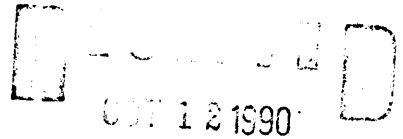


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Ormond Plantation House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 48 N/A not for publication  
city, town Destrehan N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county St. Charles code 089 zip code 70047

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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 Tassin 10/8/1990  
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date  
Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 11/8/90

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Byers \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

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**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

French Colonial style

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls stucco, brick

---

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

---

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The original portion of Ormond Plantation House was constructed sometime in the later eighteenth century. However, the house's present appearance and style is largely the result of a c. 1825 enlargement and remodeling program. Ormond stands today as a two story Creole residence with colombage construction on both stories. Its setting on the Great River Road is still predominantly rural in spite of the encroachment of a nearby housing development. None of the out-buildings survive. Despite some twentieth century alterations, Ormond remains a significant example of a Louisiana Creole plantation house; thus it retains its National Register eligibility.

#### The Later Eighteenth Century Period

There is no doubt that some portion of the present Ormond dates to the later eighteenth century, but just how much is difficult to say. One would have to pull off a great deal of architectural fabric to find out. Evidence of the first period of construction consists of a pair of massive exposed stud wall sections set either side of the central block on the lower story. The studs are nearly nine inches wide and are planed to a smooth surface, indicating that they were meant to be exposed. At one time these walls were filled-in with bricks which were plastered flush with the surface of the studs, thus giving the effect of half-timbering. Each wall section has a single French style segmentally arched window opening with a recessed cut all around to allow shutters to close flush with the wall surface.

These walls indicate that in the late eighteenth century Ormond consisted of at least the lower story of the present main block with a gallery on three sides. Whether the present second story of the main block existed at that time is not known. The present Norman truss hip roof probably did not exist at that time because it lacks the broken pitch typical of late eighteenth century Creole houses.

#### The 1825 Enlargement

As previously mentioned, Ormond assumed its present size and style in a major rebuilding and enlargement which the architectural evidence suggests took place in about 1825. Just how much was added at that time is difficult to say because the size of the original house is not known. One could speculate from the floorplan shown in the 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey drawings (see attached) that an original squarish central core of four rooms was enlarged by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ormond Plantation House, Destrehan, St. Charles Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

enclosing side galleries into long rooms and appending flankers. Although this conclusion is tempting, it is not known if the original plan was a full four rooms, and it is not known if the house was one or two stories high. But however Ormond came to its present appearance, 1825 seems a reasonable date for the new enlarged house because of the copious Federal woodwork it contains. Also, Ormond is surmounted by a Norman truss roof, something one does not see much after the 1820s.

A c. 1913 photograph shows the house much as it looked after the c. 1825 enlargement. It is a two story galleried mass with a relatively low hip roof and two story flankers, each with its own hip roof. The flankers are somewhat higher than the central block. The photograph also shows that the flankers were linked to the main house by means of open staircases and platforms fully exposed to the weather.

The following features survive from the c. 1825 period of construction:

1. The front gallery, with its primitive brick Doric columns below and its lamb's-tongue chamfered cypress columns above. (The cypress column on the extreme western end is a duplicate of the original.)
2. The unusual upper gallery ceiling which follows the pitch of the roof and allows for attic ventilation.
3. The colombage walls, both upstairs and down, in the central block and the solid brick walls of the flankers. (Evidently earlier colombage walls in the main block are brick-between-posts while later ones are bousillage.)
4. The stuccoed surface treatment, some of which is scored to resemble cut stone. (The lower story of each of the flankers is currently exposed brick, but these areas were probably stuccoed at one time. The brick surface is rough and seems to indicate that some kind of surface coating was removed. This condition is evidently of long standing because it appears in the previously mentioned c. 1913 photograph.)
5. About two-thirds of the window and door openings remain on the exterior. Surviving openings are thought to retain their original molded surrounds, but not their original doors and sashes. (See subsequent section.)
6. About one-third of the original interior openings remain. These too are thought to retain their original surrounds. The opening between the two parlors downstairs takes the form of a highly unusual broad segmental arch with delicately molded panels. It has a glazed in-fill which appears to date from about 1850.
7. Four Federal Adam-style mantels remain in the west flanker. These are of the non-wraparound variety.

A 1920s photograph shows that sometime in the early twentieth century the stair and platform connections between the main house and the flankers were covered with shed roofs. This created what was in effect a two story breezeway

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ormond Plantation House, Destrehan, St. Charles Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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each side of the main block. The 1920s and '30s saw Ormond fall into decline and some preservationists predicted that the house would become derelict. This did not happen, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown, who purchased and renovated the house in 1942. Although preservationists today find some of the changes regrettable, there is no doubt that the Browns saved Ormond.

