

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received SEP 12 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Charles Adolph Kent, Sr., House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 701 Ave, E N/A not for publication

city, town Kentwood N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Tangipahoa Parish code 105

3. 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. James Hudspeth

street & number 701 Ave E

city, town Kentwood N/A vicinity of state LA 70444

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse

street & number Mulberry and Bay Sts., P. O. Box 667

city, town Amite state LA 70422

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kent House is a large frame Colonial Revival dwelling located in the old residential section of the small town of Kentwood. The architectural evidence indicates a c.1915 construction date. The house has been altered very little and hence easily represents the period of its historical significance.

The Kent House consists of a squarish main block and a rear wing. A gallery encompasses most of the exterior, beginning at the central front door and wrapping around to take in the rear wing. The main block has a wide central hall with two rooms on each side. The rear wing consists of a large dining room, a butler's pantry, and a kitchen. Both the dining room and front parlor have projecting polygonal bays. The mass of the house is surmounted by a hip roof with hip dormers. The attic is one large room covered in beaded boards.

The plan and configuration of the house are very conventional for the period. But the detailing, most of which is Colonial Revival, does have one unusual twist. The heavily proportioned gallery has massive clapboard piers, each of which is flanked by a pair of Tuscan columns. Each pier has an extra wide clapboard base which is designed to support the flanking columns. Other Colonial Revival details include the columnar front doorway, the golden oak mantel-overmantel sets, and the massive staircase with its decoratively paneled newel post. The high paneled wainscot in the dining room is a Queen Anne carryover. The interior door and window surrounds, with their bull's eye cornerblocks, are Eastlake carryovers.

Since construction a small covered stair has been added in the rear and the bathroom and kitchen have received some modern alterations. These changes are, of course, minor, given the otherwise unaltered condition of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	..... architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social/
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
X 1900-	..... communications	X industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates c.1912-1929 (Kent's period of significance) **Builder/Architect** Builder: Charles Adolph Kent, Sr.
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion B

The Kent House is locally significant in the area of industry because of its close association with Charles Adolph Kent, Sr., who contributed greatly to the early twentieth century growth and prosperity of the area's dairy industry. Kent lived in the house until his death in 1949, and there are no other remaining structures in the Kentwood area directly associated with him.

Kentwood, a one-time sawmill boom town, was literally saved from becoming a ghost town by early twentieth century growth in the dairying industry. Kentwood's sawmill boom began in the 1880's and died out in the late teens-early twenties. The burgeoning dairy industry provided the necessary "shot-in-the-arm" for the town's economy. By the 1950's Kentwood was being referred to as the "Dairy Center of the South," and dairying continues to be the area's principal industry.

Although the earliest successful dairymen in the Kentwood area are associated with the 1890's, the parish's dairy industry was not very large prior to about 1900. It is estimated that there were less than twenty producers who marketed milk in New Orleans in the late nineteenth century. Most of New Orleans' milk was produced within the city limits and most Tangipahoa Parish dairymen marketed their milk only locally. Despite an 1899 Board of Health report exposing unsanitary conditions in New Orleans dairies, growth in the parish's dairy industry remained slow until the mid-teens.

One of the individuals responsible for what would by the 1920's become a dairy boom was Charles Adolph Kent, Sr., the son of the man for whom Kentwood was named. Kent's first step was to add, in about 1912, a creamery to his Kentwood Ice Manufacturing and Bottling Works. According to Kent, it was the first successful creamery in Louisiana and Mississippi. A less biased secondary source notes that creameries were almost unknown in the South at this time.

In 1919 Kent entered into dairy products in their entirety, providing the dairy farmer an unlimited market for his entire production year round. In addition to shipping whole milk to New Orleans, the Kentwood plant produced all forms of condensed milk, catering especially to ice cream manufacturers throughout the South. By 1922 Kent was making \$300,000 a year, and by 1928 sales increased to over one million dollars annually.

The production of milk tripled in Tangipahoa Parish from 1920 to 1923. In 1923 Kent's plant (no longer extant) used 325,000 gallons of milk in the manufacture of its condensed products alone. A 1925 article in the Kentwood Chronicle revealed that an average of 1040 gallons of milk were shipped daily from Kentwood and 379,600 yearly. In addition, Kent's plant purchased a daily average of 1800 gallons and 657,000 yearly. Although these figures do not take into account local consumption, they do reveal that Kent controlled a sizable chunk of the market. However, due to factors such as over-expansion, high costs, and the advent of the Depression, Kent Dairy Products, Inc. went bankrupt in late 1929, leaving a huge vacuum in the dairy farmer's market opportunities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 3/4ths of an acre

Quadrangle name Kentwood, LA-MISS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	3	7	2	8	0	3	4	2	5	3	4	0
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 enclosed property plat map. Boundaries follow property lines to the south, east and west. The rear boundary line cuts in fairly closely to the house to exclude non-contributing elements (a wood open shed-like garage that is probably less than 50 years old and two tiny frame 50+ year old cottages located well to the rear of the lot that have no known association with Charles Adolph Kent).

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

ASSISTED BY OWNERS

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana date July 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

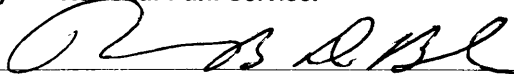
city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

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.

