

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001421

Date Listed: 10/3/91

OLIVE JEANETTE
Property Name

St. James
County

LOUISIANA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick W. Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

10/16/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Although this restored vessel would not normally be eligible for listing because it is located at some distance from the water, that location is not permanent. The craft is restored to a fully operable, sea-worthy condition, is kept on a trailer, and is, in fact, returned to the water of the Blind River for special occasions.

This information was confirmed by phone with the Louisiana SHPO (10/11/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Olive Jeanette
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Lutcher N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. James code 013 zip code 70071

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Leslie P. Tassin August 14, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Carol Shue 10-3-91
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/water-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: fur-trapping boat

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Olive Jeanette is a twenty-four foot cypress vessel built in 1926 by Luther and Moore Cypress Lumber Company. The boat was used initially in the company's lumber business, but when the cypress played out c.1930, Lutchter and Moore entered the fur trapping business. The Olive Jeanette was used to carry trappers and their furs into and out of the swamps. The boat operated originally on Blind River, but is now in a park in nearby Lutchter. The vessel had been beached for over twenty years when it was relocated and meticulously restored in 1987-89.

The Olive Jeanette has an eight foot beam and features hard chine construction and a straight stem. Its ribs curve on their inside surfaces to make a firm connection with the boat's flat bottom. The front portion of the hull is decked over while the rear portion features a large cockpit defined by a continuous passenger seat on three sides. The cockpit is surmounted by a continuous chair-back on three sides. It is also protected by a shallow arched canopy formed of steamed joists and planks. The fore-deck and the canopy roof are fitted with metal hand rails, and the gunwales are accented with double molded strips with a space between.

The original in-board motor is set on the cockpit floor. It is a Red Wing, Model B, 32 to 40 horse power gasoline engine. The propeller shaft is still connected, although the propeller itself is replaced. The rudder (replaced) is actuated by the original system of wires, eyes, and blocks, which is fastened to the small ship's wheel (replaced), located at the front of the cockpit.

THE MOVE AND RESTORATION

The Olive Jeanette had been beached on the east bank of the Blind River since 1965. In 1987 it was donated to the St. James Historical Society and taken to nearby Lutchter for restoration. Because the boat had rotted in places, about 15 to 20% of the cypress had to be replaced. The replaced sections, as documented in photographs, are along the bottom and lower sides. A sunken cypress log from Lutchter and Moore swamps was custom cut for use as replacement wood. A few components had to be replaced due to loss or damage, including the propeller, the rudder, the wheel, and the canvas shades. A specialist in traditional boat building at Nicholls State University served as consultant on the project, and every effort was made to restore the Olive Jeanette authentically. The original Red Wing engine was taken apart and repaired, and

See continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Olive Jeanette, Lutcher, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

the manufacturer was contacted for replacement parts. The company had gone out of business; so the engine now operates with a John Deere carburetor and a Chevrolet generator.

The boat is displayed in Lutcher in a specially built cypress pavilion located in a park commemorating the site of the Lutcher and Moore Company. The boat sits on a trailer. The Lutcher and Moore park, about two miles from Blind River, is situated next to the railroad tracks in an area that basically has a modern strip character. While it would be ideal if the Olive Jeanette were still on Blind River, it is clear that the boat would not have survived if the St. James Historical Society had not intervened. As a rare symbol of a major commercial activity in the area, it deserves National Register listing despite the change in setting.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
commerce

Period of Significance
c.1930-1941

Significant Dates
c.1930-1941

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Builder: Horace Hebert

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Olive Jeanette is locally significant in the area of commerce because it is one of very few resources left to represent a major historic commercial activity in the Lutcher area -- fur trapping. The period of significance spans from c.1930, when Lutcher and Moore (and the Olive Jeanette) entered the fur-trapping business, until 1941, the required fifty year cutoff for Register significance. The Olive Jeanette continued in this significant role into the 1950s.

The small community of Lutcher was founded by Lutcher and Moore Cypress Lumber Company in 1891. By the late 1920s, the seemingly inexhaustible supply of cypress had been depleted, and employees in the large mill faced unemployment. Lutcher and Moore then opened the swamps they owned to fur trapping, providing employment for some 150-200 men during the Depression. Employing this number of men at any time would have made a major economic impact, let alone during the Depression. Many former mill workers were, as they put it, "forced into the swamps to make a living." The only other major sources of employment at the time were Colonial Sugar in adjacent Gramercy and, of course, agriculture.