### The 1942 Renovation

It is popularly believed that the 1942 renovation took place under the direction of the noted restoration architect Richard Koch, but this story is flatly denied by Koch's long-time partner Samuel Wilson, Jr. Koch knew Mr. and Mrs. Brown personally, relates Wilson, and directed the HABS drawings, but that was the limit of his involvement.

Major changes made include:

1. The enclosure of the breezeways between the main block and the flankers and the removal of the formerly outdoor staircases.
2. The removal of all mantels and most fireplaces in the main block and the removal of a downstairs wall to create a single large dining room running from front to rear of the house.
3. The insertion of an upstairs corridor running from side to side of the main block.
4. The removal of the staircase in the main block. Two Federal style replacements were built in the northern corners of the main block.
5. As previously mentioned, about one-third of the exterior openings were moved or altered to accommodate changes in floor plan. Also, about two-thirds of the interior openings were moved or altered for the same reason.
6. Most of the doors and sashes were replaced, and the fanlit transom of the principal entrance (probably c.1825) was duplicated for virtually every other door and window in the house.
7. A room was appended to the rear of the west flanker.

In the course of the renovation, the original doors, Federal moldings and details were copied carefully. Thus it is virtually impossible to tell exactly how much of the present fenestration molding, cornice, etc. is Federal and how much is 1942. The only major change since the 1942 renovation has been the addition of a single story wing to the rear of the eastern flanker.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ormond Plantation House, Destrehan, St. Charles Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

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Assessment of Integrity

Despite the above alterations, Ormond is still clearly recognizable as a large two story Creole plantation house. Its identity in this regard is heightened by the distinctive imposing mass with appended flankers. In addition, the house retains many important Creole features such as fine lamb's-tongue chamfered columns, primitive Doric columns, a fully developed Norman truss roof and colombage construction. It also retains its highly significant eighteenth century walls. The house still holds a rightful place among Louisiana's collection of large Creole plantation houses.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ormond Plantation House, St. Charles Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 4

