

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Louisiana
COUNTY:	Iberville
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 20 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Live Oaks Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Live Oaks

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Louisiana Highway 77 (North)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rosedale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
8th Gillis Long

STATE: Louisiana      CODE: 22      COUNTY: Iberville      CODE: 047

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
William P. Obier, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 202

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rosedale

STATE:  
Louisiana

CODE:  
22

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Iberville Parish Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Plaquemine

STATE:  
Louisiana

CODE:  
22

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historical Land Marks in the Capital Region

DATE OF SURVEY: July 1973       Federal       State       County       Local

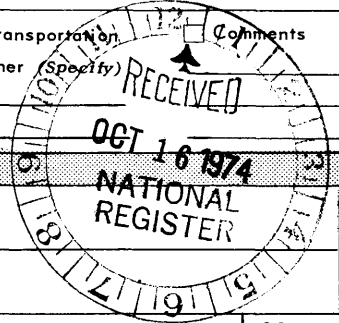
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Capital Region Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
333 North 19th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baton Rouge

STATE:  
Louisiana

CODE:  
22



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Live Oaks Plantation consists of the plantation house and gardens with a slave chapel and the remains of brick slave quarters on the grounds. The present house was built by 1838 by Charles H. Dickinson and is believed to have incorporated an earlier structure.

The house is simple in its architectural lines containing two and one half stories. Characteristic of Louisiana architecture are the broad double galleries (verandas) extending across the front and supported by six slender square pillars of wood on each level.

The windows across the front extend to the floor. They are ten feet tall and are typical classical double hung windows. Over eight feet wide including the narrow side lights, they are used interchangeably as doors. The massive double hinged blinds admit light when opened and provide privacy and ventilation when closed. The plinth blocks and pilasters, the fluting and paneling, are ornamented.

The walls are of cypress timbers resting on large cypress sills raised above ground level. Bricks are stacked to a height of between 2 and 3 feet between the posts on both floors to act as insulation. The walls are all plastered within, faced with beaded ceiling across the front and weather-board elsewhere. The cypress framework is mortised, tenoned, and pegged throughout.

An unusually large hallway divides the downstairs. To the rear it widens to 24 feet where a winding stairway leads to the second floor. The stair lines are graceful and it is suspended from the curved inner wall with no support from the floor: numerous mortised 4 x 4's hidden in the wall provide that support. The curving mahogany rail was imported from France. It is decorated with a simple scroll design and on the newel post is an ivory button.

There are four large rooms on the ground floor and the same number on the second story, though the two floors are not identical in ground plan. Each room is furnished with a cypress-wood columned mantel of good design with ornament cut in low relief.

The dining room and a bedroom above it upstairs are furnished with French Provincial cupboard presses, built into the walls on each side of the fire place to conserve space.

The large sliding doors between the parlor and dining room have an arrangement whereby the knobs are concealed in niches with flaps that close to give the frame the appearance of an unbroken surface when the doors are open.

On the other side of the hallway is a room which was either the master bedroom or possibly a study. Double doors from this room lead to a hall opening to the rear with one wall being the curved back of the staircase. The other door opened to a room which may have housed a house-servant with an outside entry. A sneak stairway which no longer exists is referred to in correspondence at the time the house was built and is believed to have been in this room.

On the second floor are three bedrooms with a fireplace in each, a parlor and a large hall at the head of the stairs. From this floor a straight stairway leads to the attic.

In the large attic can be seen the sixty foot long rafters and large queen posts all mortised or half lapped and pegged. The attic is floored and was used for entertainment with a family story relating that on one particular occasion

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7. Description

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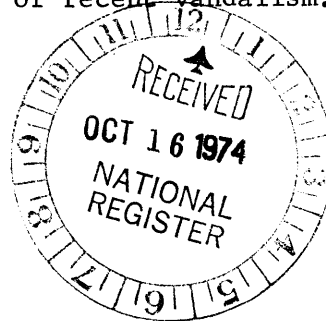
the party involved 150 guests each with a slave in livery to wait on him. An old loom for making cloth still remains in the attic.

All of the door knobs and key hole plates are silver plated throughout the house. Most of the hardware throughout is original.

