

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0667552

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 19 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mulberry Grove

AA

AND/OR COMMON

Layton Castle

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1133 South Grand Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monroe

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Louisiana

22

Ouachita Parish

073

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Robert Layton Estate - Mrs. Robert Layton, Mr. Robert Layton, Jr., and  
Mrs. Carol Layton Parsons

STREET & NUMBER

1133 South Grand Street

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City of Monroe Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

300 St. John Street

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

STATE

Louisiana 71201

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

District North of Red River, Louisiana

DATE

1821 (Sutton), 1854 (Boyd)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Land Office

CITY, TOWN

Capitol Station, Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Layton Castle is set on seven acres of flatland which fronts the Ouachita River. Although the house was once a part of a large plantation, suburban development has engulfed all but the present acreage. All of the out buildings and workers' quarters have been lost except for a small brick wine house with an attached garage, and a family cemetery.

Despite the loss of acreage, the house still retains its historic setting because large live oak trees effectively screen it from surrounding intrusions. Also, seven acres provides a broad enough spread of land that the house and the intrusions cannot be seen in the same view.

The "castle" itself has approximately 60 rooms, with the major living spaces located on the second floor. It began in 1814 as a broad two story raised cottage with a hip roof. In about 1850, an addition was built to the northeast side which was enlarged in the late 19th century. This created a square, three story tower with a mansard roof which was connected to the old raised cottage by galleries. In 1912 a massive rebuilding and remodeling program took place in which the present house was largely created. A gracious, 15 feet wide hall was built behind the raised cottage. This connected a new large dining room and kitchen at one end of the house with a new living room at the other end. A third story was created over the northern end of the house which became part of a large open space where balls were often given. New front and rear galleries were built and a two story carriage port was added at the main entrance on the north facade. A large columnar porch of similar design was built on the east facade.

Much of the house is supported by round brick columns with arches running between. Floors are supported by heavy wood joists which run between one row of arches and the next. The only bearing walls are in the mid and late 19th century portion of the house. The old raised cottage has been restructured with brick arches and columns. Probably only a few of the old walls remain in the second story. In the circa 1912 remodeling, the entire house was reroofed with a pair of massive hip roofs which were covered with red tile. Some of the lites were made of glass to provide for skylights.

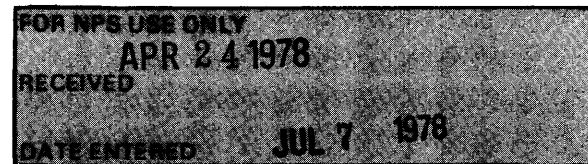
The exterior of the house was designed to convey the idea of a castle. This is achieved through the use of tall round turrets at either end of the building which create strong asymmetrical massing. This feeling is also achieved by the extensive use of corbel tables. But the exterior also has something of the character of an industrial building. Much of this is due to the plain brick walls and the use of warehouse-type windows with brick segmental arches and plate glass sashes. A most unusual feature is the two story carriage port with its round brick columns and 15 feet arches. There is no record of any architect involved in the circa 1912 remodeling. Family tradition has it that the work was designed by the builder in conjunction with the owner. Perhaps this is why the exterior resembles a castellated warehouse.

The interiors are large, but sparsely decorated. The only noteworthy features are a pair of oak Queen Ann Revival mantles in the living room.

The boundaries of the nominated area were chosen to encompass the house and the surrounding seven acres, which is all that remains intact of the original plantation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

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Since the circa 1912 remodeling, there have been three principal alterations to the house. These are: 1) The ground floor and the mid and late 19th century portion of the house have been converted into apartments. But this does not significantly impact on the major interior spaces -- the living room, the hall or the dining room. 2) At one time there was a staircase leading from the carriage port up to the living room. This has been removed, but it had only a minor impact on the living room. In any case, the interiors are not a major source of significance. 3) The galleries have been glazed in and incorporated into the rooms in the southern end of the house. But the impact this had on the exterior walls was minimal. Prior to the glass, the galleries had mounted screens. They were never open.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1814, 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eugenia Stubbs Layton Wright,  
ca. 1912

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Layton Castle, with approximately 60 rooms, is probably the largest residence ever built in Monroe. Its owner and its builder used simple industrial architecture to create an elaborate castellated mansion -- a local landmark and architectural folly that is probably unique to the state.

Layton Castle enjoys a lesser degree of significance as the home of Henry Bry, a native of Geneva, Switzerland who immigrated to the Ouachita region in 1804. Bry, by the time of Louisiana statehood in 1812, had successfully served as parish judge, legislator in the House of Representatives, as a member of the convention to write Louisiana's first constitution, and as advisor to territorial governor W. C. C. Claiborne on the affairs of the Ouachita District. Bry purchased approximately 500 acres in 1814 and built Mulberry Grove Plantation, which became known as Layton Castle after the circa 1912 remodeling.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Spring, 1972, Vol.3, No.3, p.81-86,  
 "Judge Henry Bry: Genevan on the Ouachita" by Marshall Scott Legen.  
Journal of the Reverend Timothy Flint, "From the Red River to the Ouachita in Louisiana,"  
 1835.  
De Bow's Commercial Review, III March, 1847, 225-30, "The Louisiana Region," Henry Bry.  
Official Letter Books of W.C.C. Claiborne, 1801-16, 6 volumes.  
 Documents in Courthouse - Monroe, Conveyance Book D, Page 243.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,8,3	3,6,0	3,5	9,5	0,7,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the west by Grand Street, on the north by Texas Street, and on the south by Morris Drive. The eastern boundary runs parallel to Jackson Street 80 feet to the east.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carol Layton Parsons

