

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Louisiana
COUNTY: DeSoto
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 4 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Myrtle Hill Plantation House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Route 1, Gloster, Louisiana on Hwy 5**

CITY OR TOWN: **Between Gloster and Kingston**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **4th Joe D. Waggoner, Jr.**

STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22** COUNTY: **DeSoto** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Open - part time

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Mr. and Mrs. Ray P. Oden, Sr.**

STREET AND NUMBER: **603 Wilder Place**

CITY OR TOWN: **Shreveport** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Listed in Records of DeSoto Parish Courthouse - Mansfield, La.**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Mansfield**

CITY OR TOWN: **Mansfield** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

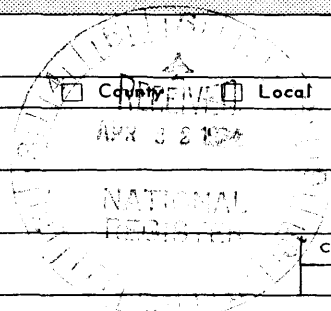
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **1074**

DATE: **DEC 4 1974**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Myrtle Hill Plantation House is located in a rural area 5 miles from Gloster on Louisiana Highway 5 between the communities of Gloster and Kingston and some 30 miles south of Shreveport. The house was built shortly after 1852 and is one of the few remaining antebellum homes in DeSoto Parish.

Two English brothers named Robbins were apparently brought over to construct several homes in the vicinity. The original house, measuring approximately 40' x 55' consisted of a 12' wide central hall, 40' long, with two rooms of equal size on each side. The rooms are separated by back-to-back brick fireplaces with side closets. Today the hall contains a stairway descending to the basement and the four rooms are used for a living room and bedrooms.

The kitchen and dining room wing, with its porches on both sides, was added to the rear of the house some time in the 1880's after the original kitchen burned. This addition also involved the partial demolition of the original back porch which covered the entire 55' width of the house.

The house has Greek Revival features. The pedimented portico with four pillars at the main entrance has an entablature continuing across the front of the house and terminating over pilasters at the corners. Other Classical elements may be noted at cornices, on column caps, at the base of the bevelled wood siding, and in the mantels.

Because of the construction of other houses in the vicinity at the same time, it is believed that the builders developed a fairly sophisticated lumber mill system for the construction of the neighborhood houses. The 6" walls are framed with 3" x 6" posts about 28" on center and the other framing members such as joists and sills are consistent with this size. All are rough sawn or hand-hewn, fastened with hardwood pegs or square cut nails. The rails and stiles of the doors (3" thick and 4½' wide) with their somewhat crudely hand-carved panel mouldings are mortised and tennoned. Brass hardware with keyhole covers and china door knobs were probably shipped from "the East." The 16' ceilings convincingly support the over-size windows and doors, and suggest the designers' awareness of the North Louisiana climate.

The 2" x 8" square cut heart pine floors have been retained. Interior walls and ceilings were originally plaster over wood lath, but the plaster disintegrated beyond repair and was covered in 1937.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

C 1852

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

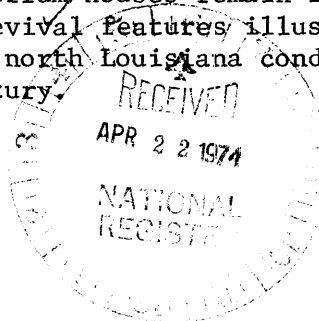
Myrtle Hill Plantation House is one of the few remaining ante-bellum homes in DeSoto Parish. It was built by Edward Riggs, apparently shortly after 1852.

Later Mr. Riggs sold the property to James Taylor Means who had lived at nearby Roseneath Plantation before his marriage.

During the years 1835 to 1840 some 13 families had come to this section of Louisiana from South Carolina and settled within one or two miles of each other. They were all planters, slave owners, and fairly well-to-do.

Two brothers named Robbins are said to have been "brought over from England" to build the homes of these families. The story goes that these two architect-master builders, for \$500.00 in gold and "keep", would, with the available slave-labor, build the houses and remain for as many years as necessary to accomplish the assignment.

Because so few antebellum houses remain in this area, this structure with its Greek Revival features illustrates the adaptation of that style to the rural north Louisiana conditions and tastes of the middle of the 19th century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Louisiana Plantation Homes: Colonial and Ante-bellum by D. Darrell Overdyke, Published by Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1965, Gretna, La.
2. A clipping from the files of Henry F. Means, grandson of James T. Means, source unknown - made from page 325.
3. Shreveport Times Article: Dated April 15, 1923 describing a tour of Myrtle Hill "Picturesque and Historic Tours" by Mary McKeller.
4. An Architectural Evaluation by Theodore A. Flaxman, Member Emeritus, A. I. A.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	32°	9'	49"
NE	°	'	"	93°	46'	39"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

0776
15/424
3550

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ray P. Oden, Sr., Owner

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: March 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 Wilder Place

CITY OR TOWN: Shreveport STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Jay R. Broussard
 Title Director, Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation

Date April 19, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Warkentin
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

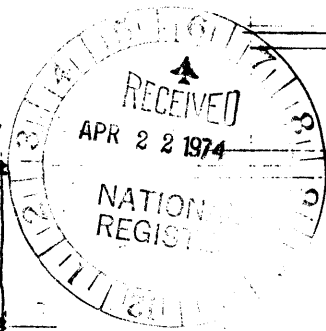
Date 12/4/74

ATTEST:
Ady George Foremy
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Dec 3 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

"NEW" KITCHEN WING



CYMATIUM AT PORTICO PEDIMENT

ENTABLATURE FRONT AND BACK WALLS

CORNER PILASTERS AND PORTICO SQ. COLS.

