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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building

other names/site number River Parishes Co., Inc.

2. Location

street & number 2049 Railroad Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lutcher N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. James code 093 zip code 70071

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Gerri Hobdy March 28, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, LA Date
SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action Entered in the National Register 5-13-94

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd.
Name of Property Headquarters Building

St. James Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick & concrete (piers)

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

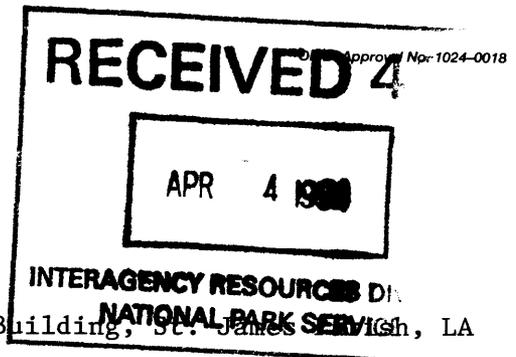
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Company, Ltd. Headquarters Building is a one story frame structure which faces the railroad track in the small St. James Parish community of Lutcher. The vernacular building has few stylistic associations and is being categorized as having "no style" for the purposes of this nomination. The structure has been moved a short distance and has also undergone some alteration since its c. 1894 construction. However, it remains eligible for National Register listing.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps document the original location of the Lutcher & Moore office. The sawmill complex extended from the Mississippi River to Main Street (now Railroad St.), with the office being at the river end near the sawmill. In 1927 a major flood of the Mississippi River devastated much of south Louisiana. This flood caused the Army Corps of Engineers to rework and strengthen the levee system, and many buildings along the river's course were lost or moved as a result. The c. 1930 move of the Lutcher & Moore building was caused by this work. In fact, approximately one-fifth of the company's sawmill reservation was lost to the levee project; and the office most certainly would have been destroyed had Lutcher & Moore not moved it about a quarter of a mile to the Main St. (Railroad St) end of the complex (its present location).

The headquarters displays a slight suggestion of Queen Anne Revival style influence in its asymmetrical footprint and cross-gabled roofline. The gables feature overhanging eaves which culminate in plain bargeboards whose lower ends display decorative cuts. Similarly cut rafter ends can be seen beneath the eaves. All but one of the gables is pierced by a large window with a louvered lower sash. The remaining gable contains a lozenge shaped window above a blank wall (see below). Most of the windows on the ground level are identical to the gables' rectangular openings except that their lower sashes are glazed. The office building originally had separate shed roof porches with plain support posts on three sides (see below).

The floorplan of the original building consisted of a large central space with a large accounting room on one side and the general manager's office and a small storeroom on the other. (Changes to this plan will be discussed below). The interior still contains several features which clearly reflect the building's function as a lumber company office. For example, the walls of the general manager's office are sheathed in heart cypress paneling. Its ceiling features four milled cypress beams which radiate outward from a cypress central medallion resembling a coffer. Also originally covered by cypress, the walls in the front half of the central room now feature a tupelo gum wainscot below sheathing of the same material. Accomplished in 1925, this relatively early alteration was made by the lumber

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

company in a deliberate attempt to showcase the wood which became its most important product after the cypress supply was exhausted. As part of this change, the room's stairway was enclosed and the stair's balustrade removed. Original cypress sheathing survives on one wall of the enclosed stairway space. The blank exterior wall mentioned above marks the existence of the accounting room's brick vault with an arched ceiling. Another feature which illustrates the building's function as a lumber company headquarters is a small shed roof space which served as the paymaster's base. Located beside the vault, the area is pierced by a window in each of its two exterior walls. These windows were intended to serve white and black workers.

Non-historic alterations to the building include the following:

- 1) the replacement of the windows' panes with tinted glass. Although the exact date of this change is unknown, it was completed while the building was still in Lutcher & Moore's hands.
- 2) a 1980 expansion and renovation which included the following:
 - a) the subdivision of the large central room to create two spaces, and the replacement of water and termite damaged materials in the newly created rear conference room.
 - b) the subdivision of the large accounting room to create an office, a hallway-like coffee room, and a small restroom off the new hall. The original bath was converted into a file room at this time.
 - c) the construction of a rear addition, in which care was taken to make the new construction appropriate to the historic structure. The addition was created by extending the original rear gable outward and then appending a shed roof space to it. Three original windows, as well as the gable's bargeboard, were moved and reused in the newly extended space. Also at this time, two of the three original porches were joined

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

to create a wraparound gallery. This gallery was then extended further by the construction of a new gallery across the side of the addition (see attached drawing).

