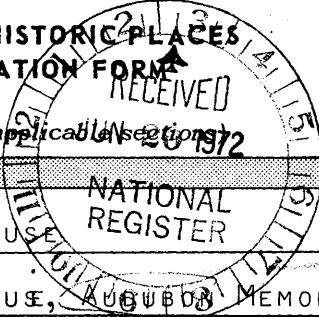


4-73

PH 9257

STATE: LOUISIANA	
COUNTY: WEST FELICIANA	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 25 1973	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**



(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
OAKLEY PLANTATION HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
OAKLEY PLANTATION HOUSE, AUGUSTUS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
STATE HIGHWAY 965

CITY OR TOWN:
4 1/2 MILES EAST OF ST. FRANCISVILLE in

STATE LOUISIANA	CODE 22	COUNTY: WEST FELICIANA	CODE 125
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
LOUISIANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. DRAWER 1111

CITY OR TOWN:
BATON ROUGE

STATE:
LOUISIANA

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
CLERK OF COURT AND RECORDER

STREET AND NUMBER:
COURT HOUSE

CITY OR TOWN:
ST. FRANCISVILLE

STATE:
LOUISIANA

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
PORTION OF OAKLEY PLANTATION

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
CLERK OF THE PARISH OF WEST FELICIANA

STREET AND NUMBER:
PARISH COURT HOUSE

CITY OR TOWN:
ST. FRANCISVILLE

STATE:
LOUISIANA

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

OAKLEY PLANTATION HOUSE HAS BEEN RESTORED AS CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL AS POSSIBLE. IT IS A THREE STORY STRUCTURE EXPRESSING THE COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE ADAPTED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION. IT PREDATES THE REVIVAL OF SOUTHERN PLANTATION ARCHITECTURE, WITH A TOUCH OF THE WEST INDIES REFLECTED IN ITS JALOUSIED GALLERIES AND BEAUTIFUL SIMPLICITY.

THE RESTORED HOUSE CONTAINS SEVENTEEN ROOMS INCLUDING ENTRANCE AND STAIR HALLS, RESTROOMS, AND CLOSETS. PRINCIPAL ROOMS ON THE GROUND FLOOR ARE THE HUGE DINING ROOM AND LIBRARY. THE SECOND FLOOR CONTAINS A LARGE LIVING AND MUSIC ROOM, THREE BEDROOMS, AND A STAIR HALL. THE THIRD FLOOR CONSISTS OF FOUR BEDROOMS, CLOSETS, AND A LARGE STAIR HALL. ACCESS TO THE FRONT AND REAR GALLERIES IS AFFORDABLE ON ALL FLOORS.

THE GROUND FLOOR IS BUILT PRINCIPALLY OF PLANTATION BRICK, INCLUDING THE MAIN SUPPORT COLUMNS. THE BALANCE OF THE STRUCTURE IS OF CYPRESS FRAME CONSTRUCTION, WITH VARIOUS OTHER WOODS BEING USED IN THE FLOORING, JAMBS, SILLS DECORATION, ETC. FRONT AND SIDE ENTRANCES LEAD TO THE LOVELY LANDSCAPED GROUNDS. A REAR ENTRANCE LEADS TO THE KITCHEN AND WEAVING ROOM WHICH IS HOUSED IN A SMALL SEPARATE BUILDING THAT WAS RESTORED AROUND THE ORIGINAL MASSIVE BRICK FIREPLACE.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

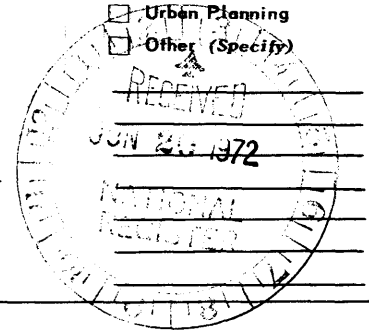
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

OAKLEY PLANTATION HOUSE IS LOCATED IN THE AUDUBON MEMORIAL STATE PARK IN WEST FELICIANA PARISH. CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE WAS STARTED IN 1799 ON A SPANISH LAND GRANT BY RUFFIN GRAY, A SUCCESSFUL PLANTER FROM NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI. GRAY DIED BEFORE THE HOUSE WAS COMPLETED. HIS WIDOW LUCY ALSTON FINISHED THE HOUSE AND REMARRIED JAMES PIRRIE OF SCOTLAND. PIRRIE THUS INHERITED OAKLEY AND THE TWO GRAY CHILDREN, RUFFIN JR. AND MARY ANN.

TO THIS MARRIAGE A DAUGHTER ELIZA, WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 6, 1805 AT OAKLEY. THIS WAS THE YOUNG LADY WHO INDIRECTLY INTRODUCED THE ASPIRING ARTIST AND NATURALIST JOHN JAMES AUDUBON TO THE BEAUTIFUL FELICIANAS. IN THE SPRING IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR THE PLANTERS FROM SURROUNDING PARISHES TO BRING THEIR FAMILIES TO NEW ORLEANS FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PURPOSES. IT WAS ON SUCH AN OCCASION IN THE SPRING OF 1821, THAT MRS. JAMES PIRRIE MET AUDUBON. AT THIS TIME AUDUBON WAS IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES AS HE WAS HARD PUT TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING FOR HIMSELF AND HIS THIRTEEN YEAR OLD, PUPIL ASSISTANT, JOHN MASON, BY GIVING DRAWING LESSONS WHILE WORKING ON HIS MONUMENTAL BIRDS OF AMERICA.

