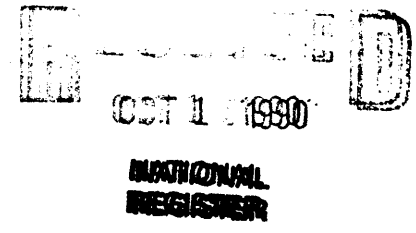


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number corner of US Hwy 165 & Castor Plunge Road N/A not for publication
city, town Woodworth N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71485

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Leslie Tassin Oct 9, 1990
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date
Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Amy Federman 11/26/90
 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 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival
Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
 walls weatherboard
 roof asphalt
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House is a large, rambling, frame residence located on U. S. Highway 165, a major north-south artery. The small former sawmill town of Woodworth has an almost completely modern character today. The manager's house was built sometime between 1893, when the first sawmill was built, and 1904, when a picture of it appeared in the American Lumberman. For the purposes of this nomination, we will use the date c.1895. The house subsequently received a major remodeling, which one suspects took place in 1927 when it was purchased as a private residence after the lumber company abandoned Woodworth.

For the record, the following analysis is based almost completely upon the architectural evidence and conclusions drawn from it. There is no documentation for the house beyond a poor xerox of the picture from the 1904 American Lumberman. (Seeing the original would not help given the angle at which the photo was taken and its overall quality.)

It appears that the house originally had one room on each side of a central hall and a rear ell wing on the western side. The most distinctive feature was the rather unusual massing. The main block had a medium pitch roof with a full gable at the west end and a hip form at the east end. Appended to this was a gallery under a skirting roof. The skirting roof terminated in a hip form on the western end and wrapped around the corner to encompass the eastern side elevation. The previously mentioned 1904 photograph, albeit fuzzy, seems to indicate that this gallery continued around the corner to encompass some part of the rear elevation as well. However, one cannot be certain given the angle of the photograph. It is known that the rear ell wing had a gallery of its own which connected with the rear of the central hall. (This gallery has been enclosed, but three thick chamfered columns are in place, which undoubtedly matched the main gallery columns.) The facade featured four irregularly placed openings, with one more or less at the center marking the entrance. The house was sheathed in beveled siding.

It is beyond question that the house subsequently received a major remodeling. What was done is also clear. However, it is not possible to determine the exact date. Essentially the house was remodeled in a combination of the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts styles. This work can only be dated architecturally and could have occurred anytime between the late teens and the early '30s. The question is important because the house's period of association with the sawmill era ends in 1926 when the mill abandoned the town. The house

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House, Woodworth, Rapides Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

was purchased in 1927 by one of the mill workers, Tom Worsham, for use as his family home. While it will never be known whether the remodeling was undertaken during the sawmill era or by Mr. Worsham, logic favors the latter. It seems unlikely that a lumber company would spend a sizable sum to remodel a company owned house in the latest style. It also seems unlikely that a hired sawmill manager would spend a good deal of his own money on a house he did not own. However, it is very plausible that a new private owner would want to update a house which was by then around thirty years old.

Regardless of when it occurred, the remodeling consisted of the following:

- (1) One room was added to the rear on the east side, creating a second rear wing.
- (2) The original rear wing was widened about three feet to the west using salvaged lumber.
- (3) All of the main gallery columns were replaced with flared Doric posts in the Colonial Revival style.
- (4) Two of the front openings were enlarged.
- (5) The house was completely remodeled on the interior. The central hall was removed, creating a large living room. Two rooms received Colonial Revival mantels echoing the porch columns and two received brick Arts and Crafts style mantels. Three rooms were fitted with Arts and Crafts openwork false beam ceilings. Closets were installed and most of the interior moldings were replaced.
- (6) It appears that the enclosure of a portion of the side gallery for a bathroom dates from this remodeling as well.

Alterations since the above remodeling include the addition of a second bathroom at the rear, the enclosure of what remained of the original rear wing gallery, the addition of a covered parking space to the main gallery on the west side, and the installation of paneling in two of the rooms. (The steps shown in Photo 4 represent a small 1940s addition that has since been removed.)