Although the tinted glass windows and the presence of the rear addition are notable, these changes are not so overwhelming as to destroy the building's turn-of-the-century character. The structure meets the criteria for judging the integrity of historic nominations because any former employee of Lutcher & Moore would easily recognize the office should he return to the site today. As a rare symbol of an industry which played a major role in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century development of Louisiana, the Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd.
Name of Property Headquarters Building

St. James Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

industry

Period of Significance

c.1894-c.1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd.
Name of Property Headquarters Building

St. James Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .7 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date January 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Beech/c/o River Parishes Co., Inc.

street & number P. O. Box W telephone (504) 869-3133

city or town Lutcher state Louisiana zip code 70071

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building is of state significance in the area of industry because it is one of a limited number of resources left to directly represent the great Louisiana lumber boom. The period of significance spans from c. 1894, the date of construction, to c. 1930, when lumber production ended.

Industrial lumbering was one of the major historic forces in the development of Louisiana, and indeed the entire South. In fact, it was about the only bright spot in an otherwise weak post-Civil War economy. Until the 1880s, Louisiana's vast forests were largely untouched. It was then that large-scale industrial lumbering began in earnest. During the so-called "Golden Years" of the Louisiana lumber boom (c. 1905-c. 1925), 4.3 million acres of timber were cut, with Louisiana consistently ranking second in the nation in production.

With the lumber, and the money made from lumbering, Louisianians embarked upon a furious pace of building. Indeed, much of the state's building stock dates from the heyday of lumbering. Thus, in a general sense, the Queen Anne Revival cottages and bungalows found in many towns represent the lumber boom and what it did to the state. These are its largest, although not its most important legacy. More important are the relatively small number of cultural resources directly associated with the industrial production of lumber. These include lumber company towns, company offices and commissaries, owners' and managers' houses, and company built public buildings such as schools and churches.

Unfortunately, very few lumber boom related resources survive compared to the number that once existed. In many cases lumber company buildings were dismantled and moved out of the state when the timber played out. In other cases buildings in abandoned lumber communities simply collapsed after years of neglect. It should be emphasized that the Louisiana landscape was dotted with sawmills during the "golden years" of industrial lumbering. For example, there were over seventy sawmills within a forty mile radius of Alexandria. There were also scores of company built towns such as Lutcher. However, there are only about twenty-five or so lumber boom related resources remaining in the state. This estimate is based upon the Division of Historic Preservation's survey files and general staff knowledge. This number includes individual buildings built by this or that particular lumber company and seven lumber company towns which survive in varying degrees of integrity. Among these rare survivors, the Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd.

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Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Headquarters is particularly important because there are only four lumber company office buildings known to survive in the state. As the headquarters for the company and hence the town, these buildings are second in importance only to sawmills as reminders of the Louisiana lumber boom. Often the most prominent buildings in town, they symbolized the great power of the company.

The St. James Parish company was incorporated in 1892 by Henry J. Lutcher and G. Bedell Moore, two business partners who had already made a fortune from lumber in Texas. In 1889 the two men purchased 35,000 acres of virgin red cypress in St. James Parish. (The company's holdings would eventually reach a total of 60,000 acres.) Approximately forty acres near the Mississippi River were set aside for the company's sawmill complex. By 1894 Lutcher & Moore claimed fame as the second largest cypress mill in the world. A 1907 appraisal of the property listed mill equipment and twenty-nine industrial buildings valued at \$339,783. When a lower lumber yard, logging equipment, dwellings, and other buildings outside the mill complex were added to this tally, the appraisal's grand total came to over \$600,000. The mill produced such large quantities of doors, window frames, flooring, shutters, shingles, and beveled siding (its specialty) that it had exhausted the supply of cypress by 1925. As mentioned in Part 7, Lutcher & Moore then turned to the harvesting of tupelo gum. This change allowed the mill to continue its operation until around 1930, when the last of the lumber ran out.

