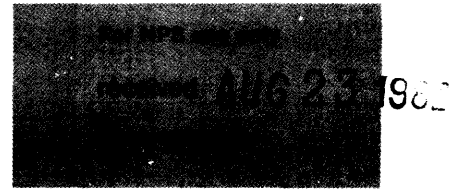


OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Labyche-Estorge House

and/or common Estorge House

2. Location

street & number 427 North Market Street N/A not for publication

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 parish ~~county~~ St. Landry code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant at present

4. Owner of Property

name Roy P. Boucvalt, M. D.

street & number 1400 East Main Street

city, town New Iberia N/A vicinity of state LA 70560

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number Corner of Court and Landry Streets P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Estorge House (1827) is a two-story, five-bay town residence which features brick construction on the lower story and brique-entre-poteaux construction on the upper story. The house is transitional in style, with features from both the Creole and Anglo-American influences. Despite the in-town location, the house is on a relatively large, well-treed lot. The setting has an almost semi-rural character. The structure has suffered few alterations over the years, and consequently still retains its architectural integrity.

As previously mentioned, the Estorge House has a combination of features associated with both the French Creole and Anglo-American traditions in Louisiana.

Creole features include:

- (1) the extensive use of transomed French doors.
- (2) the use of brick construction on the lower story and brique-entre-poteaux construction on the upper story.
- (3) the elaborate "Norman" truss roof structure which runs throughout the attic.

The Anglo-American influence as seen in the Estorge House is itself a transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. In many cases, it is not possible to determine which influence was ultimately responsible for a given feature.

In any case, Anglo-American features include:

- (1) the wide central hall plan on both the upper and lower stories (which could have been inspired by either the Greek Revival or the Federal influence).
- (2) the four heavy aedicule motif mantels, three of which are of marble. The two upstairs mantels are a matching pair made of black marble. (The mantels are clearly attributable to the Greek Revival influence.)
- (3) the main staircase with its heavy, turned Sheraton style balustrades. (These are undoubtedly attributable to the Federal influence.)
- (4) the two-story, three-bay pedimented Doric portico. (Although it is tempting to call this feature a prodigious step towards the Greek Revival, its attenuated proportions are more in keeping with Federal porticoes found on pretentious Eastern farm houses of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Moreover, the pediment lacks a frieze, and is too vertical in proportion. It also features the improper insertion of a tall, three-part window with a curved top. These mistakes are more typical of provincial Georgian and Federal porticoes than provincial Greek Revival porticoes.)

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Labyche-Estorge House

Item number 7

Page 2

Description (cont'd)

- (5) the upstairs, south, front room features an elliptical arch which may at one time have led into a companion rear room. This has since been partially walled in. (It is undoubtedly attributable to the Federal influence.)

Some of the noteworthy original features include:

- (1) the paneled and louvered shutters.
- (2) the window and door hardware, most of which is original.
- (3) the twelve over twelve and nine over nine windows, all of which are original.
- (4) the hall staircase with its massive turned balusters.

Since the house was built, the following changes have been made:

- (1) A two-story rear gallery was built. Sometime later the ends of this gallery were enclosed on both stories to form cabinets.
- (2) In about 1880 several of the rooms were decoratively painted. Today the lower hall ceiling and the north parlor ceiling survive with their paintwork intact. The hall ceiling is painted to resemble beveled wood paneling with a central carved medallion. The parlor ceiling is more complex with features which include a stenciled Greek key border, hand painted fruits and flowers, and various designs formed of repeating lines. The overall effect is that of a stenciled floorcloth.
- (3) In the twentieth century, the upstairs archway, as previously mentioned, was walled in to provide for a bedroom and a bathroom. The arch is still visible on one side. At that time the staircase was adjusted to provide access to the bathroom from the upper level.
- (4) Also in the early twentieth century the south parlor was divided to provide for a rear kitchen.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Estorge House is significant as an example of the transition from Creole to Anglo-American architecture. Hence the previously described Creole and Anglo-American features are the essence of its architectural significance. These remain intact throughout the house.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1827 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Pierre Labyche

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Estorge House is significant on the state level in the area of architecture because it is a landmark in the architectural history of French Louisiana. It represents a prodigious step in the assimilation of Anglo-American architecture by the native French Creoles. This assimilation is an important aspect of Louisiana's architectural heritage, and the body of architecture created during this transitional period is a major part of the state's material cultural identity.

Much of the architectural history of French Louisiana from c.1820 to c.1860 can be summed up by a gradual transition from French Creole architecture to Anglo-American Federal and later Greek Revival architecture. The Estorge House is a landmark within the context of this transition. The typical course of the transition was as follows: The galleried Creole raised cottage with its French doors and rear cabinets received a central hall and Greek Revival details. Ultimately it dispensed with the cabinets.

Given this background, the Estorge House is unusual in two respects:

- (1) It achieved a two-story, five-bay form which places it in a minority of examples.
- (2) More importantly, it attempted a two-story pedimented Doric portico. This was an extremely bold and important step for two reasons. Firstly, rural Creole attempts at fully developed pedimented columnar porticoes were almost unknown. Secondly, the Estorge House was built in 1827, which is very early in the transitional period. This makes it all the more remarkable.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Landry Parish Conveyance Records
St. Landry Catholic Church Archives
Opelousas Daily World Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .7 acre

Quadrangle name Opelousas, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

1	5	5	8	7	8	0	0	3	3	7	8	5	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth R. Fontenot, Inc.

organization Evangeline Economic Development District date March 1982

street & number 501 St. John Street telephone (319) 233-3215

city or town Lafayette state LA 70501

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



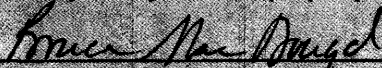
Robert B. DeBlieux

title

date August 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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



date 10/5/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: 
Chief of Registration

date 10/4/82

LABYCHE - ESTORGE HOUSE
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

