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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 an 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 Ledet House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2117 Highway 308 NA not for publication

city or town Raceland vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lafourche code 057 zip code 70394

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jonathan Fricker 4/18/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date
State of 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5/23/97

Ledet House
Name of Property

Lafourche 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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick, concrete block

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Ledet House is a one story frame galleried cottage located in rural Lafourche Parish near Raceland. A restrained vernacular example of the Greek Revival style, it stands on the east side of Bayou Lafourche on Louisiana Highway 308. Although it has experienced alteration since its c. 1870 construction, the house remains eligible for National Register listing.

The origins of the Ledet House are somewhat uncertain. The building consists of two parts--a main block and a long, rectangular rear section. Although the current owners believe the main block to date to 1855 and the rear portion to be even older, architectural evidence suggests that the building was constructed all of a piece, probably during the 1870s. The main block is defined by a central hall plan with two rooms located on each side of the hallway. A steep, narrow enclosed staircase leads from the rear of the central hall to the attic. It is on and within the main block that the building's Greek Revival features are found. These include:

- 1) boxed gallery columns with simply molded capitals and bases. Such columns were often used on rural houses when round columns with elaborate Greek Revival style capitals were too difficult to build or expensive to purchase. Corner boards terminating each end of the facade match these boxed columns and capitals.
- 2) an entablature outlining the gallery roof. Although not specifically in the Greek Revival style, the gallery also features a decorative baseboard on the facade wall, shutters flanking each facade opening, and a cornice outlining the ceiling.
- 3) trabeated (post and beam) entrances, including a main entrance whose double doors, transom and sidelights feature a surround highlighted by shoulder molding. Identical shoulder molding is found on the interior side of this entrance, the exterior and interior surrounds of the facade's two pairs of secondary doors, and surrounding a set of pocket doors which separates the front section from the rear portion of the central hall.
- 4) two Greek Revival mantels. Although these have been somewhat altered (one by the addition of a scalloped board to the entablature, the other by the addition of bas relief silhouettes to the entablature above the supporting pilasters), their Greek Revival stylistic origin remains visible.

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Other features of interest in the main block include the presence of French doors in the two secondary facade entrances mentioned above, operable transoms above interior doors, tall baseboards and a restrained interior cornice.

The architectural evidence suggests that the house's main block was originally separated from the rear wing by an open breezeway. This evidence consists of French doors, which were almost exclusively used on exterior walls, at the rear of the main block's central hall. The French doors open to a large rectangular dining room which connects to a rear kitchen. The dining room shows evidence of having been enlarged, for ghost marks where a wall was removed are visible in the floor. The location of this now lost wall is close to the rear of the main block, suggesting that an open breezeway may have once connected the two portions of the house. The dining room mantel shows a slight Italianate influence and may have been added in the late nineteenth century, perhaps at the time the room was enlarged. The dining room and kitchen are flanked by galleries; however, one of these has been completely enclosed and the other has lost a small portion to enclosure.

Additional alterations to the home include the following:

- 1) the previously mentioned application of decorative elements to the home's two Greek Revival mantels and the application of bas relief motifs to the Italianate mantel in the dining room.
- 2) the replacement of the attic windows, the loss of the home's chimneys as a result of Hurricane Betsy in 1965, and the enclosure of a large fireplace which formerly opened into the now modernized kitchen.
- 3) the addition of an Italianate balustrade to the front gallery in the 1880s or 1890s. This balustrade matches the one surviving on the still open side gallery, suggesting that both were installed at the same time. In addition, the original front central door has been replaced by a door in the Eastlake style. A storm door covers and protects the Eastlake door.
- 4) the construction of one small side wing serving as a bathroom on each side of the main block and the addition of a small shed roof room and a carport at the rear of the home.

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

- 5) the stripping of the dining room walls to reveal the wide flush cypress boards of which the walls are made, and the resheathing of the main block's walls and covering the ceilings with celotex.

Although the Ledet Home has received a fair amount of alteration, it remains a viable National Register candidate. The Italianate balustrade appears to be historic, and the side wings attached to the main block are small and unobtrusive. Meanwhile, the Greek Revival shoulder moldings and other features which give the home its architectural significance remain intact. As a rare example of the pre-Queen Anne Revival taste in Lafourche Parish (see Part 8), the house is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

Also standing on the property is a modern one-story, frame and metal two-car garage.

Ledet House
Name of Property

Lafourche Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

NA

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1870

Significant Dates

c. 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Ledet House
Name of Property

Lafourche Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property @ 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 7211190 | 3293380 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1997
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robichaux
street & number 2117 Highway 308 telephone (504) 446-1928
city or town Raceland state LA zip code 70394

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Ledet House is architecturally significant on the local level as a rare example of the pre-Queen Anne Revival taste within Lafourche Parish. Although a restrained vernacular interpretation, the building is also one of the few remaining examples of the Greek Revival style in a parish where this style must have once been quite common.

Lafourche is one of Louisiana's earliest settled parishes. It was originally created in 1805, although settlement by immigrants from Spain, Germany, England, France and the Canary Islands began much earlier. Despite the parish's age, staff knowledge of the area indicates that the architectural patrimony of this mostly rural parish consists primarily of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Queen Anne style houses; bungalows; nondescript cottages and quarters houses; and twentieth century shotguns, outbuildings and commercial buildings. The loss of the parish's older architectural patrimony, which would have consisted of examples of the French Creole and Greek Revival styles, was the result of a new round of prosperity caused by, among other things, the re-emergence of the sugar industry at the end of the nineteenth century. At that time many of the region's older buildings were replaced with structures reflecting the popular styles of the late Victorian era.