Sadly, today's Lutcher does not retain sufficient integrity to qualify as a historic district. As mentioned in Part 7, approximately one-fifth of the mill reservation was lost to levee construction in the 1930s. Most of the building stock which was moved at this time or stood outside the affected area has since been lost. The sawmill itself was dismantled and sold for scrap to the Japanese some time between 1933 and 1941. Surviving are the office, a church, and two or three altered managers' houses located on scattered sites throughout the town. In addition, a small neighborhood of workers houses survives, but the majority of these buildings have been so altered that their integrity is severely impacted.

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Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 3

NOTE:

Although no longer active in the manufacture of lumber in St. James Parish, Lutcher & Moore continued to administer the company's other business interests from the old headquarters building. These interests included gas and oil pipelines and wells, as well as surface leases for hunting and trapping. Office space was also shared with local entities such as the Red Cross, draft board, and levee board. Lutcher & Moore was acquired by a Baton Rouge tugboat company in 1973, but its land management operations continued under the original name. The current owner purchased the headquarters building in 1980. It is now the headquarters of River Parishes Co., Inc., a river towing concern. Lutcher & Moore's remaining holdings (though not its name) were sold in 1992.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appraisal of Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., Ltd. facilities, Coats & Burchard Company, April 13, 1907, typescript (copy in National Register file).

Interview with Henry D. Beech, last land operations manager of Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Company, Ltd., January 11, 1994.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lutcher, Louisiana, 1909, 1926.

"The Birth of Lutcher: From Plantation, To Village, To Town," "Lutcher Centennial Celebration", September 1991.

"The Rise and Fall of Lutcher's Glory," Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

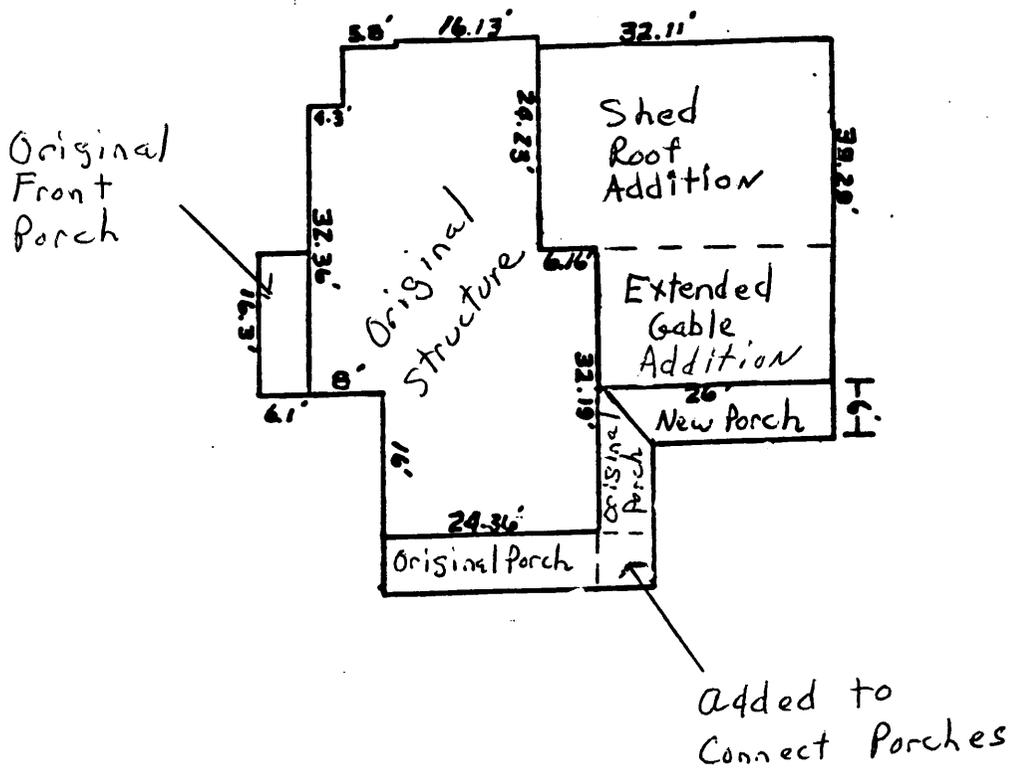
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Company Ltd. Headquarters Building, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Justification