CONTINUED

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Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House, Woodworth, Rapides Parish, LA

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Assessment of Integrity:

As previously mentioned, one cannot be certain of the date of the remodeling, although 1927 seems the most likely scenario, as explained above. Thus one should assess the house's integrity based upon the "worst case scenario"--i.e., that the remodeling took place after the period of significance for the house. Although the alterations are considerable, one could argue that the house is still recognizable from the exterior as the mill manager's residence. The very distinctive massing and gallery configuration remain entirely intact when viewed from the front. The front fenestration pattern remains, although two of the openings have been enlarged somewhat. Most of the original siding also remains. The gallery columns, although replaced, are roughly of the same visual weight and shape as the originals. In short, it seems reasonable that someone from the sawmill period would recognize the house today, at least from the exterior.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House, Rapides Parish, LA

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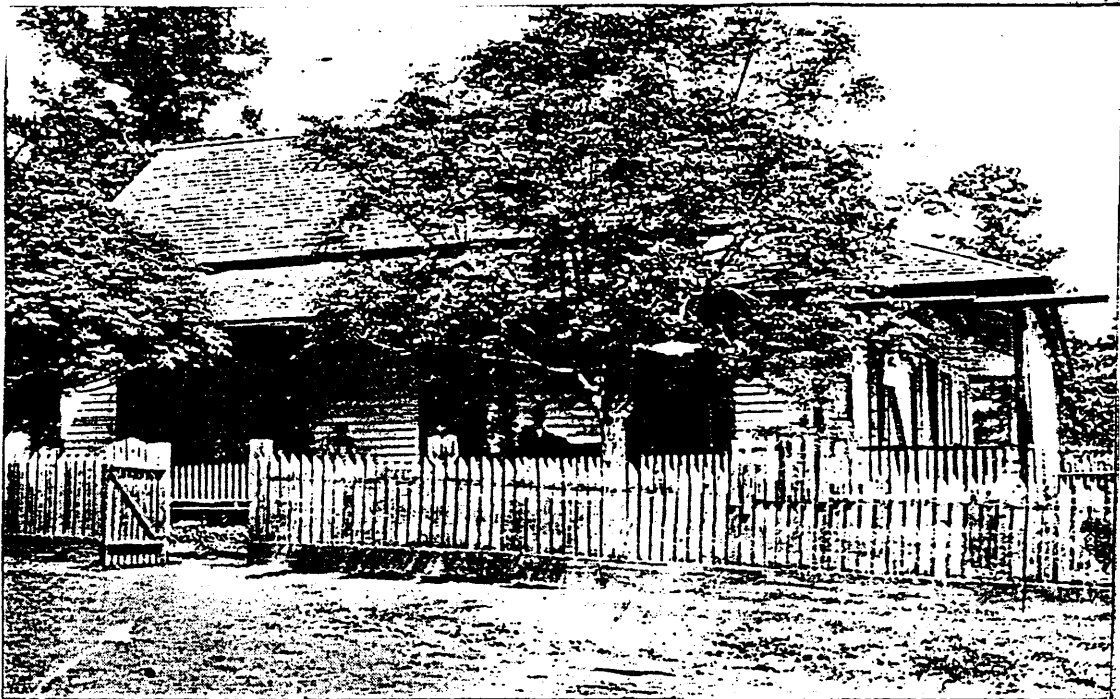


photo of manager's house appearing in July 2, 1904 issue of the
American Lumberman

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

c.1895 - 1926

Significant Dates

c.1895-1926

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Rapides Lumber Company Manager's House is locally significant in the area of industry because it and two other houses are the only buildings that survive to reflect the sawmill town heritage of Woodworth, a small community which is now almost completely modern in character.

Woodworth's history begins with the establishment of the Morris Post Office on the site in 1892 (named after the first postmaster, William J. Morris). The name was changed to Woodworth in 1893 in honor of Calvin H. Woodworth of the Rapides Lumber Company. In that year the company established a steam driven sawmill and finishing plant there.

An invaluable account of the early appearance of the sawmill town, with photographs, is found in the American Lumberman issue of July 2, 1904. The article describes the town as having 103 houses with 12 additional ones under construction, a large sawmill capable of cutting 110,000 feet of lumber per day, a commissary, a church and schools for black and white children. The company owned 46,000 acres of longleaf yellow pine in the area. The mill complex included the two story sawmill, two rough dry sheds, a railroad loading platform, an office, a huge lumber yard, and a brick boiler house. There were also two dry kilns and a planing mill.

In 1906 the company was acquired by Long Bell Lumber and operations were expanded. Long Bell was a Kansas-based concern that owned four large mills in Louisiana. The Woodworth plant retained the name Rapides Lumber Company. During the heyday of the town there were about 1,000 inhabitants.

By 1926 the seemingly limitless timber supply had been exhausted and the town was abandoned. The focus of lumbering shifted to the Pacific Northwest, and many of the Woodworth personnel were transferred to Longview, Washington. Apparently about 95% of the buildings were immediately disposed of by the company, following the "cut out and get out" dismantling policy often found in Louisiana's sawmill towns. One of the mill workers, Tom Worsham, purchased the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Lumberman, July 2, 1904.

