

PH0354252

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 12 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 3 1976

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

Ma
Dominique Lalanne Store and Residence *preserved*

HANE

AND/OR COMMON

Old Schmit Hotel (Steamboat House)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SW corner of Bridge and Dejean Streets

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Washington

--- VICINITY OF

8th - Gillis Long

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

St. Landry

CODE

097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME C. Kenneth Deshotel

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Drawer 1668

CITY, TOWN

Opelousas

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, St. Landry Parish

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Opelousas

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1940

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Schmit Hotel exhibits an unexpected influence from Dutch Colonial architecture in an area of Louisiana predominately influenced by a mix of French and English styles.

The building, which has two and a half stories plus a full cellar, is constructed of brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers alternating with one row of headers. At both ends of the building, the gable wall is terminated in a series of steps leading to the chimney at the top. Other refinements in the brickwork include the flat arches over all doors and windows and the corbelled cornice across the front with its row of dentils. The roof, which is still covered with its original red Belgium slate, is punctuated by three symmetrically-placed dormers both front and rear. Doors and windows are symmetrically arranged except where altered on one end, and on the front first story, where two doors and two windows alternate in an unsymmetrical way. A second story door on the front of the building opens out onto a decorative ironwork balcony. All doors are double and are of the French variety with paneled wood on the lower third and eight lights to a side above. Both doors and windows have exterior batten shutters. Most doors and shutters are still the original red cypress. Doors and windows on the first-story level are each headed by a transom which is protected by iron bars.

The rear of the building has a two-story gallery. Structural evidence indicates that the building was originally this way. However, at some later date a two-story frame addition was appended to the rear gallery and the gallery was enclosed, as evidenced by the HABS photograph taken in 1940. The frame addition was removed in 1948 and the gallery has been reopened.

The cellar foundation is five bricks thick measuring the bricks lengthwise. The brick walls above ground are eighteen inches thick. On the first floor the ceiling beams are beaded cypress 32' long, about 6" wide and about 12" deep. These are covered by cypress boards to form the second floor. The ceiling beams on the second floor are 32' long, about 4" wide and about 14" deep. The timbers are tongue and grooved and pegged. Nails are handmade square ones. The eight doors on the second floor are each composed of one piece of cypress and the moulding is hand planed. One fireplace on the first floor has its original cypress mantel, and on the second floor there are two fireplaces which had black marble mantels, reputedly from Belgium. One of these is still intact, while the other has been broken up, although the pieces are in the possession of the present owner. The gutters are copper.

The building served originally as a store on the first floor with living quarters above. The first floor was just one large storeroom and had no inside stairs from the first to the second floor. This floor has been divided into rooms by the present owner and an inside stairway, similar to the one from the second to the third floor, has been added.

The second floor is as it was originally, except that two partitions have been removed from the south side so that the original black marble mantel would be in the center of the room instead of off-center. Originally the second floor had a hall down the center with two large rooms on either side, and two smaller rooms behind the larger ones. The north side of the house is as it was, except for the addition of plumbing. The south side has one large 20 x 30 foot room instead of the three rooms.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 12 1976

DATE ENTERED

010 8 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

7. Description

The third floor has a central hall with two 17 x 20 foot rooms on either side and storage space beyond these rooms.

The building is situated on a corner lot, with two sides close to the street. A brick and ironwork fence has been added along Bridge Street and Dejean Street. An 18 x 20 foot house of Acadian design has been added in the back yard.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Schmit Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places primarily because of its architectural significance for this region. Its form, which appears to be strongly influenced by Dutch Colonial architecture of the New York Hudson River Valley, seems out of context with its surroundings in Louisiana, making it a highly unusual, if not unique, building in this area of the South. Its date of construction, which is believed to have been 1866-68, is also unusual, as stylistically it would seem to have been built much earlier.

Records indicate that a store had been located on this site from 1830. On October 2, 1866 Dominique Lalanne and his wife Heloine Lecompte acquired this lot, together with building and improvements, from Constant Dessarp and his wife Laure Lainbers. Dominique Lalanne was born in Araizac adour Department des hautes Pyrannees, France, in 1825 and died in Washington, Louisiana in 1897.

According to descendents of Lalanne and also occupants of the building from the early 1900's, the present building was constructed as a store and residence by Lalanne between 1866 and 1868 at a cost of \$75,000. The same tradition states that 375,000 bricks were used in the building. The bricks were handmade in Washington; the timbers were sawn and hand dressed in Washington; and the doors, sashes, hinges, hooks and nails were all handmade in Washington by a Mr. Charlie'. Joe Angelic (or Joseph Agnelly) was the brick mason.

Exactly how the unusual stylistic influence which is exhibited in the building arrived in Washington, Louisiana, and how and why such a structure was built so soon after the Civil War, are still unanswered questions.

In 1902 Lizzie Greenburg and Martin A. Schmit purchased the building and ran a hotel there until the late 1930's. Thus it received one of its names, the Old Schmit Hotel. Mr. Schmit also operated a store on the first floor for a number of years.

The building received its other common name, Steamboat House, from its present owner.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conveyance Records. Recorder's Office, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, Louisiana.
Interviews with:

Florence Ortego Bidstrup - great granddaughter of Dominique Lalanne.
Vita Schmit Drews - daughter of Lizzie Greenburg and Martin A. Schmit.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	590500	3387100	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE C. Kenneth Deshotel

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

February 1976

P. O. Drawer 1668

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Opelousas

STATE

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

SIGNATURE

Leah A. DeCompte

TITLE Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 7, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting
Keeper of the National Register

(Signature of Acting Keeper of the National Register)

ATTEST:
(Signature of Charles Greenburg)
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/3/76

DATE

8-2-76