Revised by Jonathan Fricker

ORGANIZATION

DATE

2/22/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

818 Waverly Road

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bryn Mawr

Pennsylvania 19010

# 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

*Demetrius James*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/18/78

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Walter Cole*

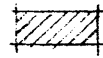

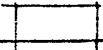
DATE

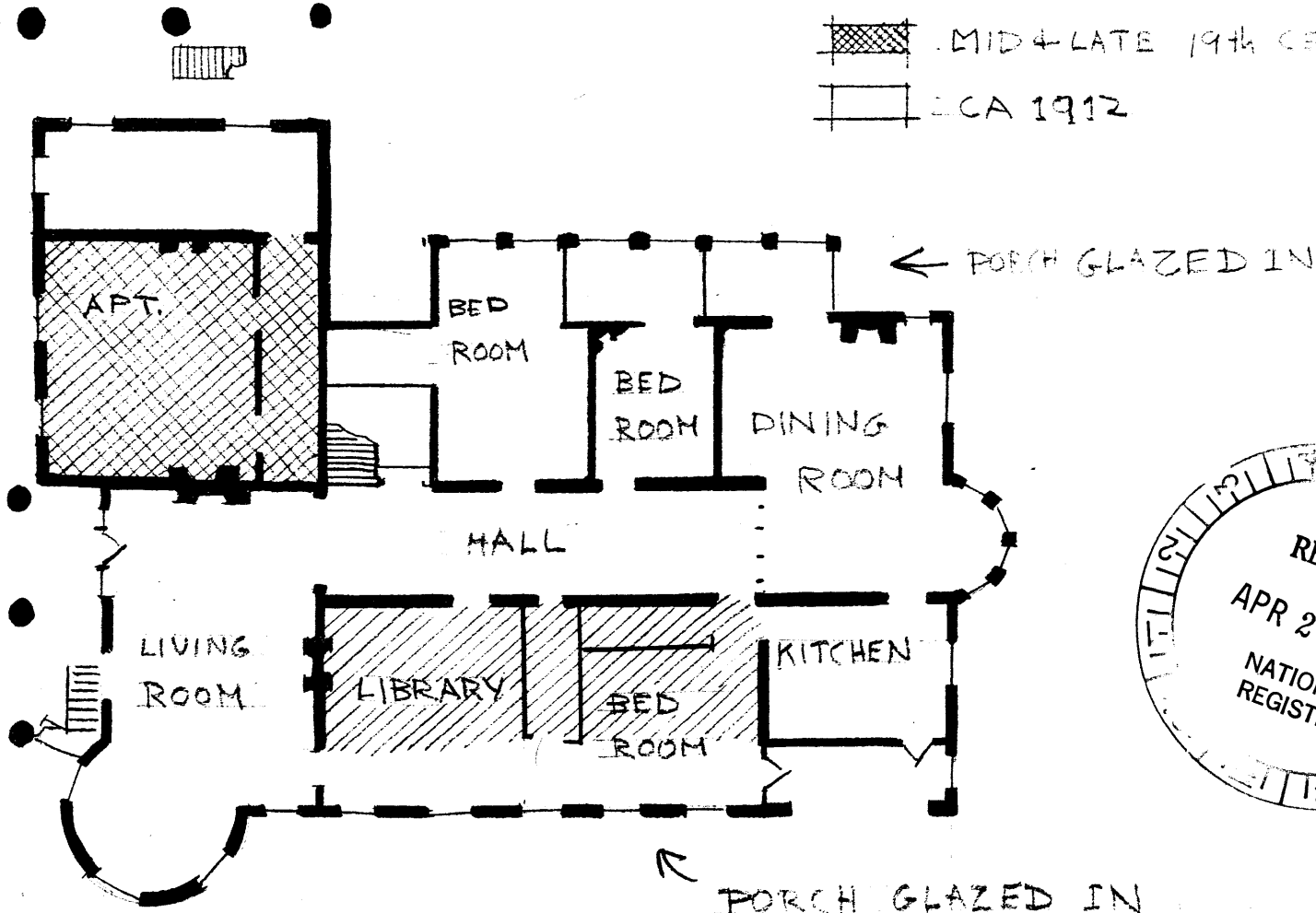
7-2-78

DATE

7-5-78

← NORTH

-  CA. 1814
-  MID & LATE 19th CENTURY
-  CA 1912



LAYTON CASTLE  
2ND (MAIN FLOOR)

CARRIAGE  
PORT

← PORCH GLAZED IN

← PORCH GLAZED IN