

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED	29

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 Thompson House

AND/OR COMMON
Westerfields

LOCATION *E of Jackson*
STREET & NUMBER Highway 68

CITY, TOWN		VICINITY OF		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
Jackson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6th - Henson Moore			
STATE	LOUISIANA	CODE	022	COUNTY	037
				East Feliciana	

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 W. J. Westerfield

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 68 Box 77A

CITY, TOWN Jackson VICINITY OF STATE Louisiana 70748

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. East Feliciana Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Clinton 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 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 Thompson House is set amid gentle rolling hills near the town of Jackson. Approached via an alley of relatively young oaks, the house commands a view of the surrounding meadowlands and adjacent lake. The extensive acreage in this nomination is justified because it provides for views away from the house and for the setting in which the house enjoys such a commanding presence.

The two and one-half story house has a broad and spreading "T" shaped plan, generally one room deep, with extensive galleries and open breeze-ways. There are no interior hallways as such. The main block of the house has a central Queen Anne living hall, a large square room with a wide, quarter turning stair which abuts a colonnade screen. There is also a bench set against the stair landing, and a large fireplace. This room shows a timorous use of spatial design. There is no spatial link with adjacent rooms.

The main block is surmounted by a large vergeboarded gable flanked by square towers which have spire-shaped tops. The side wing has a massive Queen Anne circular turret with a conical roof. The use of multiple gables together with three towers creates a lively silhouette.

The living hall features oak paneling, and scroll-sawn wood filigree. The mantels in the house are of the golden oak catalogue-ordered type. Many have mirrored overmantels. The dining room, which is located in the rear wing, is garnished with striped effects formed of contrasting strips of wainscotting. The remaining interiors are relatively plain.

The present owners have enclosed some of the galleries on the rear wing. However this work is hardly visible from most points on the grounds. This is because the house backs to a line of trees.

Adjacent to the house are an old cistern, several garages, and a swimming pool.

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 1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Thompson, Sr., Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thompson House is an enormous rambling compendium of Stick Style, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival features. It is probably the largest and most elaborate late Victorian country house in the state. This can be most clearly seen in its tower arrangement. Whereas many of the finer houses of the period had a single tower or turret, Thompson House has three. It also has a variety of roof shapes and massing forms. This gives it a wild, complex, and irregular skyline which epitomizes, more than most contemporaneous country houses in Louisiana, the Victorian picturesque aesthetic.

The house was built in 1897 to replace an earlier home that burned. The builder was Robert Thompson, Sr., and the site belonged to his wife, Millie Scott Thompson. The architect is said to have been a Mr. Kennedy. The house remained in the Thompson family until 1961, when Robert Thompson, Jr., sold it to the present owners.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 25 1980
DATE ENTERED 29

Thompson House (Westerfields)

CONTINUATION SHEET

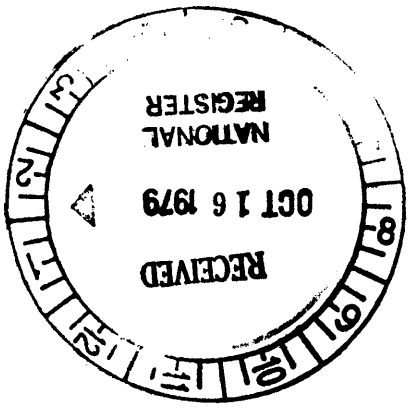
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

10. Geographical Data (cont'd)

Verbal Boundary Description (Appendage)

Although the 16 acres included with the house may seem arbitrary, the criteria for choosing this amount of land was purely visual. The house enjoys an impressive setting when seen from the lake (photo #4). It is also framed by an oak alley which flanks the approach driveway (photo #2). So considerable land had to be included on the south and east sides to take in these vistas of the house. Less land was included on the north and west sides because the land rises and there are trees, hence no vistas. After the staff determined the proper distance from the house that the boundaries should be set, lines were drawn, and the acreage worked out to 16 acres. Hence the seemingly arbitrary figure.



THOMPSON
HOUSE

BOUNDARY

Approx 16
Acres