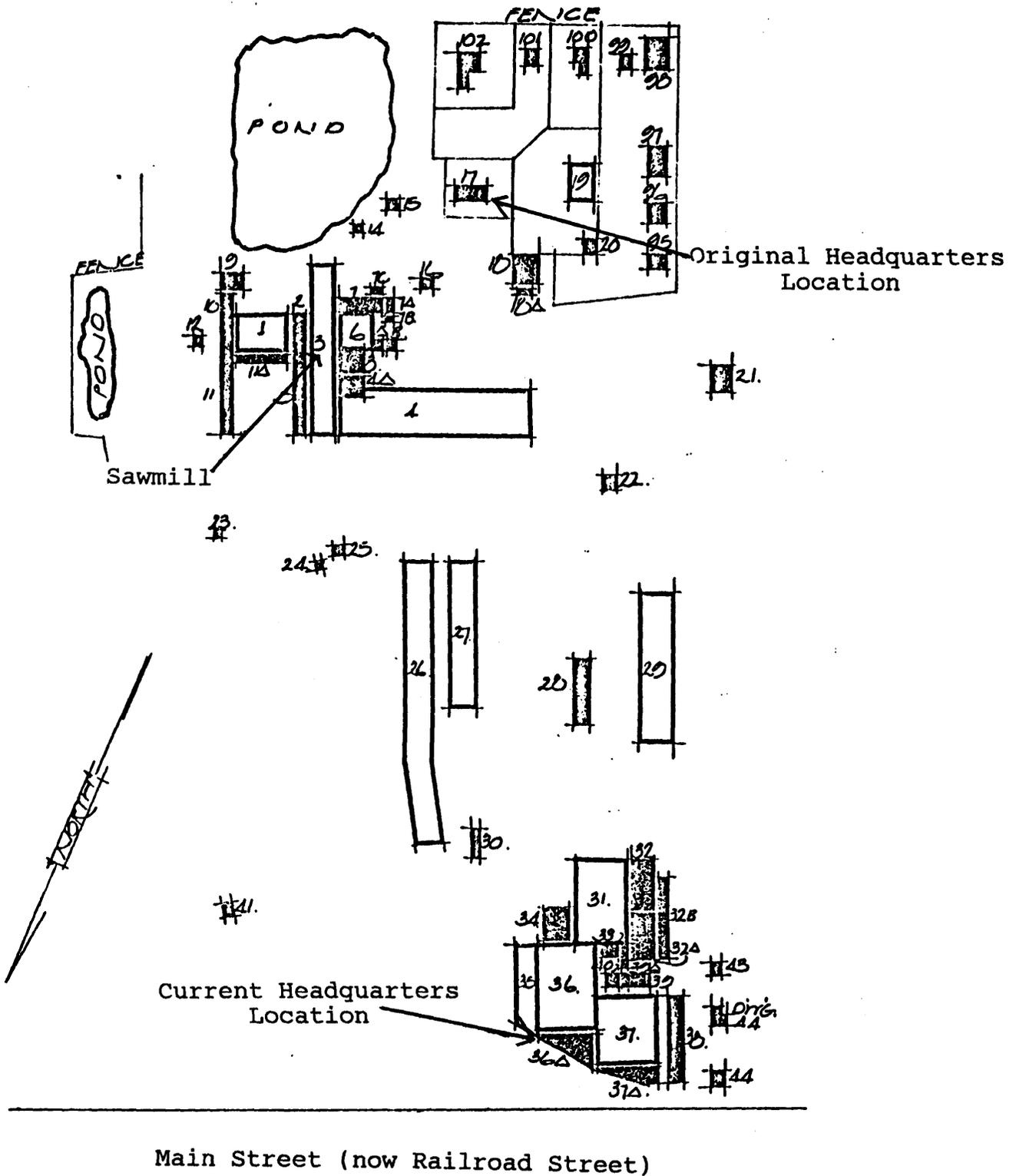
Boundaries follow property lines on three sides. The southern boundary cuts close to the nominated resource in order to exclude nearby non-contributing elements.