c.1913 photo



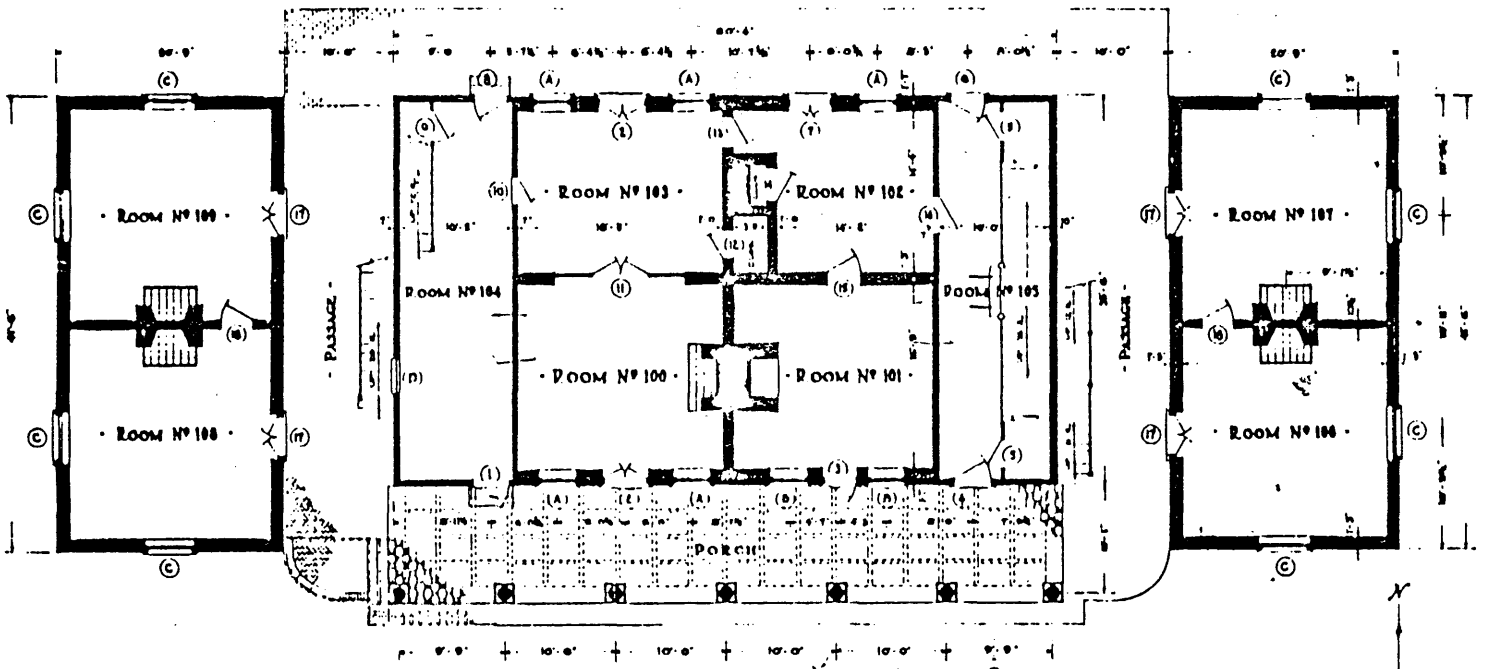
1920s photo



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

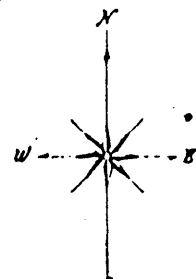
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ormond Plantation House, St. Charles Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 5

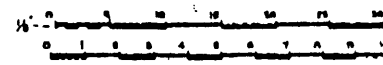


FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

Front & rear walls of main building are framed with 5" x 5" rough studs and filled in between with brick, and furred inside for plaster where cement finish is applied to exterior walls, studs have been hacked to receive same. End walls of main building are similar, except clay mud filling is used in place of brick. Center wall, running north & south, is of 8" brick, furred both sides for plaster. Center wall, running east & west, is a built up stud wall. Exterior walls of wings are of 12" brick, furred inside for plaster. Lumber walls of wings are of wood construction. All structural & finishing lumber is of cypress. All plastering is done over hand-split cypress with of various widths & thicknesses. Floor of passages, rear & front walks are of red soft brick laid in patterns as shown. Front porch floor is of 3" x 6" x 1 1/2" brick, alternating colors of light pink & slate, laid in pattern shown. Columns are brick, cemented.



SCALE



Wiser Dec.

1934 HABS drawing

**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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
c.1785, c.1825  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
c.1785, c.1825  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Ormond is of state significance in the area of architecture because it is one of a very limited number of surviving grand Creole plantation houses in Louisiana. The Creole style is the state's most important building tradition. It is the factor which distinguishes Louisiana from virtually every other state as well as being the principal non-British colonial style in the eastern half of the continental United States. The style, which embraces everything from one room cottages to large residences, finds its highest expression in the two story, fully raised Creole plantation house. Approximately thirty of these survive in Louisiana from the pre-Greek Revival period, as represented by Ormond. In addition, Ormond is one of only four or five Creole houses where one can still see eighteenth century French joinery and woodwork. The segmentally cut openings in the two visible eighteenth century walls were once prevalent in grander houses, but are very rarely seen today. Finally, Ormond is conspicuous among grand two story Creole plantation houses because of its distinctive appended flankers, features found on only one other example in the state.

Historical Note:

The original (eighteenth century) portion of Ormond was probably built by Pierre de Trepagnier. Trepagnier disappeared in 1798 and his wife sold the property to a Col. Richard Butler in 1805. It is believed that Col. Butler gave the estate the name Ormond after his family's ancestral home in Ireland. Butler turned the plantation over to his brother-in-law Captain Samuel McCutchon in 1819. McCutchon was probably responsible for the enlargement/remodeling program that gave Ormond its present appearance since the architectural evidence suggests that this work was done in the 1820s. There have been numerous owners since Capt. McCutchon, notably Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown (see part 7). Ormond was recently opened as a tour home and bed and breakfast.

See continuation sheet



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Historic American Buildings Survey, Ormond Plantation, 1934.  
Historic Photos in possession of owner.  
Personal communication with Samuel Wilson, Koch & Wilson, Architects, New Orleans.  
Laughlin, Clarence John. Ghosts Along the Mississippi. American Legacy Press, new revised edition, 1961. Contains pre-1942 renovation photos of Ormond.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # LA-0013
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property 5.16 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
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7	5	2	2	0	0
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3	3	1	6	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Please refer to enclosed property plat. (Parcel of land in question is identified as "Ormond Plantation Mansion" and contains 5.16 acres.)

