

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 unknown

and/or common Wesley House

2. Location

street & number 1210 East Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Houma N/A vicinity of congressional district

state LA code 22 county Terrebonne Parish code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, Women's Division

street & number 15th floor, 475 Riverside Drive

city, town New York N/A vicinity of state New York 10115

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Terrebonne Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 1569

city, town Houma state LA 70361

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wesley House (c.1835) is a small, frame, story and a half, Greek Revival, raised plantation house with a French hall-less plan. The setting is urban; however, the house is surrounded by very old live oaks. It is one of several buildings on the campus of MacDonell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc. Although Wesley House has been enlarged and modified over the years, it still retains enough original features to convey its architectural significance as a Greek Revival plantation house.

The house began in the 1830's as a four room, cypress, raised cottage with four front doors, one central chimney, a rear stair, and two attic rooms upstairs. In the 1880's a large rear dining room/kitchen/storage wing with a semioctagonal bay on the east side was added. In addition, a side gallery was built linking the original front gallery with the new dining room.

In about 1930 some interior changes were made. The old cypress mantels downstairs were replaced by marble Rococo style mantels brought from New Orleans. The original remain upstairs, except for one which was recently moved to the kitchen to ornament the breakfast room. The old stair was moved into its present location in the corner of one of the original back rooms of the house. In addition, an arch was cut between this back room and a front parlor.

The only change made in 1930 which is visible from the exterior was the replacement of the four front doors with Colonial Revival six panel doors.

Noteworthy original features include the aforementioned Greek Revival aedicule mantels, the plan, the floorboards and moldings, the 9 over 6 windows, the front dormers (except for the upper trim), the front gallery, and the Greek Revival two panel doors.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the late-nineteenth and twentieth century modifications previously described, the form of the original house is clearly discernible from the subsequent accretions (Photo 4) and many of its important original features remain (as mentioned above). Therefore, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, Wesley House retains its architectural identity both as a Greek Revival plantation house and as a plantation house built partially under the influence of the French heritage (i.e., hall-less plan).

Minor Alterations Not Mentioned Above:

As shown on the attached sketch map of the house plan, the porches on the 1880's wing have been screened in.

Also, as shown in Photo #3, a window in the original portion has been enclosed in order to accommodate an air conditioner. In addition, as can be seen in the same photograph, apparently a door in the 1880's wing has been enclosed.

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 c.1835--original house **Builder/Architect** not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Wesley House is locally significant in the area of architecture as an important example of a Greek Revival plantation house within the context of Terrebonne Parish. It is one of the few remaining examples in the parish and is further distinguished by its age and French hall-less plan.

Terrebonne Parish developed during the first half of the nineteenth century as a center for the growing and refining of sugar. Like most of Louisiana's sugar parishes, the Terrebonne Parish economy boomed in the thirty or so years prior to the Civil War. As a result, during this period a large number of Greek Revival plantation houses were built, which represented something of an architectural "flowering" for the parish.*

Wesley House is important within this context for two reasons:

- (1) It is one of only four substantially intact examples remaining in the parish. This figure was obtained from the recently completed Terrebonne Parish survey in which 1016 50+ year old structures were identified.
- (2) Of the four aforementioned plantation houses, Wesley House is undoubtedly the oldest. It is also the only one which reflects the French architectural heritage (i.e., its hall-less plan).

*It is impossible to determine with certainty the exact number of Greek Revival plantation houses which were built in Terrebonne Parish in the three decades prior to the Civil War. However, the 1860 census lists 38 major slaveholdings (50 or more slaves) owned by residents of the parish, and undoubtedly there were many more minor slaveholdings (less than 50 slaves). Given this, it would be safe to conclude that there were numerous Greek Revival plantation houses in the parish on the eve of the Civil War. (Fifty would be a conservative estimate.)

History:

Judging from the architectural evidence, the original portion of the Wesley House dates from c.1835. Other than information gleaned from a title search, little is known of the nineteenth century history of the property. It changed hands numerous times before being bought by the present owner, the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, in 1919.

At that time it became the first building on the campus of a school which had as its purpose the education of Indian children in the area. These children spoke French brokenly and little if any English. When Wesley opened they were offered

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Comprehensive Statewide Survey, Terrebonne Parish

Chain of Title, Terrebonne Parish Courthouse

Menn, Joseph K. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana, 1860, New Orleans: Pelican Publishing 1964.

