

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 24 1987

date entered MAY 21 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Alexander State Forest Headquarters Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Alexander State Forest N/A not for publication

city, town Woodworth N/A vicinity of

state LA code 022 county Rapides Parish code 079

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: state forest headquarters building

4. Owner of Property

name Department of Natural Resources

Office of Forestry

street & number Alexander State Forest P. O. Box 298

city, town Woodworth N/A vicinity of state LA 71485

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray Street P. O. Box 952

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA 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

The Alexander State Forest Headquarters Building (1935) is a single story frame building styled to resemble a log cabin. It is located in a wooded setting on the Alexander State Forest property. The building retains its historic exterior appearance, although it has been modernized on the interior.

The Alexander State Forest Headquarters Building has an "H" shaped plan consisting of a large central reception room with two offices on each side. There is a seven bay front porch and a rear lean-to which contains bathrooms and storage space. The building is sheathed in half-round logs worked into various decorative patterns. For example, the logs are placed vertically above and below each of the principal openings. This vertical log treatment is repeated in the four main gables. In addition, most of the openings feature log surrounds with log cornerblocks. Finally, there is a small central gable marking the entrance which features a log sunburst motif.

Alterations:

The only noticeable exterior alteration has been the installation of metal awnings on the side and rear elevations. Also, the present front door is a replacement. The interior has been completely modernized with a lowered ceiling and new paneling. In our opinion, these changes have not compromised the building's visual identity as a "rustic" log cabin built as a state forest headquarters.

Contributing Elements:

In front of the headquarters building is a contemporaneous set of monumental obelisk-shaped driveway markers constructed of local stone. Of course, they are listed as contributing elements.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS: 3 (two driveway markers plus building)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1935 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Alexander State Forest Headquarters Building is of state level significance in the area of conservation because it is the primary resource associated with timber conservation efforts in early twentieth century Louisiana.

Until the 1880s Louisiana's vast pine 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 (1904-1927), 4.3 million acres of virgin timber land was cut. Virtually all of the lumber companies had the same policy -- "cut out and get out." Reforestation was largely unheard of, and as a result, much of central and western Louisiana was reduced to a stump-covered wasteland. This cutover timber land was considered worthless. Some lumber companies tried to get rid of it by selling it off; others simply allowed parishes to take it in lieu of delinquent taxes.

Reaction to this "denuding" of the state was slow at first, but in the early twentieth century Louisiana took the lead in conservation efforts. In 1910 a permanent conservation commission was established. Six years later the Louisiana Division of Forestry was established with R. D. Forbes the first State Forester. The Division established a system of forest fire rangers and enacted a program to provide timber management assistance to small land owners. Under state law, the Division entered into reforestation contracts with owners of denuded land. Essentially property taxes were lowered in return for the promise of reforestation activities. In 1923 contracts were signed to reforest some 141,845 acres. The Division also supervised a boy's forestry club, held summer training courses for rangers, and encouraged property owners to leave seed trees because fully cutover land would not reforest by itself.

In many ways the centerpiece of the Division's conservation efforts was the state forest in Woodworth which was purchased in 1923. The purpose of the state forest was to provide a nursery and to act as a demonstration project to show what could be done with proper timber management. State purchase of the forest was hailed in the Southern Lumberman: "Louisiana, first in reforestation in the South, has now taken the lead by being the first state in the Southern pine belt to establish a state owned public forest. . . . It stands as an example of what reforestation can accomplish. . . ." Named the Alexander State Forest, the facility grew over the next several years and attained its present size (8000 acres) in 1938.

It should be noted that Louisiana was a pioneer in these conservation efforts. For example, the Alexander State Forest was established some six years before the federal government began acquiring land for the nearby Kisatchie National Forest.

In 1933 a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp was located in the forest. For the next few years the CCC workers developed the site, building fire lanes and bridges, providing for drainage, establishing nurseries, and constructing buildings. In 1935 they built the State Forest Headquarters Building.

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal communication with Dr. Anna Burns, Louisiana forestry historian.
 Burns, Anna C. A History of the Louisiana Forestry Commission. Louisiana Studies Institute Monograph Series, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1968.
 Burns, Anna C. "The Kisatchie Story: A History of Louisiana's Only National Forest." Doctoral Dissertation, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 7 acres

Quadrangle name Woodworth East, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	5	0	0	8	0	3	4	4	5	1	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to encompass the headquarters building and driveway markers. To have followed property lines would have meant including the entire state forest (about 8,000 acres).