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

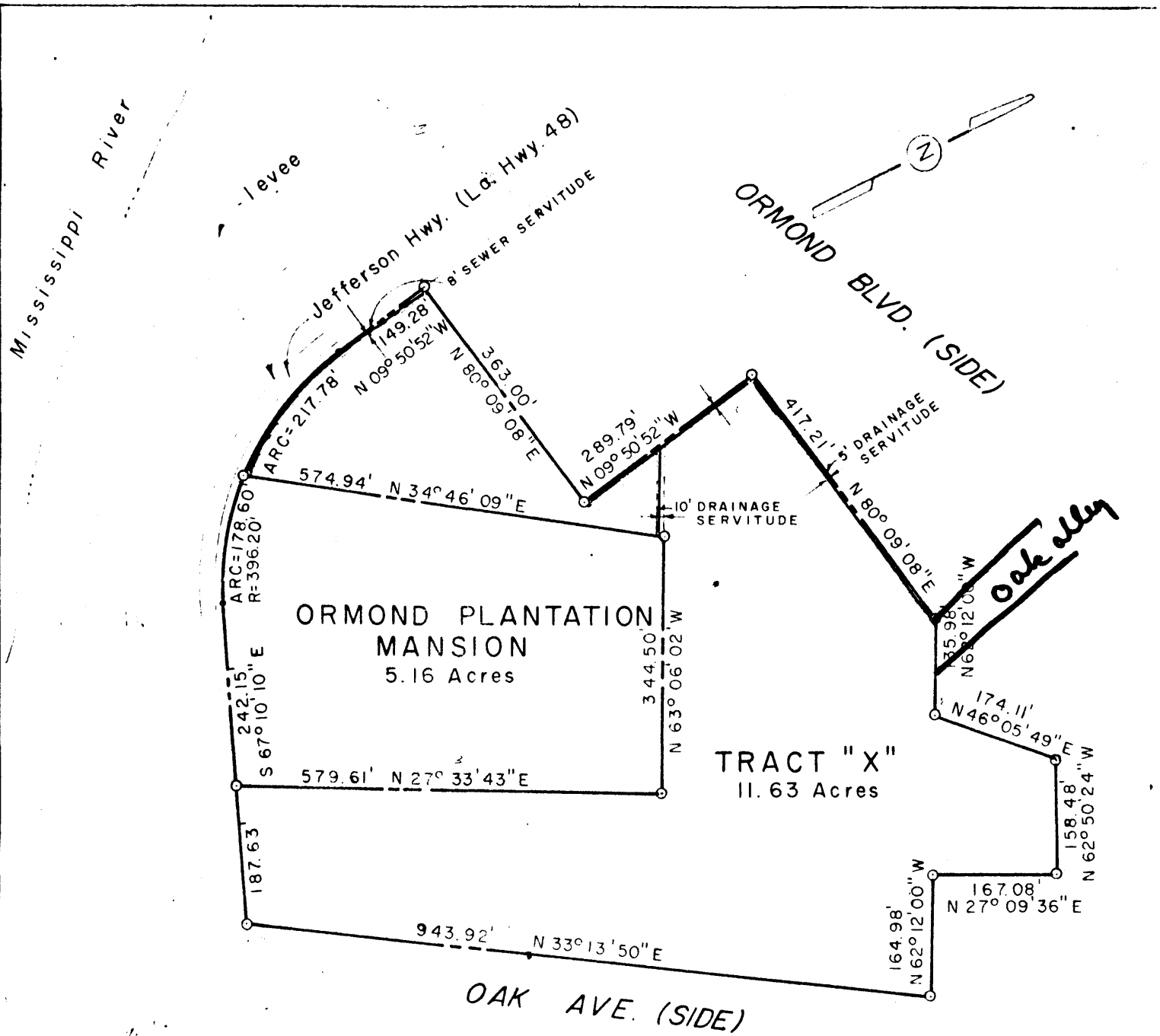
Boundary lines follow property lines of the parcel of land upon which Ormond stands.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1990  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Ken Elliott, Executor  
Estate of Betty R. LeBlanc  
8407 River Road  
Destrehan, LA 70047



SURVEY OF

ORMOND PLANTATION MANSION  
 LYING IN SECTION 1, T 13 S - R 8 E  
 ST. CHARLES PARISH, LA.

AND

TRACT "X"  
 LYING IN SECTION 1, T 13 S - R 8 E  
 ST. CHARLES PARISH, LA.

*Ormond Plantation  
 House.*

*St. Charles Parish*

*LA*

*Certified Correct*

SURVEY MADE AT THE REQUEST OF  
 JOHNSON-LOGGINS INC. OF LOUISIANA,  
 MR. NOLLIE E. AGEE, JR. (Project Manager)

Scale: 1" = 200'

Date 3/25/74

DE LAUREAL ENGINEERS, INC.  
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
 NEW ORLEANS, LA