

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Lucky Plantation House, Iberville Parish, LA

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

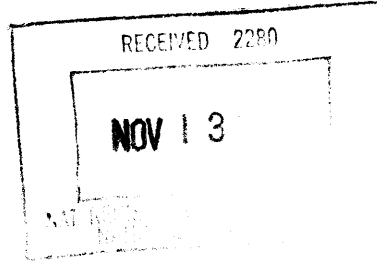
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Lucky Plantation House

Other Name/Site Number:

1603



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 1295 River Road (LA HWY 75)

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Sunshine

Vicinity: X

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Iberville Code: 047

Zip Code: 70780

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

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

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

November 12, 2002

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 12/27/02

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
1

Non contributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: domestic                      Sub: single dwelling  
Current: domestic                      Sub: single dwelling

**7. DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification: Greek Revival  
Materials:

Foundation: brick  
Walls: weatherboard  
Roof: metal  
Other:

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### Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Lucky Plantation House, a circa 1865 galleried Greek Revival cottage, is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River near the small rural community of Sunshine. It sits back from River Road in a copse of mature live oaks. Immediately upriver, sharing a drive with the candidate, is a modern ranch house. Nonetheless, the setting on the whole remains rural. Despite brackets from a later period and several other modifications, Lucky easily conveys its identity as a galleried Greek Revival cottage and hence its local architectural significance.

According to family history, the house was built by Theodore Landry (1831-1902) upon his return from the Civil War. From the architectural evidence Lucky could well date from the late 1860s, or it just as easily could date from the 1850s. For the purposes of this nomination, a date of c.1865 will be used. Lucky remained in the Landry family until at least the 1950s. How the plantation came to be known as Lucky is unknown.

The five-bay, gable-end house has a typical main block of a central hall with two rooms to each side. The front rooms are roughly square, while those to the rear are shallow. On the downriver side, set back from the gallery, is a one room wing that is either original or very early (from before roughly 1880 given the square nails).

Lucky's gallery features boxed columns and matching pilasters with capitals formed of multiple layers of molding. The entablature is prominent due to a band of fairly large, closely spaced dentils. The balustrade dates from a fairly recent renovation (by previous owners) and does not match the original. The original, shown in a c.1920 photo, featured simple squared-off vertical members. The brackets accenting the columns are all that remains from ornamentation added to the gallery c.1900. As shown in old photos, there were also paired brackets above each column and a decorative crest culminating at the center of the entablature. For whatever reason, all of this was subsequently removed, except for the brackets to the sides of the columns.

Lucky's walls are *brique entre poteaux* (bricks between posts). The façade is sheathed in board and batten, while the side elevations are sheathed in weatherboard. The façade fenestration pattern is a window and French door to each side of a centrally placed entrance. The windows are six-over-six. French doors have three lights per leaf with a three light transom. The entrance features boxed columns framing the door, a transom and sidelights. Façade door and window frames are fairly heavily molded.

The interior received some new finishes and features in a renovation completed some twenty or thirty years ago by a previous owner. These changes will be described below. Surviving from the original period are the floorplan, the two mantels, and four panel doors with transoms. The two identical homemade-looking mantels feature "stocky" pilasters with bases and "capitals" formed of boards, an entablature with a simple applied lozenge design, and a shelf formed of multiple layers of boards (i.e., not molded). One rear room is sheathed in medium gauge beaded boards (walls and ceiling), a treatment that is presumably original. The hall has a board and batten treatment, also presumably original.

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Various modifications to the house (rear and interior) were made during the previously mentioned renovation. Often the design aesthetic was to make the house more rustic. This work included:

- 1) Most of the walls were sheetrocked, but in some places the *briquelette entre poteaux* was deliberately exposed. (Originally it would have been covered in plaster.)
- 2) An unpainted (varnished) staircase was added to the central hall, and the ceiling of the central hall was covered in new varnished beaded board.
- 3) Interior doors were stripped to reveal the original wood, with the frames remaining painted.
- 4) The two front rooms were fitted with exposed, unpainted ceiling beams.
- 5) The original appearance of the rear is not known. What exists there today is from the remodeling. There is a shed roof porch across the back and a large unpainted board and batten addition. The addition extends back to a covered walkway which connects to an enclosed carport.