The Olive Jeanette, along with a sister boat called The Pal, carried trappers and their furs into and out of the swamps. Her role is well documented in interviews with former trappers as well as a photo showing her piled with furs and various records kept by Lutcher and Moore. The boat continued to be used in this capacity into the 1950s. In 1955, Lutcher and Moore sold the boat to Live Cambre, a long-time employee, and his brother. Mr. Cambre donated it to the St. James Historical Society in 1987, as noted previously.

Today there is very little left to represent the historic fur trapping business in the area. The various skinning and drying sheds are gone, and only two historic trapper cabins remain on Blind River (one in a deteriorated condition and the other overly modernized) as well as the vestiges of a Lutcher and Moore dry dock. No one knows what happened to The Pal. The immaculately restored Olive Jeanette survives to remind people of this period in the area's economic history.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Various primary sources in possession of St. James Historical Society, including correspondence with the builder of the boat, fur-trapping records kept by Lutcher and Moore, etc.

Interviews with various individuals who have first-hand knowledge of the Olive Jeanette and fur-trapping in the 1930s.



See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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

Specify repository:

St. James Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than an acre

UTM References

A 15 722120 3325460
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Because there was no historic setting to recognize, boundary lines cut closely around the pavilion where the boat is displayed.

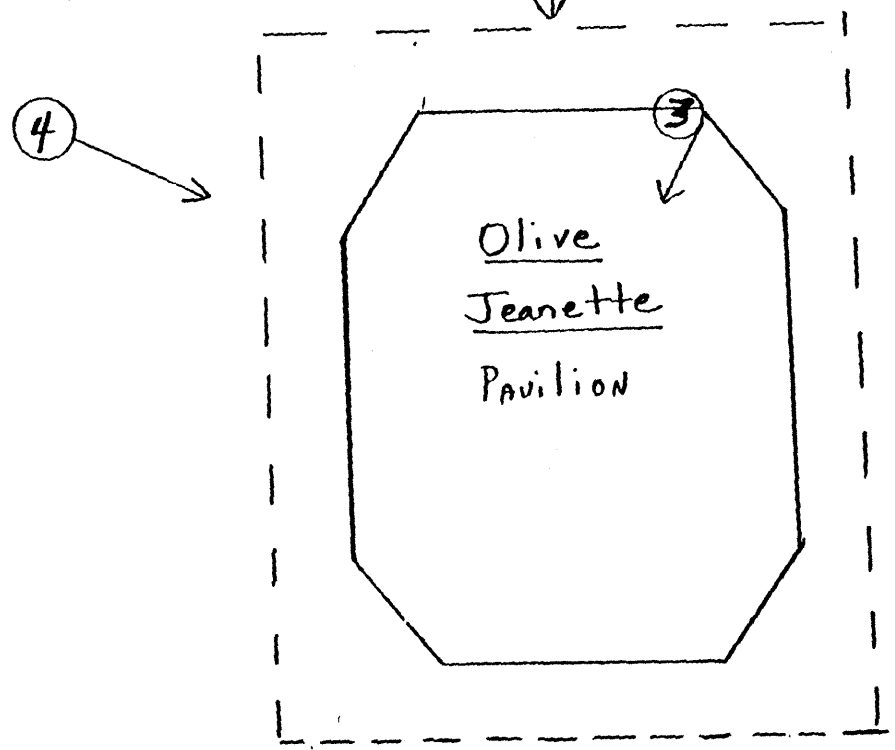
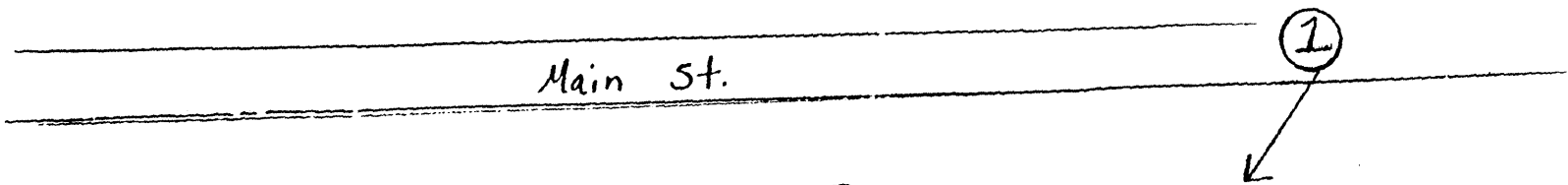
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

(Assisted by St. James Historical Society)

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: St. James Historical Society
P. O. Box 426
Gramercy, LA 70052



Olive Jeanette
Lutcher
St. James Parish, LA



--- BOUNDARY