MRS. PIRRIE PERCEIVED THAT AUDUBON WAS OF A CULTURED BACKGROUND, BEING SKILLED IN DANCE AND LANGUAGE AS WELL AS ART. AND ACCORDINGLY ENGAGED HIM TO JOURNEY TO OAKLEY AS A TUTOR TO MISS ELIZA.

(CONT.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AUDUBON BY STANLEY CLISBY ARTHUR; ANTE BELLUM ARCHITECTURE BY JOHN DESMOND; THE FELICIANAS OF LOUISIANA BY MRS. MIRIAM REED. LOUISIANA CHAPTER DAR ARTICLE JANUARY 1953 BY MRS. L. L. STERLING; MUSEUM NEWS, SEPT. 1960; FEDERAL MANSIONS IN LOUISIANA BY WM. W. WELLS.

OVERDYKE, LOUISIANA PLANTATION HOMES; J. WESLEY COOPER, A TREASURY OF LOUISIANA PLANTATION HOMES (NATCHEZ, 1961). HARRY HANSEN (ED.), LOUISIANA, A GUIDE TO THE STATE (NEW YORK, 1971, REV. ED.), 505

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	30°	47'	49"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	91°	18'	27.39"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	<i>corrected by phone 1-10-78</i>		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM
15/661950
3408100
(D)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: HERMAN C. WILLEM JR., ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ORGANIZATION: STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION DATE: 4/14/72

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. DRAWER 1111

CITY OR TOWN: BATON ROUGE STATE: LOUISIANA CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George W. Peake
Title: Chairman, Louisiana Historical Preservation and Cultural Comm.
Date: June 12, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 1/25/73

ATTEST:
Com J. Smith
Keeper of the National Register
Date: 1.15.73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 25 1973	

(Number all entries)

(CONT. FROM STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE)

THE ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED THAT AUDUBON SPEND HALF HIS TIME TEACHING DRAWING TO MISS ELIZA. HE WAS OTHERWISE FREE TO ROAM THE WOODS AND WORK ON HIS PAINTINGS. FOR THIS AUDUBON WAS TO RECEIVE SIXTY DOLLARS A MONTH PLUS ROOM AND BOARD FOR HIMSELF AND YOUNG MASON.

AUDUBON ARRIVED AT OAKLEY JUNE 18, 1821. OF HIS FIRST IMPRESSION HE WROTE IN HIS JOURNAL: "THE RICH MAGNOLIAS COVERED WITH FRAGRANT BLOSSOMS, THE HOLLY, THE BEECH, THE TALL YELLOW POPLAR, THE HILLY GROUND AND EVEN THE RED CLAY, ALL EXCITED MY ADMIRATION."

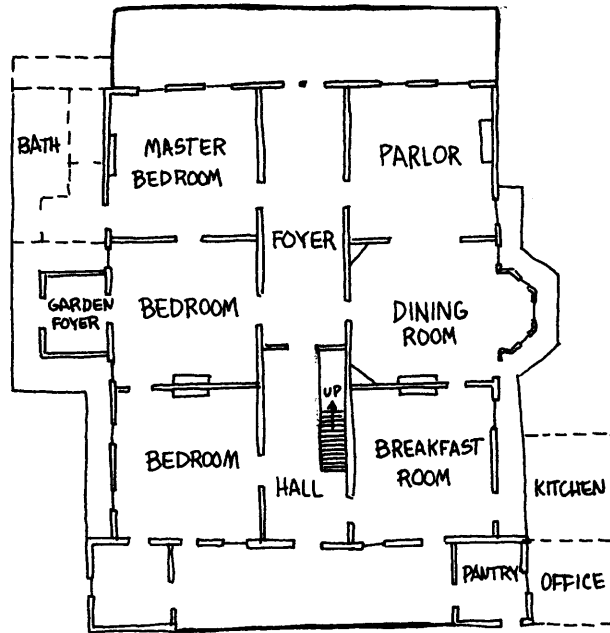
AUDUBON'S STAY AT OAKLEY DID NOT LAST LONG. ON OCTOBER THE 20th OF THE SAME YEAR HE SET SAIL FOR NEW ORLEANS. ALTHOUGH HIS STAY LASTED ONLY FOUR MONTHS, HE PAINTED THIRTY-TWO OF HIS FAMOUS BIRD PICTURES AND DEVELOPED A LOVE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WEST FELICIANA.

OAKLEY HOUSE CONTAINS MANY ANTIQUES OF THE 1790-1830 FEDERAL PERIOD AS WELL AS EXAMPLES OF AUDUBON'S PAINTINGS. THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS RECEIVE HEAVY VISITATION BY LOUISIANA RESIDENTS, OUT OF STATE VISITORS AND STUDENTS.

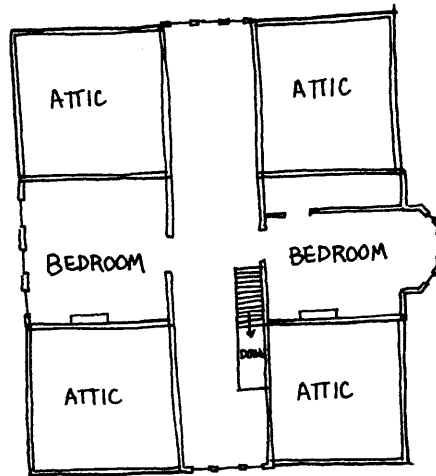


RECEIVED

JUN 19 1979
NATIONAL
REGISTER



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR