

PH0672475

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 5 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 26 1977SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC **
White Hall Plantation HouseAND/OR COMMON
Same**LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER
La. 418 between La. 1 and La. 15

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Louisiana

 VICINITY OF Simmesport

CODE

22

8th - Gillis Long

COUNTY

Pointe Coupee

CODE

077

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: will be

OWNER OF PROPERTY

private residence

NAME
David L. LordSTREET & NUMBER
118 Evergreen Drive

CITY, TOWN

N. Biloxi

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pointe Coupee Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Roads

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE
Historical Landmarks in the Capital Region

DATE

July 1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Capital Region Planning Commission

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

White Hall Plantation House was constructed circa 1849. The house exhibits influences of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Its architect and builder are as yet unknown.

White Hall has two stories plus an attic constructed of cypress. Across the front facade (north side) of the house is an upper and lower gallery. There are six octagonal columns of vaguely Doric design on each gallery level (one end column on the upper level no longer stands) with balustrades between the columns. Opening onto the lower gallery are four floor-length windows with six over nine lights and the main entrance. This entrance consists of a six-panelled door surrounded by full-length side lights and transom. All of this is recessed within jambs which are panelled in a similar fashion to the door. The architrave surrounding the doorway is of the Greek key design. On the upper gallery there are five floor-length windows matching those on the lower gallery. At the northeast corner of the galleries an exterior stairway leads from the first to the second story. The first-story columns support an entablature with architrave and frieze divided by a row of dentils. The second story columns support a modillioned cornice under the overhanging hipped roof. The roof is now covered in tin.

The east side of the house has a one-story pentagonal bay window with Doric pilasters supporting an entablature with a row of dentils under the roof. Also on the east side is a balcony onto which a second-story bedroom door opens and three additional windows.

The west side of the house includes four window openings, one of which has been enclosed inside the house, and a doorway which originally opened into a small wing which was removed from the house in 1912.

The rear of the house (south side) shows the most evidence of change to the structure. Bathrooms, added during the Victorian period, protrude from the rear. There is also a small, one-story wing which was added in the 1950's. None of these additions detract from the integrity of the main structure and upon renovation can be removed.

The interior of White Hall Plantation House is in good condition. The walls are sheathed in long leaf yellow pine, while the mouldings, mantels, door and window facings and stairway are of cypress.

The first-story floor plan consists of a side hallway with stairway to the second story and main reception rooms opening from this side hallway. Except for the hallway, the entire front of the house is taken up by a double parlor measuring 20 x 40 feet with the polygonal bay window adding another 8 feet to the length of the rooms. These matching parlors are divided by an archway with a Corinthian impost and Corinthian medallion in the center of the arch. The floors of the double parlors, as throughout the house, are of oak stripping.

Immediately behind the double parlors are two other main reception rooms measuring 16 x 20 feet each. The four main downstairs rooms have fireplaces with cypress mantels.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 5 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 26 1977

White Hall Plantation House

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The upstairs consists of five rooms which were probably bedrooms and a landing area for the stairway. The rooms are situated three across the front with the narrowest room being directly over the side hallway. Behind these front rooms is a hallway and behind the hall are the two additional rooms. Three of the upstairs rooms have built-in closets.

Above the two main stories is an unfinished attic area.

Although the interior appears to be in good condition, the exterior is in serious need of major cosmetic repair. The unpainted cypress weather-boarding has taken on a very grey appearance which makes the house seem in worse condition than it actually is.

Alterations to the house include the addition of the bathrooms on the rear and the 1950's rear wing and the removal of the small wing on the west side in 1912 when the house was moved.

White Hall Plantation House has had to be moved through the years because of levee setbacks along the Atchafalaya River in 1912, 1939 and possibly one other time (date unknown). Thus the house has been, by necessity, moved back from the encroaching river and now stands some 300 feet from the levee. The house has retained its orientation toward the river.

Until recently the grounds of White Hall have been unkempt. Lately they have been cleared and some appearance of a yard is returning. Large oak and pecan trees which remain on the grounds add to the setting. Behind the house, and included in the area being nominated, is a small bayou.

Limited restoration work has been done at White Hall to prevent its further decay, and plans call for a complete restoration in the future.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Home of the founder of town
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Hall Plantation House is locally significant because it was the home of Bennett Barton Simmes, the founder of the town of Simmesport; because it is an architectural landmark in upper Pointe Coupee Parish; and because it served as the Headquarters of the Department of the Gulf, Nineteenth Army Corps, United States Forces, under the command of Major-General Nathaniel P. Banks just prior to the campaign at Port Hudson, Louisiana. (Port Hudson is a National Historic Landmark because of that campaign.)

Bennett Barton Simmes purchased the plantation on July 17, 1852 from Samuel J. Norwood. He paid \$27,970.40 for "A certain tract of land . . . with all the buildings and improvements thereon containing six hundred and forty acres more or less . . . slaves eighteen in number. . . together with all the mules cattle hogs and farming utensils appertaining to the above described plantation."

Not much is known about Simmes beyond what can be learned from the 1860 census records. They state that in that year he was 48 years of age and that he was born in Maryland. He had 6 children then and 84 slaves with 15 slave dwellings. The value of his real property was \$250,000; his personal property, \$30,000. He had 600 acres of improved land and 900 of unimproved land. The cash value of his farm was \$150,000 and of his farm implements and machinery, \$2,500. He had 25 horses, 25 asses and mules, 25 milk cows, 10 working cows, 100 sheep, 50 swine, 50 other cattle, and the total value of his livestock was \$25,000. He grew Indian corn, cotton, peas and beans, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes. In addition to Simmes' plantation activities, tradition states that he built a dock and warehouse along the banks where Bayou des Glaises empties into the Atchafalaya River - thus fathering the port which was incorporated as a village in 1926.

Although White Hall Plantation House has undergone some alterations through the years and is in only fair condition at the present time, it is considered by area residents to be an architectural landmark in upper Pointe Coupee Parish. Built during the mid-nineteenth century, it exhibits a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate stylistic characteristics and retains much good interior detailing.

Various documents describe the role White Hall played in 1863 as General N. P. Banks' Headquarters. Correspondence shown in The War of the Rebellion indicates that while the Headquarters was moved from Alexandria to the Simmes (or Simms or Sims) plantation on the east bank of the Atchafalaya River

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet No. 3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
---	---

6	1	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---

3	4	2	8	1	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 David L. Lord

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 1143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Biloxi

Mississippi

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.

SIGNATURE

Jandie Thompson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 30, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Offenberg

DATE

5-26-77

ATTEST:

Henry Ward Jankle

DATE

5/24/77

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 5 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 26 1977

White Hall Plantation House

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

8. Significance (cont'd)

between May 14th and May 17th, 1863, Banks himself was apparently still in New Orleans on May 18th but had arrived in Simmesport by May 21st. The recorded dispatches deal with the movement of various troops and gunboats into the Port Hudson area, transporting the necessary coal, food and ammunition for them, and scouting the Port Hudson area to determine the location and numbers of Confederate troops there. The first major attack at Port Hudson was the morning of May 27, 1863.

The Union occupation of the Simmes plantation is described in The Era, a New Orleans newspaper, on May 29, 1863. The report is "From General Banks's Army...White Hall Plantation, May 21, 1863" and states

All is excitement and bustle here. Orderlies and couriers are rushing frantically about

Of course you want to know the reason for all this. Well, this portion of the 19th Army Corps is again about to take up its line of march; and they hope soon to have the opportunity of adding new laurels to those they have so recently won

"White Hall Plantation," the property of General B. B. Simmes, is occupied by General Banks and staff as headquarters, and a beautiful place it is. It is situated on the east bank of the Atchafalaya river, one mile above Simmesport, which place takes its name from the General. The family of Mr. Simmes is still residing here, but he is absent on a visit to another plantation. What his political status is, I do not know, but his family display none of that bitter animosity aroused on the first arrival of the Yankees.

The next report was datelined "On Board St. Maurice, Bayou Sara, May 23, 1863," and said in part:

General Banks and staff are here, and the army is rapidly coming up. Everyone is jubilant, and confident of victory at Port Hudson.

In 1868 White Hall became the property of the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana. From 1880-1898 Samuel J. Norwood once again owned the plantation. (It was from Norwood that Simmes had bought White Hall.) In the 1890's the plantation consisted of 1500 acres and the house was described as a commodious frame building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 5 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 20 1977

White Hall Plantation

CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. Bibliography

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, Vol. 2. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1892.

Curet, Bernard. "Historic Plantation Home Was Target of Union Gunboat."
State-Times. (Baton Rouge) July 18, 1963.

