

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 1

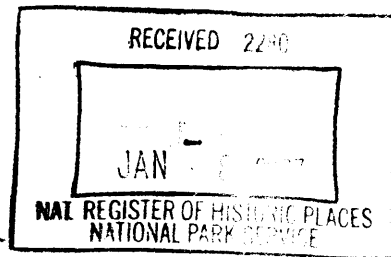
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 411 South Washington Avenue

Not for publication: NA

City/Town DeRidder

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Beauregard Code: 011

Zip Code: 70634

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/Title Jonathan Fricker Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Date 1/5/07

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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NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of Keeper: [Handwritten Signature]

Date of Action: 2-21-07

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

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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NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

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

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Craftsman

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: weatherboard, shingles
Roof: asphalt
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House is a large, wood frame residence built c.1910 as a traditional foursquare with Craftsman details. The lumber company constructed it directly across Washington Avenue from the mill for use by its general manager. Alterations since construction have been minimal.

All available documentation points to a construction date of circa 1910. The first Sanborn map showing the area in question is from 1912, and it shows the house in place. The house was first occupied by general manager C. H. Dodd and his family, and Dodd moved to DeRidder to assume the job of general manager in October 1910.

Elements of the Craftsman style on the exterior include tapered and paneled columns and shingle siding on the second story. The house has a pyramidal roof main block with a large, forward-projecting gable providing for an upstairs sleeping porch. Large, one-over-one windows surround the sleeping porch on three sides. This large element dominates the appearance of the home. The sleeping porch rests atop a wide, open-air porch that stretches to each side of the façade. The open-air porch is deeply recessed and has a solid railing that is covered in the same narrow gauge weatherboards that cover the entire first floor. The solid railing enclosing the porch imparts a feeling of substance. Four columns rest atop the solid porch railing. The two outermost columns are very large and paneled, while the two innermost columns are much smaller and tapered.

The use of diamond patterned windows is extensive, though there are also simple one-over-one windows as well. One especially fine example is the protruding, tripartite window that is to the left of the front door on the façade. The central element is an eight-over-two window, and it is flanked on each side by diamond patterned casement windows. A scalloped treatment is applied beneath a few of the upstairs windows.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The front entrance is particularly intricate. A single door with a large, glazed panel is surmounted by a diamond patterned transom and is flanked by diamond patterned sidelights. It opens onto an impressive living hall, with a curly pine staircase and a built-in bench taking up most of the room. A window with a Gothic arch glazing pattern lights the staircase. The staircase, which ascends in two flights, has decorative panels and a screen of simple squared off spindles. (The latter has a strong Craftsman character.) Directly behind the living hall, through a pair of multi-lite double doors, is a large bedroom. To the left of the living hall is the living room, separated by a typical Craftsman divider with a paneled base and splayed paneled columns above. There is another set of room dividers separating the living room from the dining room, which is located directly behind the living room. Three bedrooms, including one that opens onto the sleeping porch, and a bathroom are grouped around the upstairs landing.

The most distinctive feature by far of the interior is the extensive use of curly pine. Characterized by irregular knots and intense graining, it is dramatic in appearance. All woodwork throughout the home, including doors, baseboards, crown molding, door and window surrounds, and the staircase and built-in bench are of curly pine. The effect is striking. Curly pine's highly decorative nature was much sought after, and it's clear that only the upper echelon of workers at the Hudson River Lumber Company would have access to such prized material.

Alterations/Assessment of Integrity:

1. A metal storm door was added to the front door. It is regrettable, but easily reversible.
2. A small, one story, rear kitchen wing (original to the house) was completely remodeled in the 1950s.
3. A double carport was added at the rear, but its visual impact is very minimal
4. The two original wooden mantels have been replaced, though the mantel shelves have been retained.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 5

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A X B__ C__ D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: industry

Period(s) of Significance: c.1910-1921

Significant Dates: c.1910-1921

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Builder: Hudson River Lumber Co.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

The Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House is locally significant in the area of industry as an important survivor to represent the lumber boom history of DeRidder. The company-built house served as the home of general manager C. H. Dodd from the time it was built (circa 1910) until his retirement in July of 1921. When Dodd retired (and moved to Dallas, Texas), the home was sold to a private individual. (The general manager replacing Dodd, Walter E. Sailor, lived in a different house.)

DeRidder traces its founding to the arrival of the Kansas City Railroad in 1897. The southern expansion of the Kansas City Southern Railroad from Shreveport to Port Arthur, Texas in the 1890s made possible the harvesting of millions of acres of long leaf pine. Various Kansas City lumber companies were quick to follow the new railroad into southwest Louisiana. Among them were Central Coal and Coke Company, the W. R. Pickering Company, and the Long-Bell Lumber Company. Long-Bell had production facilities at DeRidder, Bon Ami, Longville and Lake Charles.

Long-Bell established the Hudson River Lumber Company in DeRidder in 1904. For two decades, it provided DeRidder's largest payroll. One distinctive feature of the DeRidder sawmill was that the hands received their pay in legal currency instead of tokens that could only be redeemed at the company store. In 1904, the Hudson River Lumber Company's sawmill had a capacity of 150,000 feet per day, with plenty of standing timber still available.

DeRidder was already a growing town of 2,500 inhabitants, despite it only being officially incorporated as a town in April of 1903. In addition to lumber, cotton and sheep became profitable ventures for the expanding town. Brick buildings were replacing wooden ones, and civic improvements were underway, including an elegant new schoolhouse, an opera house, and an ice plant. Electric lights were being used in part of the town, with the promise that they would soon be available for general use. DeRidder was soon to become a significant rail junction, when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad built an east-west line from Kirbyville, Texas to Oakdale, Louisiana.