Of the out buildings, two remain standing. One was originally a combination smoke-house and house-servant quarters. Only one room of the soft brick structure remains. There was a companion structure on the opposite side of the main house which contained the kitchen and additional quarters and which was connected to the house by a latticed walkway. Remnants of the foundation can still be seen. These buildings were placed in architectural balance to the rear and on each side of the house.

The other building is a brick chapel 160 feet to the side of the house. It was built in 1840 for use by the slaves and was later used for the first school house in the area and as a church for the Episcopal faith until their own village building was completed in 1859. The latter building also still stands across the bayou and is in regular use as the Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

To the rear of the chapel is a brick tomb which contains unusual cast iron caskets of various shapes and sizes, some shaped like a body. Each has a sliding metal door which covers a small glassed area for viewing the face of the body. The Smithsonian Institution advised that in 1830 100 of this type casket were shipped from Spain to Cuba and entered this country via New Orleans. One is on display at the Smithsonian, one was found at Bastrop, Louisiana, one at Grosse Tete, Louisiana, several at Plaquemine, Louisiana, and one at Huntsville, Alabama. Nine of them reached Live Oaks of which four remain. It is not known for certain who is buried there. The tomb was broken into by Yankee Soldiers looking for treasure and have also been the object of recent vandalism.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Live Oaks Plantation House is an example of early Louisiana plantation architecture with its upper and lower galleries, unbroken roof line, and internal architectural details forming a prototype for later, more elaborate, and more refined plantation homes.

The brick slave chapel, the remains of the combination servant quarters and smoke house, and the evidence of the combination kitchen and servant quarters provide an insight into the domestic arrangements of "influential people" of the period.

Charles H. Dickenson was a part of the family that owned a great deal of Iberville Parish - his guardian was the most extensive property owner in the Parish. Captain Joseph Irwin had become Dickenson's guardian in 1805 when Charles' father was killed by Andrew Jackson. The senior Dickenson and Jackson were ostensibly dueling over the results of a horse race, but there were definite political overtones. Charles' maternal grandfather became his guardian, and in 1828 deeded to Charles the land for Live Oaks.

The first house built by Charles Dickenson in 1828 consisted of four rooms and reportedly was incorporated into the present structure which was begun in 1835 at the earliest.

The early tomb with its unknown occupants and cast iron caskets is also of interest.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Clement, William E.: "Plantation Life on the Mississippi", New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., 1952.
- Dickinson, Charles H., II: "Dickinson Family Journal", Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrille Co., 1932.
- Dickinson Papers, Manuscript Dept., Special Collection Div., Tulane University Library, New Orleans.
- Kane, Harnett T.: "Plantation Parade", New York, William Morrow & Co., 1945.
- Overdyke, W. Darrell: "Louisiana Plantation Homes Colonial and Ante Bellum", Architectural Book Publishing Co., New York, 1965.
- Saxon, Lyle: "Old Louisiana", Robert L. Crager & Co., New Orleans, 1950.

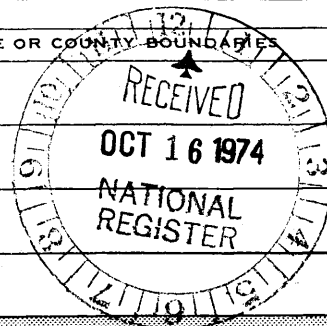
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "		91° 27' 24"	30° 26' 35"	
NE	0 , "	0 , "				
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

15/5018220

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William P. Obier, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 202

CITY OR TOWN: Rosedale STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Jack Board  
 State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Director, Department of Art, Historical  
 and Cultural Preservation

Date: October 9, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

DR Wentz  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/20/74

ATTEST:  
Charles Henry  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.14.74

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Seebold, Herman Boehm de Bachell: "Old Louisiana Plantation Homes", Pelican Press, New Orleans, 1941.
- Smith, J. Frazer: "White Pillars", Bramhall House, New York, New York, 1941.
- White, Alice P.: "The Plantation Experience of Joseph and Lavina Erwin", Baton Rouge, University Press, 1933.

