UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME						
HISTORIC						
01d Castillo H	lote1					
AND/OR COMMON		<u></u>		·······		
Mercy High Sch	001	·				
2 LOCATION	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
STREET & NUMBER						
220 Port Stree	t			NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN				CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT	
St. Martinvill	.e	VICINITY OF		7th-John Brea		
STATE		CODE 22	0+ W	COUNTY	CODE	
CLASSIFIC		<u> </u>	SE. M	artin Parish		
ULA55IFIC						
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESENTUSE		
DISTRICT	PUBLIC			AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
X_BUILDING(S)	_XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED		COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS		XEDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT		X_YES: RESTRICTED		GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION OTHER:	
Corporation of	the Sisters of Mercy	of Louisiana				
STREET & NUMBER 1017 St. Andre	w Street					
STREET & NUMBER <u>1017 St. Andre</u> CITY. TOWN	w Street			STATE		
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7 DESCRIPTION

	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED		SITE
X_GOOD	RUINS	X_ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Castillo Hotel is set on the west bank of Bayou Teche near the center of St. Martinville.

Originally it was built as a two and one half story, brick bearing wall building with a central hall plan and a one-story gallery in front. The following changes have been made:

- The front gallery, which was surmounted by a second floor balcony, has 1) been removed due to rot.
- Two of the interior walls have been moved to provide for a large classroom 2) on each side of the downstairs central hall, and a small principal's and a second in office and bathroom.
- The elliptical fan-lighted front door was moved over one bay towards the 3) center of the house, and a decorative door from has been added around . . it. 👈 TERRE OF
- All chimneys and mantels have been removed. 4)
- A rear wing has been added. 5)
- The front French doors, which originally characterized both stories of the 6) facade, have been replaced by ordinary sash windows with paneled infill below.

Despite these changes, many salient features of the original building remain. These include the form and basic shape of the building, the bay pattern, the structure, and most of the windows. Much of the detailing also remains, including the three handsome Federal dormers, many of the interior door and window frames, and the roofline frieze. The entire frame structure also remains.

In any case the present owners have every intention of returning the hotel to its original facade appearance. In addition the interior restoration architect Robert Smith (vita enclosed) has indicated that despite the altered facade, restoration would be relatively easy. W Ashar Garage

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8 SIGN	IFICANCE			
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X-SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART		MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	X COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
	en de la companya de			
SPECIFIC DAT	ES ca. 1835	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT Jean Pierre Va	sseur, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Castillo Hotel is of commercial and social significance because it is the only surviving example of the type of hotel which served the steamboat trade on Bayou Teche during the era of steamboat transportation. Steamboat travellers stayed there, along with other visitors to St. Martinville, which in this period was a fashionable resort as well as a commercial focal point. In addition, the hotel served the community as a restaurant and tavern, and as a setting for community activities, including balls, parties, and banquets. Today it is generally recognized by local citizens as a historical landmark reflecting St. Martinville's heritage as a steamboat town.

Extensive research into court records and old newspapers indicates that this building was probably constructed between 1835 and 1840 as a residence or business-residence combination by Jean Pierre Vasseur, a local merchant. Vasseur advertised in the Attakapas Gazette (December 19, 1840) the opening of the Union Ballroom (Salle de l'Union), "handsomely decorated and furnished," offering "an excellent room with a good fire...especially for the use of the ladies as a dressing room. Another room with a fire for gentlemen who may wish to retire to play at domino (sic) or other games." The ad announced that a gumbo would be served in the "grand hall" and "liquors of the first quality" would be furnished at the bar. An invitation addressed to a "Madame Veuve Veillon et sa Famille" dated January 12, 1841, requests their presence at "le Bal de Societe" to be held at "Salle de l'Union chez Vasseur" in St. Martinville on January 23, 1841.

Court records and census records indicate that the building was owned by Charles Dutel from 1843 to 1850, at which time it was sold to Don Louis Broussard who continued the operation of the hotel to 1858. From 1858 to 1876, the brothers Anton and Wilhelm Hesse owned and managed the establishment known under their stewardship as "Maison des Allemands." During these Civil War years, the building continued to serve as a meeting place and focal point for community activities.

Under the succeeding ownership of Charles Gauthier, the Charles Gauthier Estate, and Stanislas Dabadie (1876-1899), the building reached its foremost significance. It was during this period that Delia Greig Castillo, widow of a well-known steamboat captain, Edmond Castillo, undertook the management, and the hotel soon became known for its fine hospitality.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
			×

11 FORM PREPARED BY

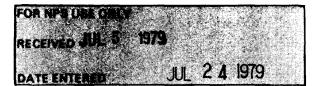
GANIZATION	DATE
	June 1979
EET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
15 Port Street	
Y OR TOWN	STATE
t. Martinville	Louisiana

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL	STATE	LOCAL X		
-	A Dama			
TITLE State Historic	Preservation Officer	DATE 6	122/	79
DA NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PRO	PERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL	L REGISTER DATE 7.2	779	
CHEE OF ADDICTRATION	soors for	DATE	<u> </u>	I

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In 1885, Madame Castillo's granddaughter, Eva Bonin, was married to Alphonse Guerin, who first distinguished himself locally when he was appointed librarian for a subscription library which was established at the hotel. Guerin, a gourmet cook by avocation, brought fame to the hotel and the St. Martinville area by catering banquets and dinners which were praised in area news media for the originality of the menus and the expertise of the cook.

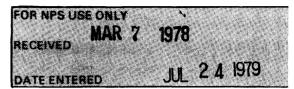
In the spring of 1887, Charles Dudley Warner, noted journalist, described in <u>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</u> his visit to the hotel.

When St. Martinville was again visited by a noted writer in 1890, the Castillo Hotel was the only hotel in town. Dr. Alcee Fortier, distinguished educator and historian, chronicles his overnight stay at the hotel in his article "Acadians of Louisiana and Their Dialect." The hotel is mentioned in an excerpt from this article used by Edwin A. Davis in compiling his textbook on Louisiana history which is still in use today.

The death of Madame Castillo in April, 1899 brought a close to the hotel era of the building. A month later, the property was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy for the purpose of expanding their educational facilities which already encompassed most of that block. For the past eighty years this building has housed Mercy High School.

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<u>Attakapas Gazette</u> and <u>St. Mary, St. Martin</u> and <u>Lafayette</u> <u>Advertiser</u>. December 19, 1840. Weekly Messenger. St. Martinville, Louisiana. 1886-1936.

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