10. Geographical Data

CONTINUED

Acreege of nominated property @ .75 acre

Quadrangle name Houma, LA

Quadrangle scale 1: 62,500

UMT References

A

1	5	7	2	1	8	5	0	3	2	7	6	2	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat map. The boundaries were drawn to encompass the house and its immediate setting (photo 5).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title G. J. Bridges, Executive Director

organization MacDonnell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc.

date December 1980

street & number 1210 East Main Street

telephone 504-868-8362 or 8363 or 8474

city or town Houma

state LA 70360

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature


Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 8-11-82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Wesley House

Item number 8

Page 2

History (Continued)

an opportunity to receive religious and home training as well as attend school. Because Indians were discriminated against in the area, they were not permitted to attend public schools until 1953. The school grew from a grade school all the way to a grade-through-high school, and by 1938 over 50 students were graduated. Through the years additional buildings were added to the campus. At present MacDonell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc. (the present name for the school) serves the community as an agency for troubled children in need of special attention.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Wesley House

Item number 9

Page 2

9. Bibliography (Continued)

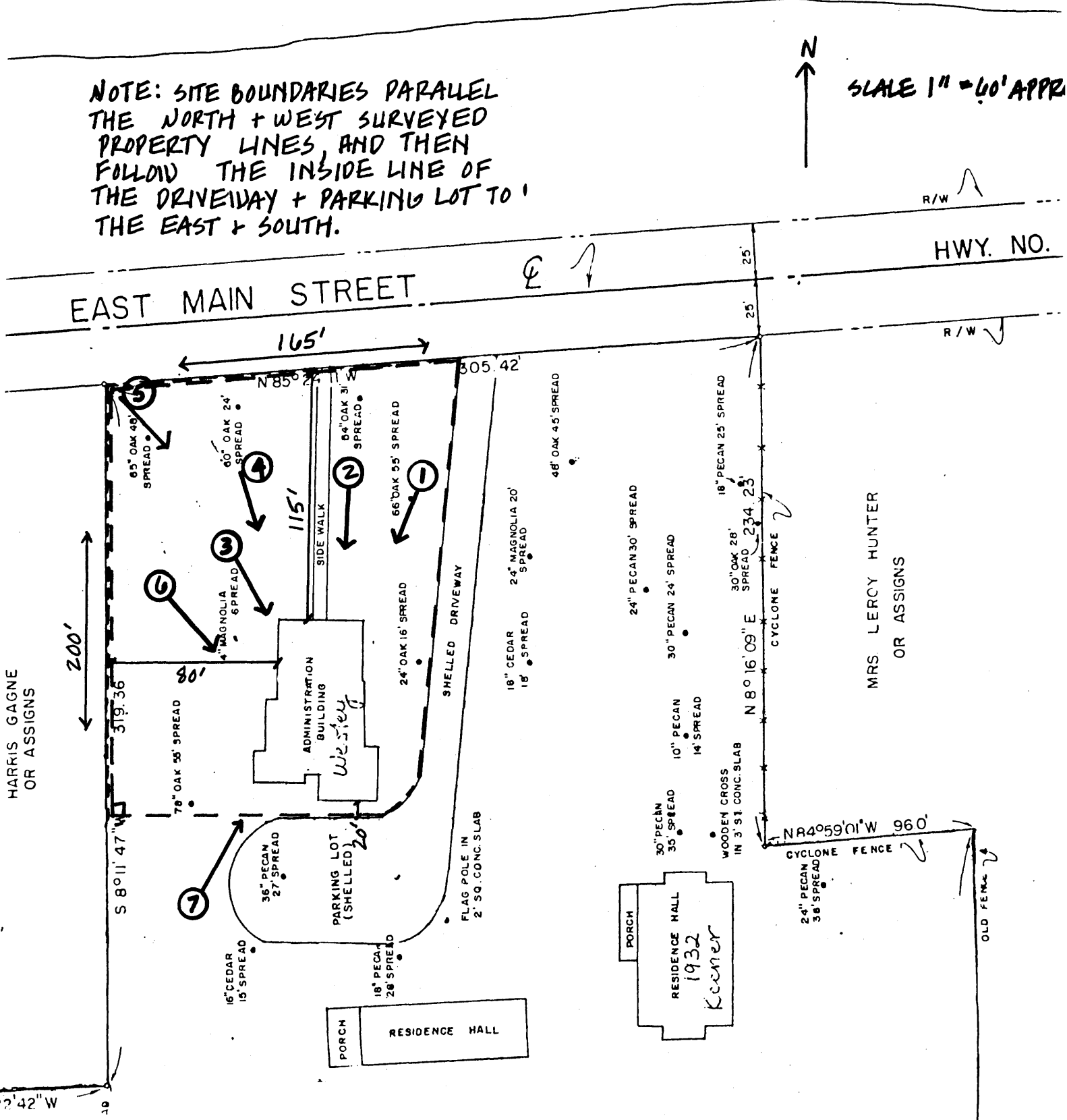
Research Report Submitted by MacDonell United Methodist Children's Services, Inc.,
Copy located in Wesley House National Register File, Louisiana State Historic
Preservation Office.

