

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Louisiana
COUNTY: East Baton Rouge
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Warden's House - Old Louisiana State Penitentiary

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
701-05 Laurel Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baton Rouge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
6th John R. Rarick

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE: **22**

COUNTY:
East Baton Rouge

CODE: **033**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
John J. Desmond and Lewis E. Miremont

STREET AND NUMBER:
703 Laurel Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baton Rouge

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. Louis Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baton Rouge

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
"Historic Baton Rouge", by Robert Heck

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971 CRP** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
City-Parish Planning Commission

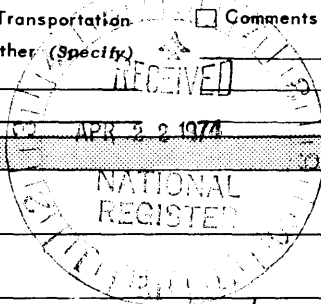
STREET AND NUMBER:
805 St. Louis Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baton Rouge

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 2 1974**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warden's House is a two-story brick structure with an attached two-story wing on the east. It is located on the southwest corner of the block bounded by Laurel, North 7th, Main and North 8th Streets. It was constructed in 1838-1839 as a portion of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, which was then on the outskirts of Baton Rouge. The structure was built to provide a home for the prison clerk (on the second floor) and serve as the prison store. The wing has served as a kitchen, servants' quarters, and storage space. The building later served as the home of the prison warden.

The main building is a rectangle, with a gable roof. The State prison complex was moved from the city in 1925 and the house was used for a variety of purposes. When it was restored in 1966, the interior plaster was beyond repair, and, as a result, much of the notched and pegged interior framework has been exposed. The Classical Revival structure is of load bearing brick wall construction with floors, joists, interior wall framing, and roof systems of native cypress. Interior walls were originally plaster on wood lath.

The exterior brickwork is especially well detailed with running bond offset by soldier course lintels and a continuous corbelled top course under the gutters. The soft mud brick ranges in color from soft red to orange and was made by prisoners. The wall which originally surrounded the property has been shortened to enclose only the courtyard in front of the east wing. The present wood gallery was reconstructed during the recent adaptive restoration to house an architectural firm.

The gable ends of the structure are enclosed with decorative brick parapets. Early chimneys have been removed with the exception of the one on the east wing. All interior fireplaces and mantels have been retained.

Two large double doors provide access to what was the store area. The original doors, provincial in character, have been retained and have large transoms. A single door on the southeast provided access to a large two-story entrance hall with a stair leading to the second floor. The original door is intact, and is exquisitely designed with Classical mouldings, scroll brackets, and early 19th century hardware. The stairway to the second floor has been replaced. First floor windows are 8/8 double hung with transoms matching those of the double entrance doors. Second floor windows are 6/6 double hung with louvered shutters. Turbin-bladed fan-shaped vent remains in the attic.

In the yard the circular brick foundations for the original cistern still exist.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838-39

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

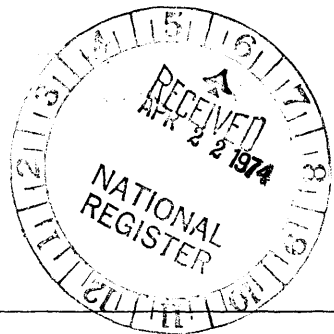
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Warden's House is the only remaining part of the once extensive State Penitentiary located in what is now the center of Baton Rouge. It is one of the few structures in this area with Classical Revival detailing and styling.

The prison complex across the street from the Warden's House covered an area approximately 317' x 714' bounded by what are now called Laurel, 7th, Florida and 9th Streets. The property on which the Warden's House stands (7th and Laurel) was acquired by the State of Louisiana in 1837 by Act 105 of the Louisiana Legislature, and \$15,000 was appropriated for the building. Construction was begun in 1838 and completed in 1839. The structure served as the prison store and the residence for prison officials. In 1906, Act 189 authorized the sale of the penitentiary grounds with the proceeds going toward "construction of buildings, purchase of machinery and other improvements on the state farm." For some time after that, the House continued to serve as a residence for prison officials who remained in Baton Rouge to process prisoners and send them to the new complex in West Feliciana Parish. In 1925 the building was leased for commercial purposes until Nicholson Post #38 of the American Legion bought it from the state and converted it to a U. S.O. lodge. It was purchased in 1966 and adaptive restoration began shortly thereafter.

The Classical Revival structure retains its notched and pegged cypress frame, now largely exposed. The existence of the original heart cypress lintels above the doors and windows testifies to the enduring quality of this now scarce species of wood. The structure is characterized by excellent proportioning and detailing of window openings, wood and brick details, and the quality of the design of the main entrance door. There is a considerable similarity between this building and the popular New York styles of the 1840's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Historic Baton Rouge", Robert W. Heck, City-Parish Planning Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1971
 "The Grounds of the Warden's House", George Shorter, Baton Rouge (Student Investigation)
 The City-Parish Beautification Commission Report
 The Acts of the Legislature - 1837 and 1906

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

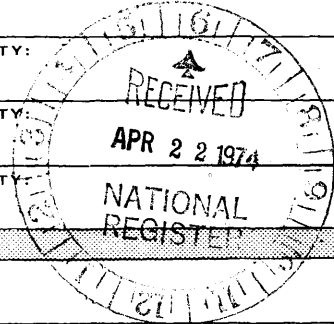
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 27' 2"	91° 10' 59"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 15/674470
 3369910
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 1**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Lewis E. Miremont**

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: **Feb. 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **703 Laurel Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baton Rouge** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Jay R. Broussard
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
 Director, Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation
 Date: April 19, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. Puente
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/2/74

ATTEST: George F. Emery
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: Nov. 26, 1974