Towns of the Louisiana-Texas Borderlands. Hemphill, Texas: Dogwood Press, 1996.

Long-Bell Lumber Company. From Tree to Trade with the Long-Bell Lumber Company. 1904.

Long-Bell Lumber Company. From Tree to Trade with the Long-Bell Lumber Company. 1920.

Sanborn Insurance Company maps, DeRidder: 1916, 1921, 1928, and 1948 or 1949.

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Toy, James D., Dr., Succession Inventory. (Excerpts in National Register file, LA Division of Historic Preservation)

Warren, Joe V. DeRidder, Louisiana: The First 100 Years 1903-2003.

Wild, Edward O. An Outing with the Long-Bell Lumber Company. 1906.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- ___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
___ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
___ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other (Specify Repository):

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: less than an acre

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 472460 3412360

Verbal Boundary Description: Legal property description: Lot 16 and the east one-half of Lot 15 in Block 6 of Hudson First Addition, DeRidder, Louisiana.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land historically associated with the candidate.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register Staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Address: P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Telephone: 225-342-8160

Date: September 2006

PROPERTY OWNERS

Vincente J. Martinez
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