Luther + Moore Lumber Co. Headquarters
 St. James Parish, LA

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Jefferson Highway (River Road)



Scale: 1" = 180'

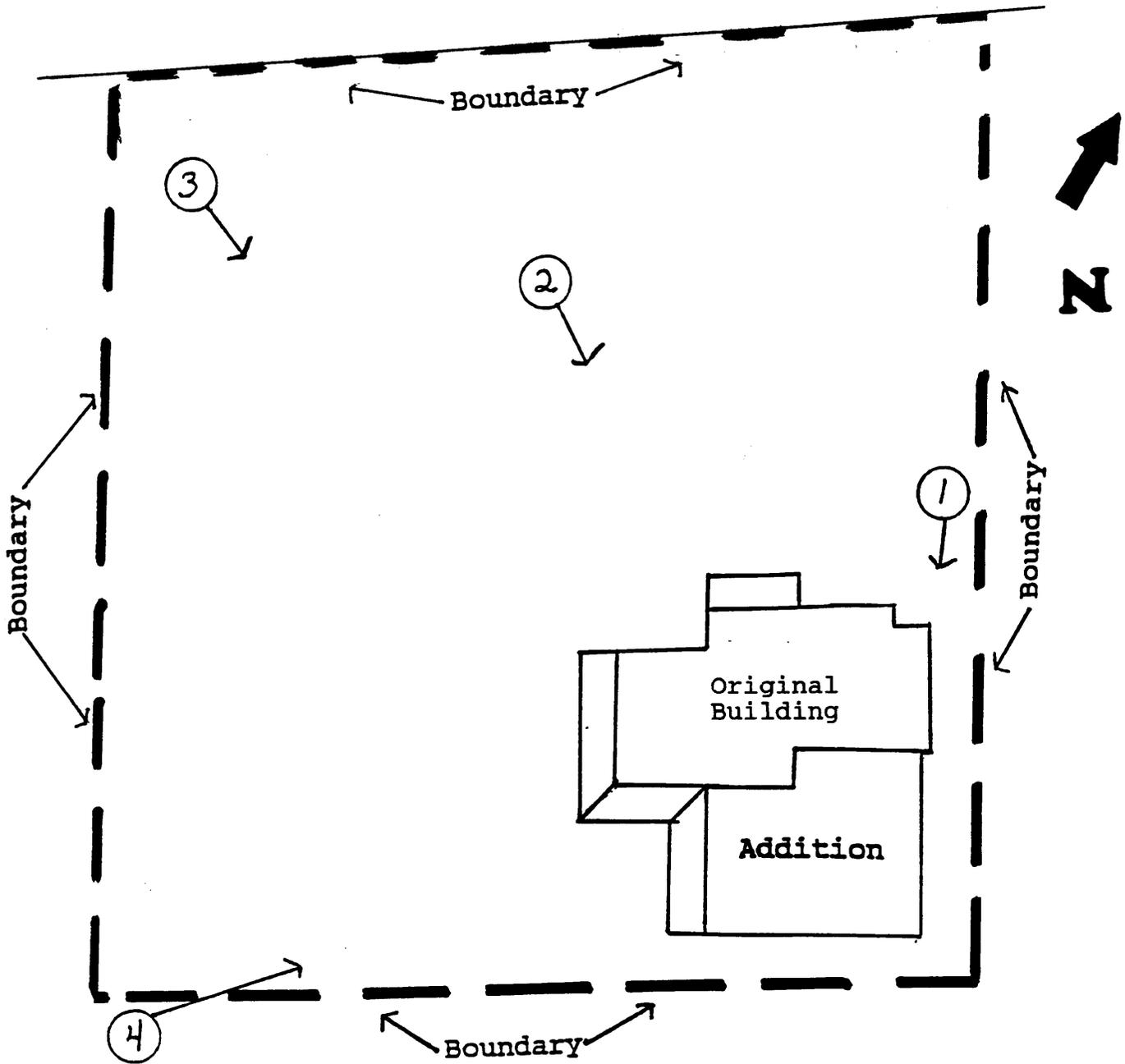
LUTCHER & MOORE CYPRESS LUMBER CO. LTD. COMPLEX

Map of Complex as it Appeared in 1920

Y. & M. V. RAILROAD

SCALE 1" = 30'

RAILROAD STREET



LUTCHER & MOORE CYPRESS LUMBER
COMPANY LTD. HEADQUARTERS
BUILDING

Lutcher, St. James Parish, Louisiana