

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH0677922

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 13 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUN 15 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Hickory

AND/OR COMMON

Old Hickory

LOCATION SE of Lacour

STREET & NUMBER La. 419, 1/2 mile southeast of the intersection with La. 972

CITY, TOWN

Lacour

 VICINITY OF

8th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Pointe Coupee

CODE

077

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

___DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___OCCUPIED

 UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

 OTHER: none**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. H. K. Miller

STREET & NUMBER

3876 Chatfield Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 70808

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pointe Coupee Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Roads

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Hickory is set just behind the Mississippi levee in the open flat land which surrounds the Morganza Spillway.

The house plan is typical of many Creole raised plantation houses, having 1½ stories with a wide front gallery, three rooms along the front, and a small rear gallery sandwiched between two sizable cabinets. Originally, access to the upstairs was provided by a rear gallery staircase. Although this has been removed and replaced by a staircase in the front center room, it is being rebuilt by the present owners with old lumber and the front staircase is being removed.

The only major change the present owners are making in their restoration is the enclosure of the rear gallery. But this too is being done with old lumber and will not significantly intrude upon the overall character of the house. Two dormers have also been added at the rear.

The house is raised approximately three feet above the ground on brick piers, some of which have been replaced. All the structural members are hewn cypress, including the studs, with brick nogging. The posts have corner braces. Studs and rafters are approximately 18 inches on center. The two chimneys are new but they replace older chimneys in the same location.

The interior plaster has been removed due to deterioration and will be replaced with sheetrock. The present shingled roof was added as part of the ongoing restoration.

Old Hickory is a five-bay raised plantation house with six chamfered columns and three dormers lighting the attic, which give a graceful proportion to the facade. The central entrance door is treated with transom and sidelights with elaborately planed framing boards. This doorway design is repeated in the central rear door which opens onto what used to be the rear gallery. Two smaller doors flank the main entrance door with an ogee molded chairrail running all the way across the front facade. All sashes have been replaced, but with cypress 6 over 6 sashes similar to the original ones. About half the original charrail remains on the inside; the rest will be replaced. Except for the main front and rear doors, the ogee molding of the charrail occurs in most of the door frames. It also occurs in many of the original paneled doors, many of which survive. The ceiling beams are beaded and exposed.

While the restoration continues, the mantels are not in place. They are simple in style, with an entablature resting upon a pair of molded pilasters.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Hickory is a good representative example of a Creole raised plantation house. This can be seen in its pitch roof which incorporates the front gallery, its plan, its chairrail inside and out, its handsome doorways, and its exposed and beaded beams. Although it is only of moderate size, the house is unusually well proportioned with three dormers in the attic, which gives a much more graceful line than the usual two dormers.

The house which came to be known as "Old Hickory" was built by the Ledoux family. In 1793 Zenon Ledoux owned the land on which the house was ultimately built.¹ After the New Orleans Territory Militia was organized, Ledoux was appointed a Second Lieutenant in 1806 under Captain Benjamin Poydras. During the War of 1812, the only military unit called into service from Pointe Coupee Parish was the volunteer cavalry unit under then Captain Zenon Ledoux. His unit participated in the defense of New Orleans in 1814-1815.²

Ledoux's 523.12 acres in Pointe Coupee Parish established him as a relatively small planter in the area. Records indicate that he grew cotton on his land in the early nineteenth century and was the owner of 14 slaves.³

Ledoux died in 1817 leaving the management of the plantation to his son, who was also named Zenon. Like his father, the younger Zenon Ledoux raised cotton.⁴ He held the plantation until 1850 by which time the total number of slaves had risen to 24. But during this period, Ledoux was beset with badly fluctuating cotton prices and ruinous floods. In 1850 he sold the plantation, a decision which may have been brought on not only by financial difficulties, but also by advancing old age.⁵

It is probable that the younger Ledoux built the present plantation house, but it is not known when. Architectural evidence suggests the 1830's or 1840's. Ledoux's sale of the plantation on December 23, 1850 initiated a period of about a generation in which the property changed hands six times. The shortest period of ownership was only three weeks.⁶ One of the owners, Robert McRae, is credited with naming the house "Old Hickory" sometime prior to 1852.⁷

By 1860, sugar was the major cash crop. That year, the plantation produced 1000 hogsheads of sugar and 28,000 gallons of molasses. At that time the plantation was owned by Ovide Lejeune, who had increased the number of slaves to 77, placing Old Hickory among the larger slaveholding plantations in the state.⁸ But after the war the plantation did not prosper, and in 1879 Lejeune lost the plantation because he was sued for an old debt which had been held against the property since

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradley, Jared W. "Old Hickory Plantation." Typed research report, 1978, copy in National Register nomination file on Old Hickory, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .918 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 3, 3, 6, 2, 0	34 10 3, 4, 0, 6, 7, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

.918 acres - a 200' x 200' square centering on the house which was intended to encompass the house and its immediate setting.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jared W. Bradley

ORGANIZATION

DATE

December 19, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

5920 Forsythia Avenue

(504) 766-9375

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baton Rouge

Louisiana 70808

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.

~~PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

J. Bernard Carnie

DATE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/5/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. H. Sturges

DATE

6-15-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bill Johnson

DATE

June 14, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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1850.⁹ It took nearly ten years to settle the suit.

The major portion of Old Hickory, that part on which the house stood, was sold at public auction in the summer of 1888. The new owner was Leon O. Lacour, who immediately sold the plantation to Nathaniel P. Phillips. Less than six months later, Phillips sold Old Hickory back to Leon O. Lacour. Six years later, in 1895, Leon O. Lacour sold the plantation to his older brother Ovide Lacour.

The departure of the Ovide Lejeune family from Old Hickory and its acquisition by the Lacour brothers marked a turning point in the history of the property. From about 1880 until well into the twentieth century, Old Hickory apparently was not lived in except for an occasional overseer employed by the Lacour brothers, or an employee of another nearby property owner. From 1936 to 1957, the house was used as a public school for blacks in northeastern Pointe Coupee. Thereafter, it stood empty except when it was used to store hay. Although the Lacour family was closely tied to the history of Old Hickory after they acquired it, none of the Lacour owners lived in the house.¹⁰

The house has remained in the hands of the Lacour family down to the present. Today Katherine Brown Lacour and her husband Dr. H. K. Miller are restoring the house for use as their residence.¹¹

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NOTES

¹Jared W. Bradley, "Old Hickory Plantation," typed research report, 1978, copy in National Register nomination file on Old Hickory, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge, pp. 7-8. All references below are to this report.

²Pp. 8, 12-13.

³P. 14.

⁴P. 14.

⁵Pp. 17-18.

⁶P. 19.

⁷P. 20.

⁸Pp. 20-21.

⁹Pp. 29-30.

¹⁰P. 30.

¹¹Pp. 30-35.