### Assessment of Integrity:

While some of the above are notable modifications, Lucky still retains those features which establish its identity as a galleried Greek Revival cottage. The gallery, with its bold dentils survives, as does the Greek Revival doorway, the two homemade-looking mantels, and the central hall floor plan. While large, the rustic addition does not impact the principal views of the house. The brackets are admittedly out of character with the Greek Revival taste, but at least they are relatively small. In short, Lucky's Greek Revival galleried cottage character remains strong, even with the brackets.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A\_\_ B\_\_ C\_X D\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A\_\_ B\_\_ C\_\_ D\_\_ E\_\_ F\_\_ G\_\_

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1865

Significant Dates: c.1865

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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### State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Lucky Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture as one of a limited number of Greek Revival buildings remaining in Iberville Parish, where once they would have been plentiful.

Straddling the Mississippi River below Baton Rouge, Iberville is one of Louisiana's twelve original parishes created in 1805. It was initially settled in the French colonial period, but particularly grew and prospered in the antebellum era. The principal livelihood was the growing and processing of sugar cane. In the boom years prior to the Civil War, Louisiana sugar planters were among the wealthiest of the wealthy. The fine residences they built were, of course, in the wildly popular Greek Revival style. Other examples of the style would have been found in Plaquemine, the parish seat, and the only town of any size.

The number of Greek Revival buildings produced during this architectural "flowering" will never be known. Clues can be found in the census schedules of 1860, with slaveholding being a commonly accepted indicator of wealth. On the eve of the Civil War, there were seventy-six large slaveholdings (fifty or more slaves) in Iberville Parish. Only two involved absentee owners. In addition, there were numerous good size plantations with slaveholdings of less than fifty. Given the foregoing, it is clear that the waterways of the parish (two banks of the Mississippi and bayous) were once lined with plantation houses, from large mansions to smaller galleried houses like Lucky. While some may have been holdovers from the French Creole period, virtually all the rest would have been in the Greek Revival style. The parish seat of Plaquemine on the eve of the Civil War would have had numerous Greek Revival buildings.

Of the perhaps 100-200 Greek Revival buildings that must have once been in Iberville, today there are roughly 20 survivors. A historic structures inventory done in 1984 recorded 894 buildings which at that time were fifty years old or older. The vast majority of these are extremely modest, including plantation quarters houses and other utilitarian agriculture-associated buildings, unstyled cottages and shotguns, and simple folk bungalows. The principal exceptions to the foregoing are the town of Plaquemine, with its 129 building National Register district, and a few remaining plantation houses (all but two of which are Greek Revival).

Of the roughly 20 surviving examples of the Greek Revival taste, most are galleried cottages. Several of these are located in the Plaquemine historic district and are roughly the same size or smaller than Lucky. Only four of the Greek Revival residences would be considered superior in quality to Lucky (because of their size and more "high style" details). The only non-residential Greek Revival building, and also the parish's only example of the Greek temple form, is the former Plaquemine City Hall.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Circa 1920 photos of Lucky Plantation House. Copies in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Historic Structures Survey, Iberville Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- \_\_\_ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
\_\_\_ Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
\_\_\_ 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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
\_\_\_ Other State Agency
\_\_\_ Federal Agency
\_\_\_ Local Government
\_\_\_ University
\_\_\_ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approx. 2 1/2 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
15 673360 3351860

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundary is shown as a broken line on the attached map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the house and its immediate setting, while excluding non-contributing buildings to the rear. Historic property lines could not be followed because the plantation has been subdivided over the years into smaller parcels.



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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: September 2002

### PROPERTY OWNERS

Charles and Joanna Byrne  
1295 River Road  
Sunshine, LA 70780

Lucky Plantation House (Iberville Parish, LA)

