

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 7 1986
date entered NOV 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic Oak Hall
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 29 N/A not for publication
city, town Bunkie X vicinity of
state LA code 22 parish county Avoyelles code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant - re-

4. Owner of Property

name Bill and Teresa Tebow
street & number P. O. Box 671 (318) 346-6254 (home)
(318) 346-6318 (office)
city, town Bunkie N/A vicinity of state LA 71322

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Avoyelles Parish Courthouse
street & number Main Street (no specific address)
city, town Marksville state LA 71351

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Oak Hall was begun in the late nineteenth century and successively altered in stages, culminating in a major 1923 renovation. It is a rural residential complex of five Arts and Crafts style buildings and a bridge disposed about a formal live oak garden. The nominated acreage encompasses the main house, a servant's cottage, a gazebo with an attached arbor, a Delco house, a garage, the aforementioned bridge, and the remains of a few other landscape features. Overall, the Oak Hall property is in an excellent state of integrity.

In its heyday the property was somewhat larger than it is today. It was entered from Louisiana Highway 29 through an elaborate Chinese/Craftsman-looking gateway redolent of the Forbidden City. Passersby must have wondered what on earth it led to. The long curving driveway made its way into the estate through an area of formal plantings. The way was lit by numerous Persian-looking lampposts. At about the halfway point, the driveway crossed Bayou Boeuf via an ornamental bridge with built-in planting boxes. After that it came around another formal garden in front of the main house, crossed a second bridge, and terminated at a five car garage (see map). This second bridge traversed an artificial brook fed by an artesian well. The formal garden was ornamented with statues, urns, benches, and additional Persian lampposts. Old photographs reveal that at night the effect of all this could be truly astonishing. Not only could all the scores of garden and driveway lamps be lit, but the house itself was encrusted with hundreds of lightbulbs set under the eaves.

Today the gate is gone as are most of the garden and driveway lampposts. The artificial brook is gone, although the brick and concrete bridge that formerly traversed it still exists (see map). Nothing of the gardens remains east of Bayou Boeuf, and the Bayou Boeuf bridge has collapsed and is in ruins. The present formal garden retains its pathways, hedges, and basic layout, along with some concrete urns and benches. The driveway is gone, but its route is still traceable.

In all but one case, the five buildings at Oak Hall are virtually unaltered since 1923. The exception is the servant's cottage, which has lost its red tile roof covering. In addition, a modern wing has been built on the west side. Nevertheless, the cottage still retains its essential appearance, including massing and fenestration, and thus it should be considered a contributing element.

The precise architectural history of the main house is difficult to ascertain. Evidently, it was built in the late nineteenth century and renovated in successive stages, culminating in a major 1923 renovation. Originally it was a large but relatively plain central hall plan house, two rooms deep, with an almost encircling gallery and a massive hip roof. There was also a rear kitchen-dining room wing separated from the house by a covered breezeway. Although the gallery posts were plain and square, the numerous gabled dormers were ornamented with Eastlake "carpenter's lace." The large central dormer provided for a covered balcony. It is not known if the present front porte-cochère dates from this early period or not.

There are extant plans/specifications dated 1923 for a major renovation to Oak Hall. These plans show that certain alterations had already been made. For example, the present front columns are shown as existing, and they are obviously early twentieth century replacements. Also, in many respects, the 1923 plans were not followed, with substitutions often being made.

