

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **AUG 9 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lacour's Fish and Ice Company Building

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number ^{LA} Highway 1 N/A not for publication

city, town Simmesport N/A 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Foster Lacour (318) 941-2684

street & number P. O. Box 134

city, town Simmesport N/A vicinity of state LA 71369

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 1983 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

Lacour's Fish and Ice Company Building (1927) is a single story brick galleried structure located next to the Texas and Pacific railroad line on the north side of the small town of Simmesport. The building has been altered very little over the years, and hence it retains its historical integrity.

The English bond brick structure has galleried loading docks on two sides. The main front is distinguished by brick pilasters which protrude above the roofline and terminate in pediment shaped granite caps. In addition, the slight parapet is trimmed with a granite cornice. The rear and sides of the building are plain.

The plan consists of an engine room, an ice storage room, and a fish processing/storage room. Only the engine room has windows. The purpose of the engine room was to cool and pump the ammonia refrigerant through a network of pipes which forms the ceilings in the other two rooms. The pipes also form the shelves in a special boxed fish storage area located in the fish processing/storage room. The interior wall surfaces are coated with two inches of cork, most of which remains in place. Virtually all of the original doors and doorways remain intact, as do the ice chute and the original ice crushing machine.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1927 **Builder/Architect** Builders; Murphy Lacour and Louisiana Ice and Utilities Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion A

The Lacour Fish and Ice Company Building is locally significant in the area of industry because it was the center of a major industry in Simmesport in the late 1920's and early 1930's,*

The present structure was built in 1927 for Murphy L. Lacour, who is rightly regarded as the founder of Simmesport's still thriving commercial fishing industry. Lacour had agreed to lease the property from its owner, Louisiana Ice and Utilities Company, upon the construction of a building which would serve as a fish packing, storage and shipping facility for his fishing business. This coincided with the completion in 1928 of the Edenborn railroad bridge over the Atchafalaya. This, along with a railroad spur to the rear of the building, provided Lacour with the necessary transportation facilities.

During the period under consideration (the late 1920's and early 1930's), agriculture and commercial fishing were the two major industries in what was then a town with only a population of around 600. Of these two employers, the commercial fishing industry was dominated by Lacour, who operated the only fish packing plant in the town at the time.

The importance of Lacour's enterprise is evident if one looks at the volume handled and the destinations of the shipments. The only extant shipping lists date from the fall of 1934, but it is safe to assume that such a volume did not materialize overnight and that it can be projected backward to the period under consideration (late 1920's and early 1930's). In addition, Lacour noted in interviews later in his life that he was handling a comparable volume from the beginning. The shipping lists reveal that Lacour was shipping on peak days anywhere from around 20,000 to 50,000 pounds of fish to such places as New York, St. Louis, Little Rock, and Kansas City. Although employment records do not exist, interviews with Lacour, his relatives, and men who worked with him indicate that he employed around twenty-five people, which does not take into consideration the fishermen from whom he obtained his fish. He had a fleet of several boats which plied the various rivers buying fish to bring back to the plant.

Murphy Lacour oversaw operations at his fish packing plant until the early 1960's, after which time various family members took charge. The structure was used as a fish packing plant until the late 1970's.

The continuing importance of commercial fishing in Simmesport's economy is evident in the numerous fish packing plants (all modern) which exist today and the nets lying in backyards. It is estimated that the industry brings in about two million dollars annually. The Lacour Fish and Ice Company Building is an important visual link with the beginnings of this ongoing business.

* This is the only period being considered because of the National Register 50 year cutoff for significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/4th of an acre

Quadrangle name Simmesport, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A Zone 15 Easting 613640 Northing 3428660

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 attached sketch map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY WAYNE COCO, P. O. Box 111, Simmesport, LA 71369 (318) 941-2392 or (318) 941-2080

organization Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana date July 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-6682

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 2, 1983

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature] Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 9/8/83

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet Lacour's Fish & Ice Co. Bldg. Item number 9

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Bibliography

Avoyelles Parish Conveyance Records.

Avoyelles Parish Vertical File, Louisiana State Library, Louisiana Division.

Barr, Hazel. Typescript history of Simmesport. Portion on Lacour based upon interviews with him. Copy located in Simmesport vertical file at Louisiana State Library, Louisiana Division.

Coco, Wayne. Research report on Lacour's Fish and Ice Company Building. Copy in National Register file.

Eakin, Sue. Personal communication. Dr. Eakin teaches Louisiana history at LSU-Alexandria and is an expert on central Louisiana history.

Eakin, Sue. "Simmesport, Murphy Lacour One in Same." Alexandria Daily Town Talk, September 25, 1977. Based on interview with Lacour.

La Commission des Avoyelles. Avoyelles Parish: Crossroads of Louisiana. Baton Rouge: Moran Publishing Corporation, 1981.

Saucier, Corinne L. History of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 1943.

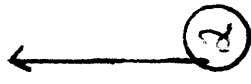
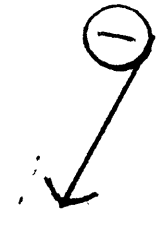
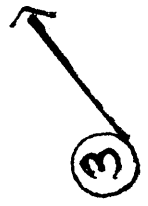
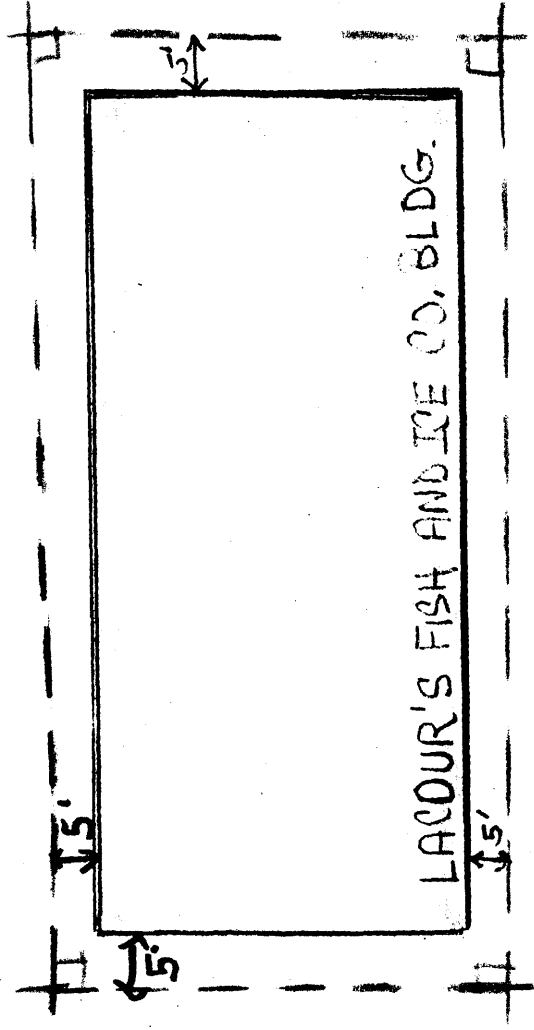
Shipping Lists, Simmesport Fish Company, September and October, 1934. In possession of Wayne Coco.

Simmesport Vertical File, Louisiana State Library, Louisiana Division.

LACOUR'S FISH & ICE CO. BLDG.

SIMMESPORT
BOYELLES PARISH, LA.

SITE BOUNDARIES ARE
PARALLEL TO BLDG.
FACADES, DISTANCES AS
SHOWN. THE BUILDING
FACES LA. HWY. 1



LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 1