In 1904, the Hudson sawmill produced 34,000,000 feet of lumber, and by February 1905, 200 mill hands and loggers were employed there. The planing mill operated 13 machines and supplied its own electric power using steam engines and dynamos. Five standard brick dry kilns were in operation, drying 100,000 feet of lumber daily. R. A. Long, president of Long-Bell, even paid a visit to the sawmill as part of a week-long trip to four of the large yellow pine mills Long-Bell owned in southern Louisiana. It was stated at the time in Southern Lumberman, a trade journal, that the "biggest and best of the mills [Hudson River Lumber Company] was saved for last [on the trip]." It was considered a model pine mill at the time, and the Long-Bell executives believed that it could not be improved upon.

By 1907, the Hudson River Lumber Company had established an experimental farm on 200 acres of what used to be stumps from the logging operation. The potatoes from the farm were shipped to all of the Long-Bell commissaries in Louisiana and to other markets. Cantaloupes, watermelon, onions, strawberries, and other crops were grown. A long-range plan was established in an attempt to reuse cutover lands for agriculture and other needs.

Long-Bell owned a large tract of land directly across from the mill, and it was subdivided in 1908. Here were located scores of company built workers' houses and the homes of middle and upper level

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

management. Nearby, in the early years, were at least the following company-built buildings: a two story frame company office, a one story frame store, and a hotel. As was the norm, housing for African-American mill workers was in a separate area – in this case, on the other (east) side of the mill. Contrary to the norm for the lumber industry, all available evidence indicates that some employees (perhaps only management) actually owned their own homes. Also, it appears that individuals not affiliated with Hudson River Lumber Company could purchase land and build their own homes in the neighborhood.

DeRidder and the Company prospered between 1910 and 1925. DeRidder became the seat of newly created Beauregard Parish in October of 1912. Long leaf pine forests in Beauregard and Calcasieu parishes fed the mill's growing appetite for raw material. A Wood Preserving Division was opened in DeRidder in 1916, producing creosoted poles, ties, cross arms, and highway guardrail posts. The sawmill at Bon Ami was shut down and dismantled in 1925, due to the depletion of the virgin long leaf forests, and the mill at Ludington was closed in 1926. The sawmill at Longville, another division of Long-Bell, burned down in 1920, but the planing mill there produced oak flooring until 1927. The mill was closed and the flooring machinery was transferred to DeRidder. Hudson River Lumber Company soon became a mill devoted to the exclusive production of hardwood.

By the late 1920s, the lumber industry in southwest Louisiana was on the decline. Many employees of the Hudson River Lumber Company moved on to the Northwest and to Arizona. Long-Bell was hit hard by the Depression, and was eventually bought out by the International Paper Company, which operated the creosote plant until the 1980s. The remains of the old oak flooring plant burned down in the early 1970s. Huge portions of the cutover acreage were sold to the Federal government, and the Kisatchie National Forest was created on those lands by reforestation.

Properties Associated with DeRidder Lumber Industry:

Of course, the sawmill plant itself would best represent the lumber boom in DeRidder. Unfortunately, all traces of it are long gone. The original wood frame company store, wood frame office building, and wood frame hotel are gone. The store and office were replaced in the 1910s with a large two-story brick building known as Standard Mercantile. The department store was owned by Hudson River Lumber Company, and the company had offices there. This building is currently listed as a contributing element to the DeRidder Commercial National Register District. While it is documented that there were over 100 typical workers' cottages (for whites) at one time, only a handful exist today. The six to seven survivors, in varying states of integrity, are sprinkled here and there in the subdivision created by Long Bell in 1908 (Hudson First Addition). Today the Hudson First Addition is characterized by a notable amount of new construction. As noted previously, shotguns for African-American workers were located on the other side of the mill. Two or three of these survive today in varying degrees of integrity.

The candidate is significant on the local level due to the critical importance of the Hudson River Lumber Company in the economic development of the Town of DeRidder. Other than the just mentioned shotguns and cottages built for white workers, there are four residences in DeRidder with documented ties to the Company. They are all homes of upper echelon white-collar workers employed by the Company. One has been too altered on the exterior to meet National Register guidelines, one is the candidate, and the other two are Register candidates. As the mill's general manager's house, the company-built house at 411 South Washington is a particularly important survivor, for it has a direct and compelling association with the Hudson River Lumber Company.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 8

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beauregard Parish Conveyance Records.

Beauregard Parish Historical Society, compiler. *History of Beauregard Parish*. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corp, 1986. This publication contains two articles on the candidate and C. H. Dodd written by a descendant.

Block, W. *Early Sawmill Towns of the Louisiana-Texas Borderlands*. Hemphill, Texas: Dogwood Press, 1996.

Long-Bell Lumber Company. *From Tree to Trade with the Long-Bell Lumber Company*. 1904.

Long-Bell Lumber Company. *From Tree to Trade with the Long-Bell Lumber Company*. 1920.

Sanborn Insurance Company maps, DeRidder: 1916, 1921, 1928, and 1948 or 1949.

Southern Lumberman, 1906, reprinted in January 2005 issue.

Warren, Joe V. *DeRidder, Louisiana: The First 100 Years 1903-2003*.

Wild, Edward O. *An Outing with the Long-Bell Lumber Company*. 1906.

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):

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Hudson River Lumber Company General Manager's House, Beauregard Parish, LA

Page 9

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: less than an acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	15	472600	3412220

Verbal Boundary Description: Legal property description: Lot 4, Block 8, Hudson's First Subdivision, Town of DeRidder.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the candidate.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register Staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Address: P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Telephone: 225-342-8160

Date: August 2006

PROPERTY OWNERS

Charles E. Poe
411 South Washington
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