CONTINUED

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Continuation sheet Oak Hall

Item number 7

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7. Description (cont'd) Avoyelles Parish, LA

By the time the 1923 renovation was complete, numerous interior changes had been made. The breezeway and a rear hallway had been incorporated into a large living hall with a dramatic cascading staircase in one corner. All of the interior woodwork on the main floor had been replaced. The living hall, dining hall, and central hall were fitted with oak ceiling beams and oak paneled wainscotting. Most of the wainscotting is at least eight feet high, and in the dining room, it is ten feet high with a bracketed plate rail. The dining room wainscotting is also distinguished by its tapered chamfer treatment. All of the mantels and overmantels were also replaced by the time the 1923 renovation was complete. In most cases the replacements might best be termed "baronial neo-Georgian." But in the central hall the treatment is quite different. The 1923 renovation plans call for the central hall to be converted into a "living room," which was possible because the hall is over thirteen feet wide. The focus of the room is an elaborate oak mantel which incorporates Gothic, Art Nouveau, and Oriental elements. Particularly noteworthy are the cabinets in the overmantel with their oak filigree doors. The scale of the hall is such that it evokes a church nave rather than a domestic space.

The following exterior changes were made either during the 1923 renovation or had been made by the time it was undertaken:

- (1) A flared eave extension had been added to the roof, giving it a more Oriental look.
- (2) The roof was sheathed in red tiles.
- (3) Most of the old square gallery posts were replaced with Tuscan columns.
- (4) The old windows were largely replaced with French doors.
- (5) The aforementioned exterior lights were installed.

All of the present support buildings date from the 1923 renovation or before, as evidenced by old photographs and the actual renovation plans. The garage and Delco house appear on the plans. Old photos reveal that the gazebo and arbor predate the 1923 renovation period, although the former received its flared red tile roof at that time. The cottage appears in old photos with a flared red tile roof. Because the four support structures date from the same period as the house and largely echo its styling, they are listed as contributing elements. (The integrity of the servant's cottage has already been discussed.)

TOTAL OF 5 CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS: Main House
Gazebo (with attached arbor)
Delco Power House
Garage
Servant's Cottage

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 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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
1923 (when house assumed present appearance)	1923 builder: Dr. W. D. Haas 1923 architect: see note below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

Oak Hall is architecturally significant on the local level as an outstanding example of the Arts and Crafts movement within Avoyelles Parish.

Avoyelles is a large rural parish with several hundred early twentieth century residences. A goodly portion of these are not styled at all. Those that do feature a recognizable style tend to be very ordinary bungalows with perhaps splayed porch posts and extended rafter ends. Plain bungalows of this ilk are often thought of as the bottom rung in the Arts and Crafts movement. Grander, higher style reflections of the movement are virtually unknown in Avoyelles Parish. Easily the most significant exception to this is Oak Hall. To begin with, the scale of Oak Hall sets it apart as an example. It has a massive Oriental-looking tiled roof, eight and ten foot high wainscotting, and principal rooms so large that they could contain certain bungalows. Secondly, Oak Hall has two vital Arts and Crafts features which are quite rare in the parish. First, the use of paneled wainscotting in combination with oak beam ceilings is found in only one or two other houses in the parish. Secondly, and more importantly, the central hall mantel, with its combination of Gothic, Art Nouveau, and Oriental elements, is quite possibly unique in the state, and certainly in Avoyelles Parish.

Oak Hall is also architecturally significant as an overall estate. It is thought to be the parish's only example of a rural residential complex where the outbuildings are styled to match the great house. This complement of outbuildings, of course, also greatly enhances Oak Hall's distinction as a superior example of the Arts and Crafts influence within Avoyelles Parish.

NB: The architect given on the extant 1923 plans is E. Burke Mason of New Orleans. However, as explained in Item 7, these plans do not account for all of the changes. Hence, it appears that Mason is only partially responsible for the present Oak Hall.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Specifications for Alterations and Repairs to Oak Hall, E. Burke Mason, Architect, 1923, 1923 Plans, E. Burke Mason, Architect.
Saucier, Corinne. History of Avoyelles Parish. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 1943.
Old photographs of Oak Hall in possession of owners.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 8 acres

Quadrangle name Bunkie, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	7	5	3	5	0	3	4	1	7	6	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Please refer to enclosed sketch map, Boundaries follow property lines.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER AND WAYNE COCO

organization State of Louisiana date August 1986

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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 2, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 11-6-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration