

PH0354287

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 7 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 11 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Live Oak

AND/OR COMMON Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER La. Hwy. 66 (Angola Road) 1.3 miles south of Weyanoke Post Office

CITY, TOWN NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Louisiana CODE 22 COUNTY West Feliciana CODE 125
VICINITY OF Weyanoke 8th - Gillis Long

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant whil

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Bert S. Turner

STREET & NUMBER 741 Delgado Drive

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge VICINITY OF Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. West Feliciana Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Corner of Prosperity and Ferdinand Streets

CITY, TOWN St. Francisville Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey,

DATE January 1935 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

under renovation; will be used as private residence

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Live Oak is an important example of Anglo-American plantation house design in Louisiana during the early years of the nineteenth century. It is a two-story brick structure with gable ends and a gallery across the front at both first and second floor levels. On the first floor there are four round brick columns. Photographs taken in the spring of 1975 show four round columns on the second floor level. These were put up around 1970 for temporary use. When the house was measured for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930's, the upper columns were rectangular with Greek Revival cap mouldings. However, physical evidence discovered during the present renovation work indicates that originally the upper columns were neither round nor rectangular, but square, tapered, chamfered columns like those of other houses of the period in the area. They are being restored in this manner.

From the arrangement of the openings in the front wall of the house and the location of the second floor columns, it would appear that originally there may have been five brick columns on the first floor instead of four. Excavations, however, have so far not revealed any physical evidence of such a column placement. The brick columns have low square pedestals and moulded brick bases and caps. The column to the far right was rebuilt in recent years with a square corner on its inner side, and without the wedge shaped bricks found in the other columns. A wooden stairway behind the columns leads to the second floor of the front gallery. This stairway does not appear to be original and contains some elements that seem to be from an original gallery railing. However, there is evidence that the original stairway was of the same type and general location, so that during the present work, the stairway is being rebuilt in much the same manner.

The brick work of the front wall is laid in Flemish bond and the other walls are laid in common bond, every sixth course being a course of headers. All the exterior brick work was once whitewashed, but is now mostly washed away except on the front wall where protected by the gallery. Here the many layers of whitewash have built up so as to resemble plaster, nearly obscuring the Flemish bond pattern of the brickwork. The brickwork is again being whitewashed during the current renovation.

In the 1930's a crude, two-story gallery extended across the rear of the house, its roof being a lower pitched extension of the rear roof slope. This gallery was later removed. A new rear gallery is being constructed in the course of the present renovation. The ends of this gallery are being enclosed with louvers to provide necessary service facilities for the house, and an exterior stairway is being built within the gallery. Near the center of the rear facade is a recessed porch extending into the house to the depth of the small rear rooms. This recess is now being enclosed with glazed doors. A small stairway within it leads to the attic.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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6. Surveys (cont'd)

Historical Landmarks in the Capital Region

April 1968, updated July 1973

Capital Region Planning Commission

Baton Rouge, La.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

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7. Description (cont'd)

On each floor of the house there are two principal rooms across the front (with no hallway between) and two small rooms in the rear separated by the small recessed porch. Each of the front rooms is entered from the gallery by a pair of panelled doors with rectangular transoms divided into five lights. These doors open outward like shutters and there are no inner glazed doors. In addition to its doorway, each of the front rooms has a large double hung window with louvered shutters opening on to the gallery. Each of these rooms has a fireplace flanked by narrower double hung windows in the end wall of the house. Chimneys serving these fireplaces extend above the roof at the ridge line. Each of the four front rooms (two on each floor) has a large, wood mantel, elaborately and delicately detailed with pilasters, mouldings, reeding and gouge work. These elegant mantels are of the Federal style, similar to those of the early 1800's in the Natchez area and the Eastern seaboard states. An interesting narrow stairway adjacent to the fireplace leads from the left front room to the room above it. It extends across the window to the right of the fireplace, being concealed behind a series of three-panelled doors, one of which gives access to the stair and the other two to a closet beneath it. The stair well at the second floor is enclosed by a delicate railing with square newels, slender, rectangular balusters and moulded handrail.

The lower and upper front rooms on the left side of the house are slightly smaller than the corresponding rooms on the right. The rooms on the right have splayed door and window jambs while those on the left are square. This suggests that the two parts of the house may have been built at different times. However, no other physical or documentary evidence now known supports this theory. So at present this difference remains a curious feature of the house.

All rooms have moulded base and chair rails and plastered walls. The walls in one room of the house were crudely marbled, and a small portion of this plasterwork is being retained during the current renovation. Ceilings of the two first floor front rooms are plastered but the joists and flooring are left exposed to form the ceilings of the small first floor rear rooms and recessed porch. All second floor ceilings are of thin beaded boards. Exposed beams, joists and flooring form the ceiling of the lower front gallery, the upper front gallery ceiling being of boards and battens. Most door jambs and transom bars are panelled. Interior door and window casings have mitered back band mouldings.

