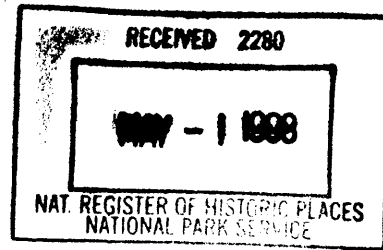


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jay House  
other names/site number Otis House

2. Location

street & number Fairview-Riverside State Park NA not for publication  
city or town Madisonville X vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county St. Tammany code 103 zip code 70447

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jon Fricker 4/20/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date  
Deputy SHPO, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   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):

Edson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 5/29/98

**Jay House**

Name of property

**St. Tammany Parish, LA**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	—	buildings
—	—	sites
—	—	structures
—	—	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sub. Single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Vacant/Not in use

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sub. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

Eastlake

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

\_\_\_\_\_

walls weatherboard

\_\_\_\_\_

roof asphalt

\_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Jay House**

Name of property

**St. Tammany Parish, LA**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" next to the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

NA

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

**Period of Significance**

c.1890-1916

**Significant Dates**

c. 1890

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):** NA
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: LA Office of State Parks

Jay House  
Name of property

St. Tammany Parish, LA  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      1.3 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1   15   774500   3367270

3   \_\_\_\_\_

2   \_\_\_\_\_

4   \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title   National Register Staff

organization   Division of Historic Preservation      date   February 1998

street & number   P.O. Box 44247      telephone   (504) 342-8160

city or town   Baton Rouge      state   LA      zip code   70804

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name   Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Office of State Parks, Dwight Landreneau, Secretary

street & number   P. O. Box 44426      telephone   (504) 342-8110

city or town   Baton Rouge      state   LA      zip code   70804

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 1

The Jay House (c. 1890) is a two-story, frame, Queen Anne Revival style house with Eastlake ornamentation. It stands facing the Tchefuncte River within Louisiana's Fairview-Riverside State Park. The park, in turn, is located about a mile east of the St. Tammany Parish town of Madisonville. Although the home has experienced some alteration since its construction, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

Queen Anne elements found in the Jay House include:

- 1) a busy roofline featuring corbeled chimney tops and cross-gable massing.
- 2) an asymmetrical floorplan with projecting rooms. This plan (similar on both floors) is organized around a central hall with two rooms on each side and a rear stair hall behind the central hall. (A one-story wing added at a later date projects from the middle of the rear elevation.) All of the rooms within the main block have fireplaces.
- 3) a two-tier gallery which wraps around two sides of the home, and
- 4) the use of textured surfaces. Textural materials used include clapboard siding, corner boards, and a modillion-like cornice which adds texture to the roofline. This cornice encircles the home and also distinguishes the pedimented peak of the front-facing gable.

Eastlake motifs are found in the gallery's turned columns and balustrade, several mantels with turned columns, and several heavy newel posts distinguishing the home's winder stair.

Other original features found in the Jay House include:

- 1) floor-length windows designed to serve as doors opening onto the wraparound gallery on each floor,
- 2) the main entrance, which features a single door, transom, sidelights, and a dentil band,
- 3) several Italianate mantels with reeded pilasters, molded bases, entablatures decorated by unusually shaped panels and a central bas relief keystone, and undulating mantel shelves,

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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- 4) the rest of the home's woodwork, which includes interior door and window surrounds featuring bull's eye corner blocks, four-panel interior doors with accompanying transoms, molded and reeded baseboards, cornices, picture rails, built-in window seats flanking the dining room mantel, and an arch separating the parlor from the dining room. The spandrels of this arch are decorated by bas relief blocks and sunburst motifs. Beaded board walls are found throughout the house. In addition, ceilings in the downstairs central hall and two lower-story rooms are distinguished by beaded moldings which divide them into geometric patterns. All second floor ceilings are covered by beaded board.

Alterations to the home occurred in phases over the years. The first dates to between 1918 and 1930 and consists of the above mentioned addition of a rear ell. The second phase took place c. 1936 when wealthy businessman Frank Otis acquired the Jay House. Those alterations included:

- 1) the subdivision of the rear ell, originally built as one large room, into two spaces and the extension of the ell by the addition of another room and possibly a rear porch or set of steps. Evidence suggesting the former presence of a porch or steps is in the form of a rear door whose lower portion has been enclosed to create a window.
- 2) the installation of a Colonial Revival style door between the first floor central hall and stair hall. This door features sidelights and a large fanlight which opens to serve as a transom.
- 3) the addition of an attic fan and small ventilator.
- 4) the removal of a two-tier gallery (as seen in historic photographs) located on the home's north side.