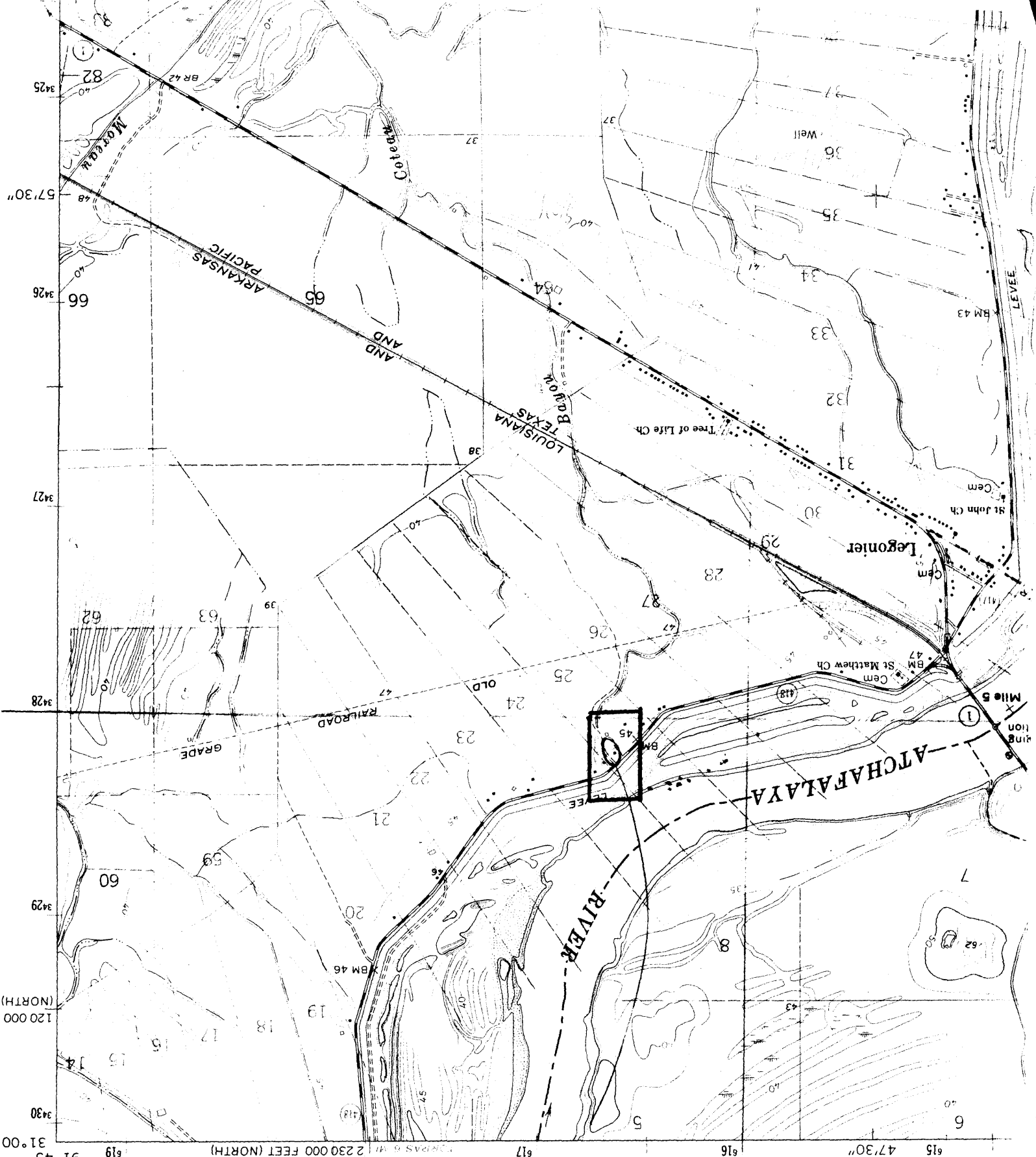
"From General Banks' Army." The Era. (New Orleans) May 29, 1863.

Menn, Joseph Karl. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana - 1860. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 1964.

Notarial Records, Point Coupee Parish.

Saucier, Corrine L. History of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 1943.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889.



SIMMESPORT QUADRANGLE
 LOUISIANA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NE/4 ODENBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

WHITE PLUMATION
 HALL 348170/616650/15

91°45' 91°19' 91°17' 91°16' 91°15' 47°30" 47°30" 47°30" 47°30" 47°30"

120 000 (NORTH) 3429 3428 3427 3426 3425