The small rear room to the right on the first floor has a corner fireplace with a simple wood mantel. Similar corner fireplaces are in both small rear rooms on the second floor. The large attic was originally unfinished, but in the present renovation has been converted into two bedrooms and a bathroom, with storage space and spaces for mechanical equipment.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

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7. Description (cont'd)

The house is situated in a rural area at about the center of 115 acres. This acreage is a part of the larger tract of land which originally composed Live Oak Plantation. There is an oak alley in front of the house and an oak grove at the entrance of the property. Other live oaks of the approximate age of the alley surround the house and adjacent to this there are fields. At the rear of the house there is a deep ravine with a 40' drop, believed to have resulted from a change in the course of Little Bayou Sara, which is now farther removed from the house. In some places the ravine is as close as 30' to the rear of the house. Beyond this there is flat pasture land.

One hundred fifteen acres is being included in the nomination of Live Oak because of the physical features of Little Bayou Sara and the abandoned but still definable old Tunica Road which provide two natural boundary lines, the presence of the aged live oaks (especially in the alley and grove), and the rural nature of the setting still void of contemporary intrusions. The specified acreage does much to establish a feeling for the house in its historical context.

11. Form Prepared By (cont'd)

Samuel Wilson, Jr.
Koch and Wilson, Architects
1100 Jackson Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Live Oak has architectural significance for the Feliciana area of Louisiana. Built between 1800-1816, it is one of the earliest houses in the area and reflects the Anglo-American influence brought by settlers from the Eastern seaboard states and from the Natchez area in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Documentary evidence suggests that Live Oak was built for Elijah Adams, although the actual date of construction is not known. Records also suggest that the fine interior woodwork was executed by Peter Murray, who may also have been responsible for the construction of the house itself. The interior detailing, especially as seen in the various mantels, is in the Federal style and constitutes one of the most important aspects of the house.

The origins of Live Oak seem to go back to a Spanish concession of 1,000 acres granted to Alexander Ross on March 30, 1796. By 1802 the land was in the possession of Elijah Adams and his brother-in-law, William Cobb. (Pintado Papers, L. S. U., Book 2, Vol. X, p. 55.) It was divided equally between them, the part on which the house stands being allotted to Elijah Adams.

Elijah Adams participated in the Battle of New Orleans as a captain in the 2nd Division, the 10th and 20th Consolidated Regiments of Concordia and the Feliciana Parishes. A year after the battle, he died on January 20, 1816. His death must have been rather sudden, for only a few days before, on January 17, 1816, he had sold a tract of land to John F. Gillespie. Soon after the death of Elijah Adams, an inventory of his estate was made "at the late dwelling house of said deceased..." on February 3, 1816. In this inventory "the tract of land, the late residence of the deceased..." was valued at \$9,500. Twenty-nine slaves were appraised at \$10,425. A year later, on January 13, 1817, at the probate sale of the estate of Elijah Adams, the 500 arpent plantation was purchased by Amos Webb and his wife, Charlotte, one of the daughters of Elijah Adams. In this sale the property was described as "being the same whereon the said deceased Elijah Adams last resided... ."

At about the same time as the death of Elijah Adams, a carpenter by the name of Peter Murray died and an inventory was made of his estate on February 28, 1816 "at the house of Elijah Adams, deceased..." Besides a few items of personal clothing, the inventory lists numerous carpenter's tools, including a number of saws and moulding planes. Also listed in the inventory is "an unsettled account against the estate of Elijah Adams." These facts suggest that the fine woodwork and perhaps the house itself was done for Elijah Adams by Peter Murray.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Floyd, William Barrow. The Barrow Family of Old Louisiana. Published by the author, 1963.
 Probate Records. West Feliciana Parish Courthouse.
 Pintado Papers. Louisiana State University, Book 2, Vol. X, p. 55.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 115
 UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____

Pt. A 15/647540/3423580
 Pt. B 15/647950/3423120
 Pt. C 15/648180/3422780
 Pt. D 15/647460/3422680
 Pt. E 15/647270/3422910
 Pt. F 15/647320/3423520

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point approximately 1300' north of the intersection of La. Hwy. 66 and La. Hwy. 968; then running northwest for approximately 1800' along the west side of La. Hwy. 66; then turning more westerly to follow the submerged road bed of the abandoned old Tunica Road for approximately 1000' until it intersects Little Bayou Sara; then running south along the center of the stream bed for approximately 2500'; and then turning easterly and running along a straight line approximately 1500' to the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Suzanne Louise Turner, student

ORGANIZATION	DATE
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA	Sept. 1976
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Athens	Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

SIGNATURE Paul S. DeCompte

TITLE Asst. SHPO DATE January 31, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 3/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET 4

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8. Significance (cont'd)

Live Oak was acquired in 1824 by Bennett Barrow, who came to the Felicianas from North Carolina in the early 1800's. The Barrows became one of the most prominent families in the area and owned numerous plantations in the Felicianas. Live Oak remained in the Barrow ownership until 1928 when Nicholas H. Barrow sold it to William J. Lesassier, whose family owned it until recent years. It is now the property of the Bert S. Turners of Baton Rouge, who are engaged in an extensive restoration/renovation of the house under the direction of Koch and Wilson, Architects of New Orleans.