BEVEL SIDING

SCALE 1' 2'

ORIGINAL BACK PORCH

BED ROOM

BED ROOM

BED ROOM

PARLOR

HALL

INTERIOR DOOR TRIM

INT. DOOR

INT. DOORS & TRIM

SCALE 1' 2' 3' 4'

ENT. PORTICO

SCALE

4" 8"

FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 5' 10' 15' 20'

INT. BASE

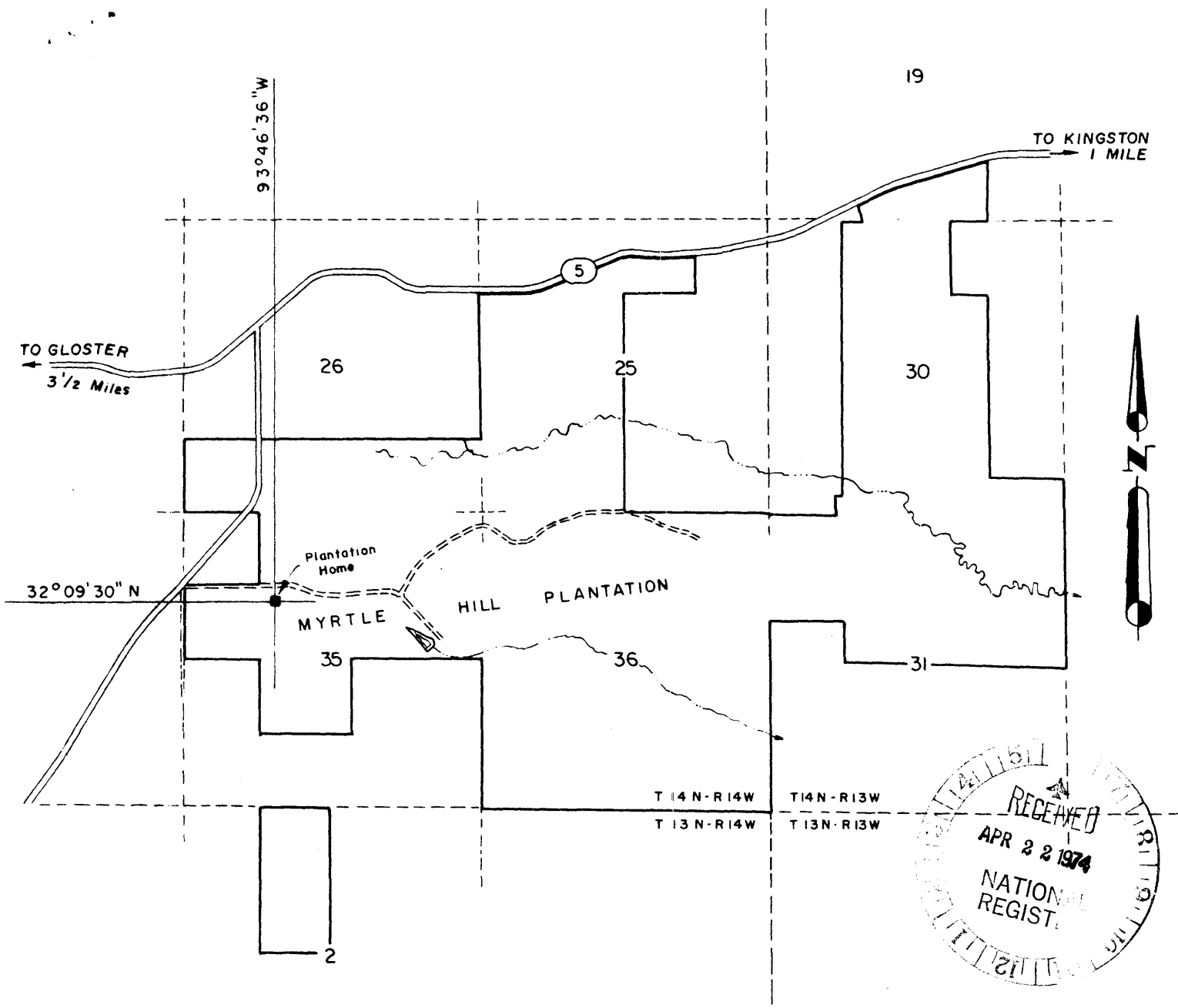
FIREPLACE & MANTEL

SCALE 1' 2' 3' 4'

MANTEL

MYRTLE HILL GLOSTER, LOUISIANA

MEASURED DRAWINGS DECEMBER 1973 P.A.A.



Mr. and Mrs. Ray P. Oden Sr.

Myrtle Hill Plantation

SECTIONS 19, 30 & 31, T14N-R13W AND SECTIONS 25, 26, 35 & 36, T14N-R14W
DE SOTO PARISH, LOUISIANA.