Wesley House

BAYOU TERREBONNE

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL THE NORTH + WEST SURVEYED PROPERTY LINES AND THEN FOLLOW THE INSIDE LINE OF THE DRIVEWAY + PARKING LOT TO THE EAST + SOUTH.

SCALE 1" = 60' APPR



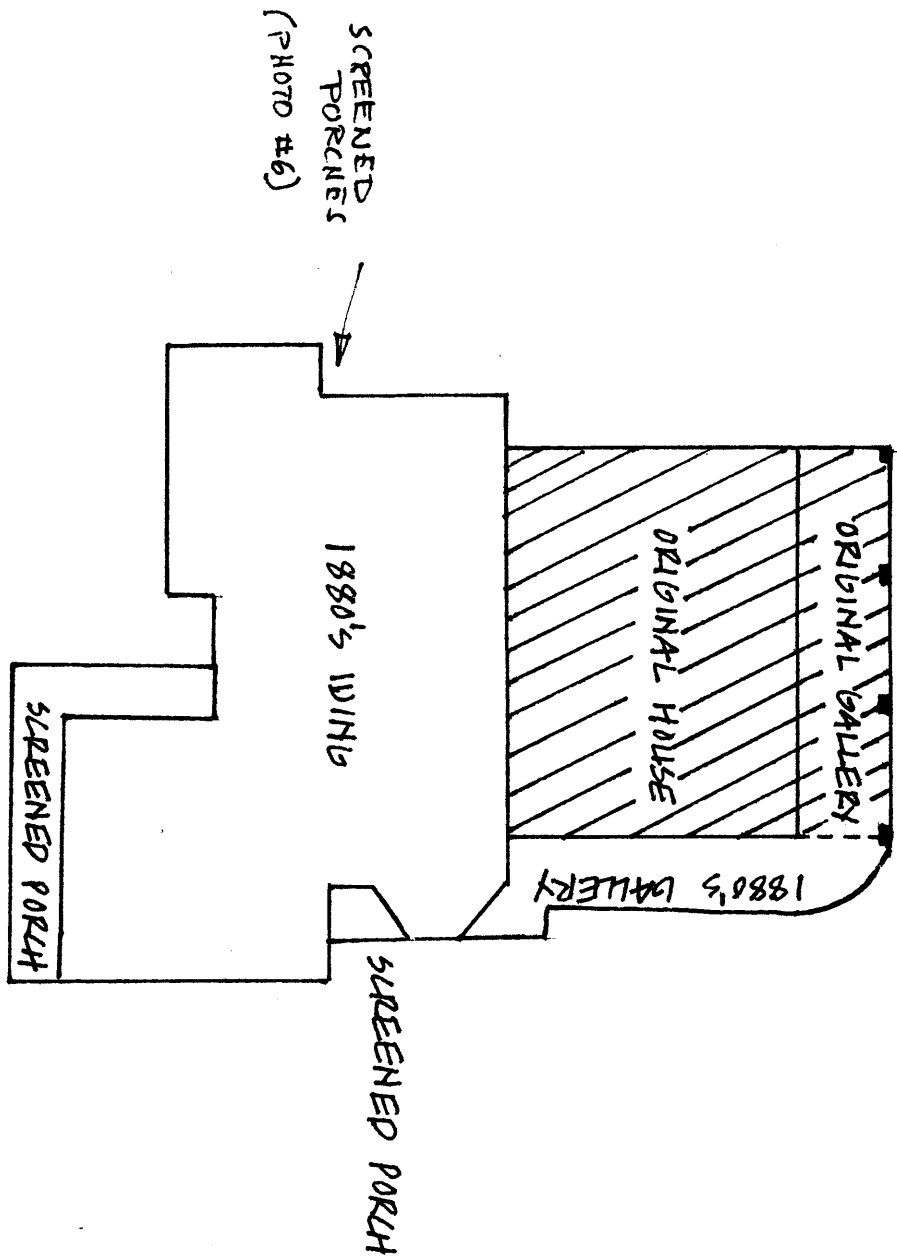
HARRIS GAGNE OR ASSIGNS

MRS LERCY HUNTER OR ASSIGNS

RESIDENCE HALL
1932
Kramer

RESIDENCE HALL

WESLEY HOUSE
SKETCH PLAN



SCALE 1" = 20' APPROX.

