

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 18 1979

DATE ENTERED FEB 1 1980

**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

Thematic Nomination of Antebellum Greek Revival Buildings of Mount Lebanon

AND/OR COMMON

Thematic Resources

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mt. Lebanon Road,

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gibsland

vicinity

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th-Jerry Huckaby

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Bienville

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

Thematic

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See attached survey forms

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bienville Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Arcadia

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Lebanon is an old community of approximately thirty buildings which vary in age from 140 years to 3 years. They are spread out along approximately three miles of La. Rt. 154 and La. Rt. 517, two roads which converge to form the center of the community. There is no potential district in Mount Lebanon. The buildings are widely spaced amid rolling countryside, in some cases as much as a quarter mile apart.

The Survey

The survey was accomplished through a systematic inspection of each building. Based upon this it was determined that a thematic group nomination based upon the Greek Revival buildings in the community was the best way to recognize the valuable cultural resources in the area. There are only a few buildings over fifty years old which do not fit this category. These are predominantly small nondescript, bungalows which could only be registered as part of a historic district. Because of the vast open space and the large number of new buildings in the area, a district was clearly impossible.

The antebellum buildings of Mount Lebanon all feature simple Greek Revival details including molded capital pillars, and pilasters, transom side-lighted doors, six over six windows and plain molded mantels. Most of the residences have typically Greek Revival central hall double parlor plans, under pitched roofs with five bay gallery fronts. There is also the occasional pediment.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 town of Mt. Lebanon is significant in the areas of architecture, religion, and education.

Mount Lebanon is a small community with eight good substantial representative examples of the provincial Greek Revival. This is a remarkably high number and concentration for northern Louisiana, an area which was not largely settled until the late 19th century.

The town of Mt. Lebanon began in 1836 when a group of prosperous farmers from Edgefield District in South Carolina settled in the area. During 1836-1837 they established homes, cleared land, opened a post office and several stores, and organized a Baptist church. There were about twelve families in the original group, and at first the settlement was known as the Carolina Colony. Many persons of these original families were related to each other directly or by marriage, and this situation made for a close-knit community with a high degree of shared values.

The community prospered and during the 1840's, other persons were attracted to Mt. Lebanon and its nice homes, expanding trade center, strong church, and congenial society. The village eventually numbered about fifty families, most of which were from South Carolina.

In 1851 a New Orleans newspaper predicted that Mt. Lebanon would become one of the most important towns in north Louisiana. The article said the town was pretty, healthy, and pleasant. In 1860, journalist J.W. Downr gave the following description of the town:

It is a delightful town of about three or four hundred inhabitants. It is famous for health, wealth, educational institutions, and good people of South Carolina stock. The town is well built with everything to indicate wealth and refinement. One is likely to want to prolong his stay indefinitely and if spurred by inevitable necessity leaves it with regret.

Mt. Lebanon has significance in the areas of religion and education, because it was a major center of Baptist activity in north Louisiana from the 1840's through the 1860's. It was under the leadership of Reverend George W. Bains in the 1840's that this period of religious significance began. Several other churches were established in the area due to the efforts of Bains and his congregation. In 1847 the Baptists in Mt. Lebanon began to take an interest in education. In 1848, the town hosted a large meeting of Baptists from many areas of the state which resulted in the formation of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, which had as its primary goal the promotion

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cook, Philip C., "Mt. Lebanon University in Peace and War," North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Vol. 9 (Spring 1978), 55-64.
- Files of Virginia Yardley and Mt. Lebanon Historical Society concerning history of Mt. Lebanon.
- Martin, F. Lestar, "Mt. Lebanon's Historic Houses: A Presentation by Louisiana Tech University's School of Architecture," North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Vol. 9 (Summer 1978), 115-124.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

- 1 - 15/495400/3596275
- 2 - 15/495300/3596150
- 3 - 15/495300/3596100
- 4 - 15/495375/3595700
- 5 - 15/495650/3596000

- 6 - 15/495150/3595900
- 7 - 15/495050/3596050
- 8 - 15/494800/3595800

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

See sketch map.

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

Virginia M. Yardley, President

ORGANIZATION

Mt. Lebanon Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

107 Chandler Drive

CITY OR TOWN

Minden

DATE

June 1979

TELEPHONE

377-1253

STATE

Louisiana 71055

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

TITLE

DATE

9/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Webb
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/1/80

ATTEST

Seth G. ...
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/30/80

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- Cook, Philip C., "Mt. Lebanon University in Peace and War," North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Vol. 9 (Spring 1978), 55-64.
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- 8 - 15/494800/3595800

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

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Donald Ramey

TITLE

DATE

9/10/79

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Sally G. Webb
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/1/80

ATTEST

Seth G. Givens
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/20/80