

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Johnson House, Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish, LA

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

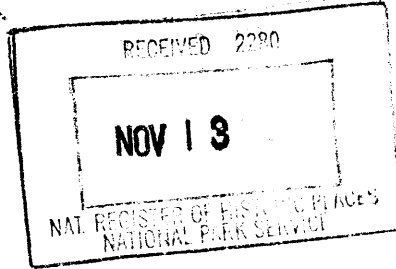
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Johnson House

Other Name/Site Number:

1602



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 402 Lafitte St.

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Mandeville

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: St. Tammany Code: 103 Zip Code: 70448

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

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

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Signature of Certifying Official (Handwritten signature)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Laurel Wyckoff, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

November 8, 2002 Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Edson H. Ball 12/27/02

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
1
0

Non contributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic Sub: single dwelling
Current: domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Mediterranean Revival; Craftsman
Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: weatherboard
Roof: asphalt
Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Johnson House occupies a lush 1.3 acre parcel of land in old Mandeville, three blocks from Lake Pontchartrain. It is a c.1915 remodeling of a house about twenty years older, as documented in old photos. As remodeled, the house features influences from the Italian or Mediterranean taste as well as the Craftsman. It has received few alterations since the remodeling.

Old photos show a house with a capacious hip roof and a continuous Eastlake gallery across the front and down the sides. A massive gablet with a Queen Anne sunburst design spans much of the façade. The Thomas Johnson family acquired the house c.1915 and launched a major remodeling. At the roofline the front gablet was removed, the large attic was finished off, and a large dormer was added on each elevation. The dormers feature wood shakes in the gable with a three-part window below. Capping the roof is a widow's walk. The still fairly new Eastlake galleries were removed and replaced with something much more pronounced in character (i.e., with greater visual weight). The new bolder gallery features heavily paneled piers atop high brick pedestals in the Craftsman manner. But here the semblance ends. Springing directly from the pier capitals are broad arches which form an arcade along the three elevations. (The manner in which the arches spring directly from the capitals is reminiscent of the early Italian Renaissance, albeit here a builder's version.) The spandrel panels are rather idiosyncratic, featuring very roughly textured plaster (almost like waves) with a curlicue design at the end. The handsome very Italian-looking door also dates from the c.1915 remodeling. Oddly enough, the Johnsons "de-Victorianized" the house, but then added a polygonal bay at each back corner. There is also a polygonal bay at the dining room.

The portion of the house sheltered by galleries is sheathed in the original drop siding with Italianate quoins at the front corners. Also surviving from the original period are the home's many four-over-six slip-head windows which open out onto the gallery. A shed porch overhang with Eastlake trim survives on each side of the rear. The exact appearance of this elevation as built c.1890 is not known for certain, but an educated guess can be made based on a pre-remodeling photo and the architectural evidence. The photo, a three-quarter view of the façade, shows a section of porch at the rear corner under a shed roof, as exists today. The Eastlake columns on the two identical rear porches extend almost to the ground, with no porch floor, as is the case in the early photo. The original treatment of the middle of the rear is something of a mystery. Today there is a sunroom resting on brick piers with an almost flat roof, apparently dating from the 1950s or '60s. One suspects that this was originally part of the Eastlake porch, but with an actual porch floor (given the piers and French doors in the dining room that open into this space). Admittedly such a configuration is very unusual.

The house has a central hall plan with two unequal size rooms to each side. The hall then opens into a long dining room. To the side of the dining room, and accessed from it, is a bedroom. The interior is very simply finished. The fairly heavily molded door frames and baseboards and the four panel doors date from the original construction. Doors leading into the hall are of the pocket type (although standard width). Multiple pane, wide French doors from the remodeling lead to the rear sunroom. There is only one mantel in the house - marble, in the Rococo style. It presumably is a salvage piece added at a later date.

The most interesting aspect of the interior is the attic, which is accessed from a narrow, steep stair in a small room at the rear. Sheathed in medium gauge finished boards, the cruciform space ends in each direction in a dormer marked by a generous segmental arch.

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Alterations since the c.1915 remodeling include the sunporch mentioned above, the loss of the chimney, the probable addition of the Rococo marble mantel, and an open carport added to a rear corner.

Assessment of Integrity:

There are no integrity issues because, with the exception of the rear elevation, the exterior looks exactly as it did after the c.1915 remodeling.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C X D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA
 A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1915

Significant Dates: c.1915

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Johnson House is of local architectural significance as a landmark from the late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century heyday of Mandeville. It is a landmark to even the casual observer because of its size, and more importantly, its quite distinctive, quite prominent gallery.

Located across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans, Mandeville is best known for its late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century history as a resort community. Founded in 1835 when Bernard de Marigny subdivided his plantation, and incorporated in 1840, Mandeville from almost the beginning was a popular excursion destination from New Orleans. However, it was in the late-nineteenth century when it and other towns in St. Tammany's "ozone belt" came into their own as health-restoring escapes, principally for New Orleanians. An additional boost to the Mandeville economy was the location of the Poitevent and Favre sawmill there in 1913. The small town's greatest population growth during the historic period was from 1870 to 1900, when it virtually doubled (541 to 1,029). From 1900 into the post-World War II era, the population was roughly static.

Today the historic building stock in Mandeville reflects almost entirely the c.1890 to c.1930 period. The Division of Historic Preservation's Historic Structures Survey for St. Tammany Parish records 232 buildings in Mandeville which are 50 years old or older, with perhaps 95% being residences. The overwhelming majority of these are small Eastlake shotguns, a type of shotgun known locally as a North Shore house (with a gallery down the side), and simple folk bungalows. And while the shotguns and North Shore houses contribute much to the look of old Mandeville, they are small and largely repetitive in appearance. Among probably 200 houses from the c.1890 to c.1930 period, there are only a handful of exceptions to the foregoing (5, possibly 6). (One is the candidate; four are large raised galleried houses with an above ground utilitarian basement; and the possible sixth landmark is a rambling one story Colonial Revival cottage.)

Of course, some of the Johnson House's landmark status is derived from its size in comparison to its shotgun and small bungalow neighbors. But more importantly, its prominent arcaded gallery spanning three sides makes quite an architectural statement (albeit a vernacular one). Located on what for Mandeville is a large parcel of land, the Johnson House has an almost "villa" status.

Historical Note:

Thomas Johnson and his wife Mary Celeste acquired the candidate in about 1915 and launched the remodeling described above. As was typical, the Johnsons maintained homes in New Orleans and Mandeville. Johnson descendants lived in the candidate until 2001, when the present owners purchased the property.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cairn, Mary Frances Boudreaux (great-granddaughter of Thomas and Mary Celeste Johnson), phone interview with Donna Fricker, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Pre-remodeling photos of house, copies in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Historic Structures Survey, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
- 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):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1.3 acres

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 781880 3361900

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 13A, Square 34, City of Mandeville

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: September 2002

PROPERTY OWNERS

Patrick and Sydney Hazell
402 Lafitte St.
Mandeville, LA 70448