To understand the magnitude of the parish's architectural loss and the importance of the pre-Queen Anne Revival style buildings which remain, one needs to have some idea of the numbers of these structures which once existed. Although exact numbers are not available, certain generalizations can be made given the settlement patterns of the parish. It was the French who first dominated the area architecturally; their ascendancy lasted until approximately 1820. Thus, it is fair to assume that Lafourche Parish once had a large number of French Creole buildings. The parish is currently being re-surveyed because its first review, completed in 1979, provided only partial coverage and is quite out-of-date. However, because this original survey covered all of Lafourche Parish's significant population centers and high probability sites, its findings can be taken as indicative of the entire parish's surviving Creole patrimony. The survey covered 1,100 of the approximately 3,000 historic structures now thought to exist in the parish and showed a total of 142 buildings reflecting some Creole influence. However, at that time less than ten (or one percent) survived with enough stylistic features or historic integrity to merit their identification as genuine Creole cottages. The overwhelming majority of the buildings identified as reflecting Creole influence were quarters houses which were "Creole" only in that they exhibited the general massing (umbrella roof and full facade gallery) of a Creole structure. It is quite probable that the new survey will show a number of these Creole-influenced buildings to have been lost in the past eighteen years.

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

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After the 1820s the American Greek Revival style began to influence building patterns in Lafourche Parish. This influence would grow and then last until long after the end of the Civil War. Some idea of the importance of the style can be gained by examining the census schedules of 1860. On the eve of the Civil War, there were thirty-seven large slave holdings (i.e., fifty or more slaves) in the parish. Of these, the average size per slave holding was 104.3 and only two involved individuals who did not reside in the parish. In addition, there were undoubtedly numerous slave holdings of less than 50. Given this information, it is fair to assume that there must have been numerous Greek Revival influenced plantation houses (probably at least 30), as well as a number of Greek Revival institutional and commercial buildings, in Lafourche Parish on the eve of the Civil War. Some of these examples would have been fairly large, while others would have been considered moderate or even small in size. However, few examples of the style survive today. Staff and the surveyor's knowledge of the parish indicates that of the approximately 3,000 buildings 50 years of age or older, only seven are substantial examples of the Greek Revival style. It is fair to assume that many of the smaller examples which once survived are also now lost. Sadly, the newly commenced parish survey so far confirms this assumption.

Against this background, the importance of the Ledet House emerges. Despite the unfinished condition of the parish historic structures survey, it is evident that French Creole and Greek Revival style buildings make up only approximately one percent of the historic structures surviving within Lafourche Parish. This makes the Ledet House, although a small, restrained, and somewhat late example of the Greek Revival style, part of a very limited collection of buildings representing the parish's pre-Queen Anne Revival taste. Thus, the home is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

Historical Note

The ownership of the land upon which the Ledet House stands is difficult to follow because so many parcels were sold back and forth over the years. The first reference to the land can be traced back to 1817, when Telesphort Toups Sr. and Leon Falgout purchased it from Jacques Caillouet. In 1821 the two partners divided their property; it is on the Falgout portion that the Ledet House stands. Shortly after the division Falgout sold his interest to Zenon Chauvin. Various parcels of land moved back and forth between the hands of Chauvin and Toups family members until 1876, when part of the old Falgout property was purchased by Paulin A. Ledet and his brother Joachim Prosper Ledet. The land then remained in the Ledet family for more than a century. Meanwhile, the Toups family continued to own the nearby parcel which

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

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came into their possession with the original division of property in 1821.

The current owners of the Ledet House are Richard J. Robichaux and Phyllis Toups Robichaux. Mrs. Robichaux is a descendant of Telesphort Toups Sr., while Mr. Robichaux is descended from Joachim Prosper Ledet.

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation, Partial Standing Structures Survey of Lafourche Parish, 1979.

Division of Historic Preservation, Partial Standing Structures Survey of Lafourche Parish, 1996.

“Historical Background Surrounding Property Where ‘Ledet House’ Now Stands,” typescript;
copy in National Register file.

“Ledet House - Raceland, Louisiana,” typescript; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Staff knowledge of Lafourche Parish.

Telephone interview with Dr. Paul Leshe, long-time resident and surveyor of Lafourche Parish,
2/13/97.

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Ledet House, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Legal Property Description:

A certain tract of land situated in the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana, located in Sections 45 and 46, T-15-S, R-17-E, about eight miles below the City of Thibodaux on the left descending bank of Bayou Lafourche. Said lot measuring four hundred twenty-four and fifty-five hundredth (424.55') feet front by a depth above or west of four hundred twenty-five and no hundredth (425.0') feet and below or east of three hundred eighty-one and fifty hundredth (381.50') feet said lot being Tract 1 on a plan of survey entitled "Survey of Tracts 1, 2, & 3 Being A Portion of the Property of Cecilia Ledet Et Al Located in Section 45 & 46, T-15-S, R-17-E Lafourche Parish, Louisiana" prepared by Keneth L. Rembert, Surveyor, and dated March 26, 1985; said lot being more fully described as commencing at a point on the north right of way of La. State Highway No. 308 thence N 29° 45' 00" E a distance of 425.0' to a corner, thence S 60° 15' 00" E, a distance of 421.0' to a corner, thence S 29° 45' 00" W a distance of 381.50' to a corner, thence south and west along the right of way of La. State Hwy. 308 a distance of 424.55' to a corner and the point of beginning; together with all buildings and improvements thereon and all rights, ways, privileges and servitudes thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

LESS AND EXCEPT: That portion of ground shown as the fifty (50') foot servitude of passage and located on the lower side of the above tract, all as shown on the survey of Tracts 1, 2 & 3 made by Keneth L. Rembert, Surveyor as referred to above.

Being a portion of the same property acquired by vendors from Lillian Champagne Shaefer, et al, recorded in COB 1035, page 515, under Entry No. 692163, records of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.