King, Helene. "The Economic Conditions of the Long Bell Lumber Company." LSU thesis, 1936.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property @ 1 acre _____

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	4	7	9	0	0
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3	4	4	5	8	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the building stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1990
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Ms. Madeline O. Wise

P. O. Box 100
Woodworth, LA 71485

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

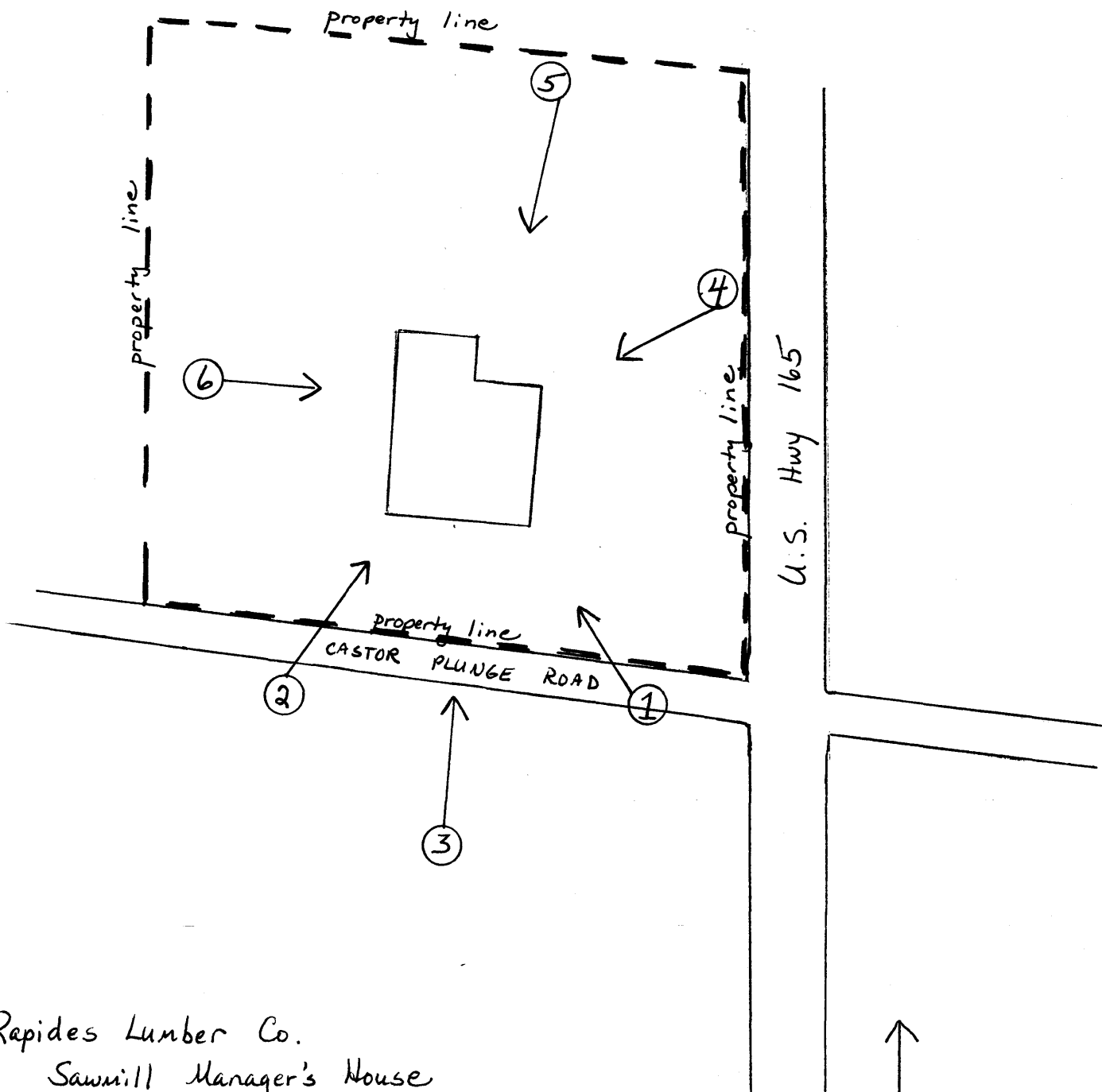
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill Manager's House, Woodworth, Rapides Parish, LA
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manager's house in 1927 for use as his family residence. Driving around Woodworth today, one would scarcely guess its sawmill town heritage. There are only three remaining buildings from that era as well as the ruins of a huge brick vault on the site of the company office. The three buildings are the manager's house and two other homes.

Note regarding period of significance:

The property is significant because it represents the sawmill history of Woodworth. The period of significance begins c.1895, when the house was built to serve as the sawmill manager's house, and ends in 1926 when the lumber company left Woodworth.



Rapides Lumber Co.
 Sawmill Manager's House
 Woodworth, Rapides Parish, LA

1" = 50'

--- BOUNDARY