One additional alteration occurred after the Jay Home became state property in 1962. This change was the removal one-story porches which flanked the rear ell.

Alterations of unknown date include:

- 1) the insertion of a large, gilded wooden screen within the arch separating the parlor from the dining room,
- 2) a slight reconfiguration of the rear ell to create a pantry, bath and storage closet, and
- 3) the replacement of the front door.

CONTINUED

**Jay House**

Name of property

**St. Tammany Parish, LA**

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Of these alterations, only the removal of the north side's two-tier gallery has had a significant impact on the home's appearance. However, there is no doubt that persons from the historic period would easily recognize the Jay House should they return to the area today. As a rare resource associated with the lumber industry in the Madisonville area, the Jay House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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The Jay House is locally significant in the area of industry because it is the only resource surviving to represent a once-thriving lumber company town near Madisonville. The period of significance spans from c. 1890, the date of construction, to 1916, when the community ceased being a lumber company town.

The history of the land upon which the Jay House stands can be traced back as far as 1804. However, the site on the east bank of the Tchefuncte River did not become involved with the lumber business until 1885, when businessman W. Theo Jay purchased it and opened a sawmill on the property. One presumes he built the candidate house soon afterwards. Jay's business prospered and by 1894 it included separate planing and shingle mills as well as the sawmill. Although the planing mill was destroyed by fire that year, Jay continued to prosper. Somewhat surprisingly, the business did not cut lumber in the immediate vicinity of its headquarters but instead imported it from the area bordering the Blind River, which flows into the western end of Lake Maurepas. From there the lumber could travel by boat through Pass Manchac and Lake Pontchartrain to the Tchefuncte River and Madisonville. To receive and later re-ship this lumber, Jay built docks directly in front of his residence and established a railroad line to the Tchefuncte's western bank. Eventually, he also added drying docks and a warehouse to his sawmill complex. At the height of his success, Jay produced 20 million board feet of lumber per year and employed almost 100 workers, many of whom lived with their families in a company town which grew up around his residence. By 1906 the town, then known as Jayville, had a post office and a general store.

In 1906 the Houlton Lumber Company, operated by W. H. Houlton and Andrew J. Johnson, purchased Jay's holdings and the name of the lumber company town changed to Houltonville. Under this ownership, the business eventually employed 250 men. Yet, for unknown reasons, the Houlton company closed the mill in 1916 and sold the enterprise to the Covington Lumber Company in 1917. However, Houlton regained ownership in 1918 when Covington could not make its payments.

The Houlton Company then sold the property to Harrie Hayden, former owner of a nearby health resort. During Hayden's ownership, approximately sixty families lived in the former lumber company town. In 1930 Hayden sold the house and an accompanying ten acres to Frank Otis, a manufacturer of mahogany furniture whose factory was in New Orleans. Otis, who used the property for entertaining, named the house "Fairview" after one of his Honduran plantations. He owned the site until his death in 1962, bequeathing it to the State of Louisiana in his will.

The lumber industry was one of only three which contributed to the economy of St. Tammany Parish during the historic period. The other two were shipbuilding (in the Madisonville area) and agriculture. Over the years, virtually all of the buildings comprising the Jay sawmill complex and accompanying lumber company town have vanished, leaving only Jay's residence to represent this very important and once-thriving industry which was so important to the parish. Thus, its rarity and significance make the Jay House a prime candidate for National Register listing.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Berthelot, Raymond, "Historical Use of Land Surrounding the 'Otis House,' Fairview-Riverside State Park,"  
September 25, 1997, typescript; copy in National Register file.

Boagni, Ethel Haas, ed. "Madisonville Issue," *St. Tammany Historical Society Gazette*, Vol. 4, (March 1980): 73, 75.

Historic blueprints of Jay House, c. 1936; copy in Office of State Parks, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation  
and Tourism.

Historic photographs of Jay House; copies in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

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**Boundary Description:**

See attached sketch map.

**Boundary Justification:**

Boundaries are drawn to encompass the building's setting while excluding extensive rural acreage associated with  
Fairview-Riverside State Park.

# JAY HOUSE

Madisonville vicinity, St. Tammany Parish, LA