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY DR. ANNA C. BURNS

organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1987
 State of Louisiana

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358


city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

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 April 20, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 5-21-87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Alexander State Forest

Item number 8

Page 1

Headquarters Building
Rapides Parish, LA

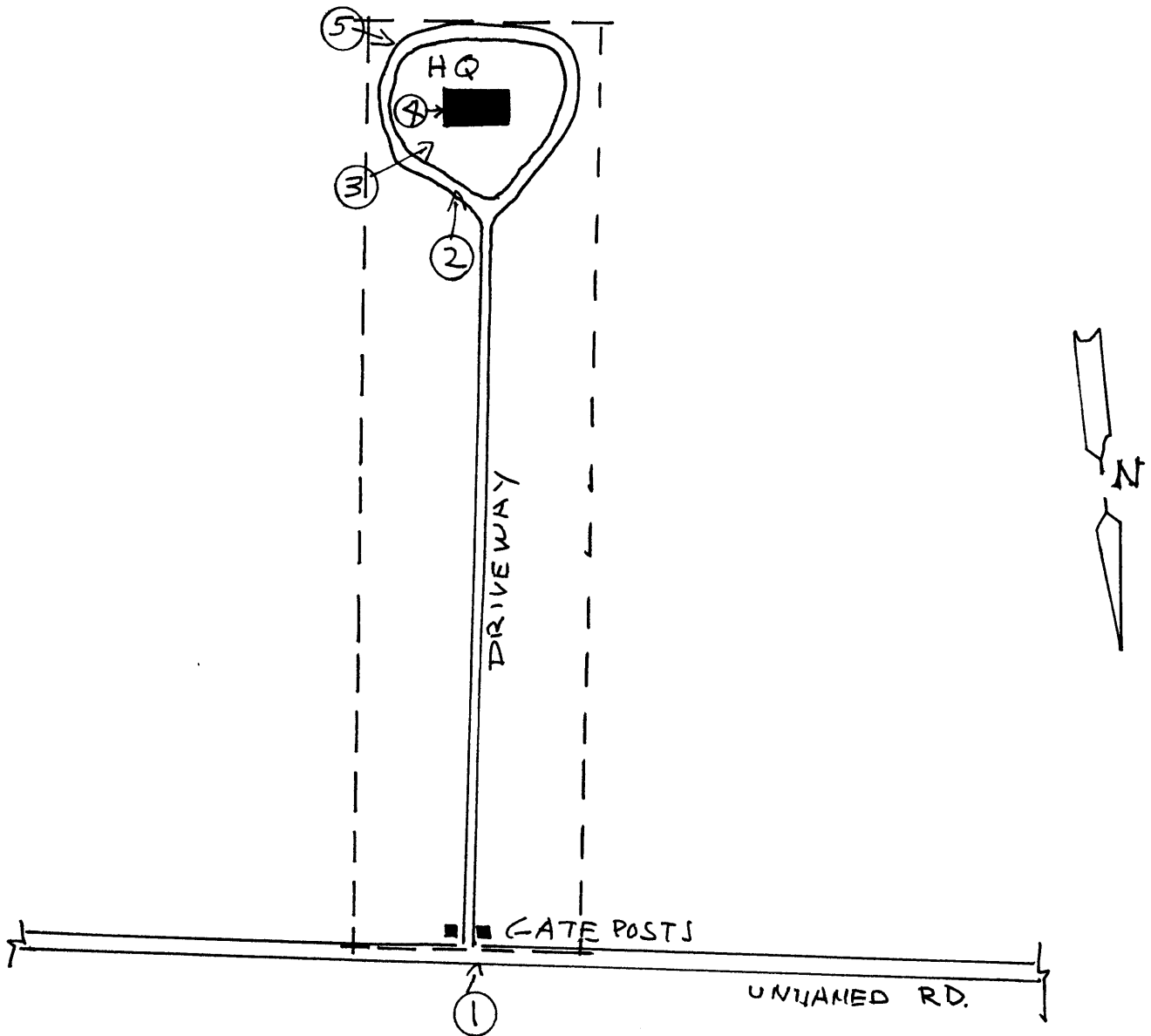
Significance (continued)

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the Alexander State Forest Headquarters Building is the primary resource associated with state forestry conservation efforts in the early twentieth century. Firstly, it is the only structure left in the Alexander State Forest dating back to the time when the facility was being created and developed. Secondly, it was the center of administration for the forest, and the forest itself was the centerpiece of the conservation effort. Finally, conservation activities which took place outside the state forest (reforestation contracts, technical help, etc.) are the type which would not have left tangible cultural resources.

BOUNDARY

ALEXANDER STATE FOREST
HEADQUARTERS BLDG.

RAPIDES PARISH, LA.



SCALE 1"=200'