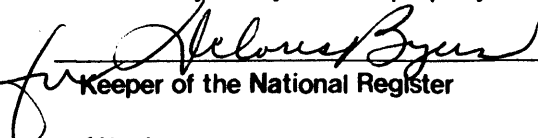
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux date September 3, 1985

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

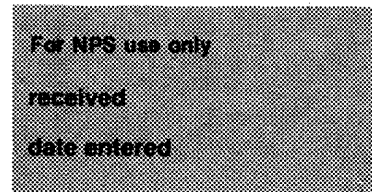

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 10-10-85

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Kent House Item number 9 Page 1
Tangipahoa Parish, LA

9. Bibliography

Davis, Harold A. "The History of Dairying in Tangipahoa Parish." Research paper submitted to Dr. J. B. Frye, Head of the Dairy Department, Louisiana State University, August 1957. (The section used in the preparation of this nomination was based largely upon research in local contemporaneous newspapers.)

Conveyance Records, Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse.

Kent, Charles Adolph Sr. Typed one page chronicle of his activities in the dairy business. Date unknown, but at least the late twenties because of dates given in the narrative. Found in the attic of Kent House along with other papers relating to his dairy operations. Copy in Register file, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Kent, Charles Adolph Sr. Miscellaneous letters documenting some of his business activities such as shipments of ice cream mix, etc. In possession of owner of Kent House. Copies in Register file, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Owner's personal communication with Athalee Kent Carroll, granddaughter of Charles Adolph Kent, Sr.

Tangipahoa Crossings: Excursions Into Tangipahoa History, Baton Rouge: Moran Publishing Corporation, 1979.

"Kentwood: The Town That Bossy Saved." Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, November 14, 1954.

Louisiana Municipal Review, December 1954. This issue has an article on Kentwood, the dairy center.

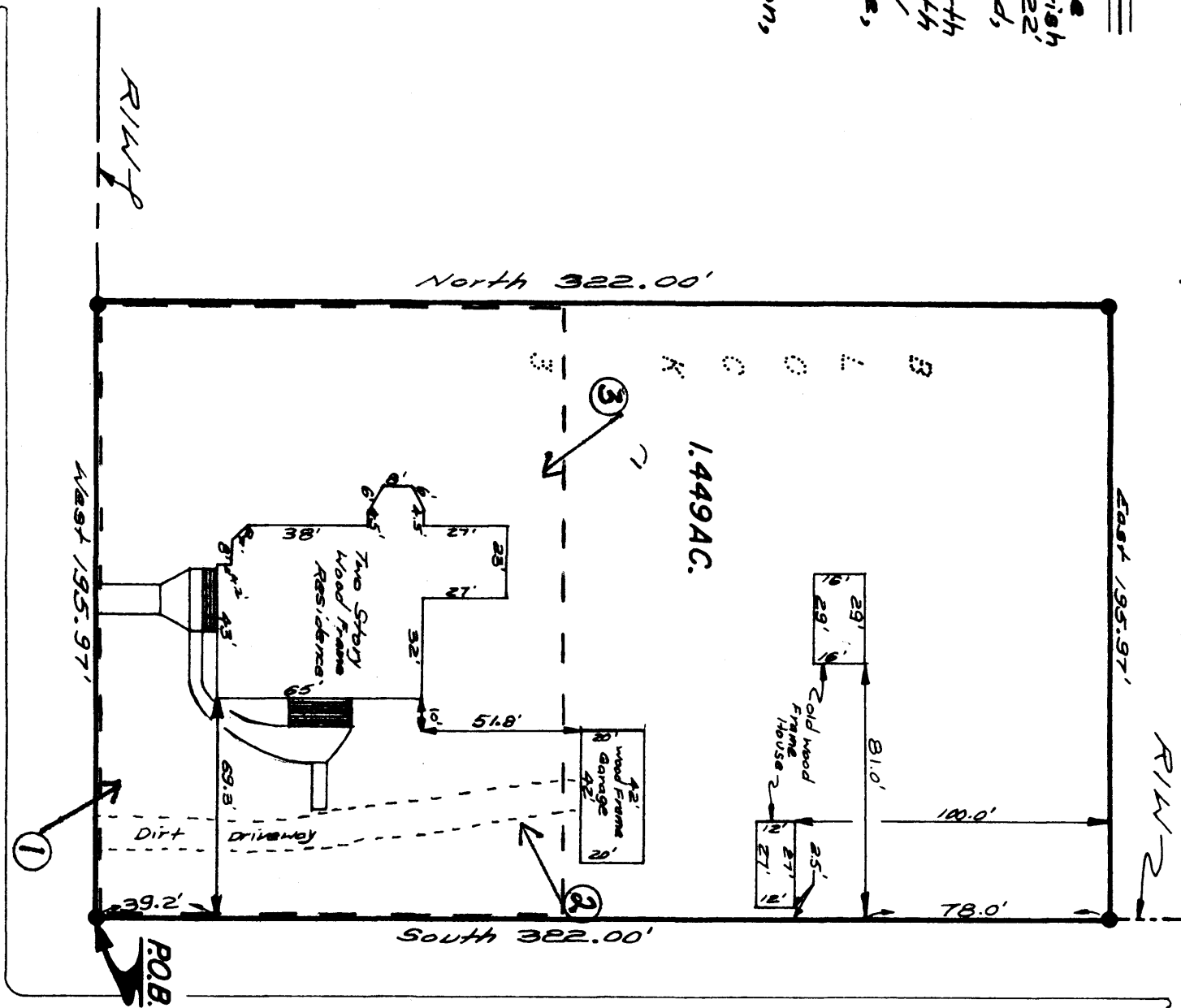
Old photos of Kent Dairy Products, Inc. plant. In possession of owner of Kent House.

PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING PROPERTY LOCATED IN SECTION 29, T1S-R7E, WARD 1, DISTRICT 1, PARISH OF TANGIPAHOA, STATE OF LOUISIANA.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

An actual ground survey was made of a certain piece or parcel of land situated in Section 29, T1S-R7E, Parish of Tangipahoa, State of Louisiana, being the South 322' of Lots - 23 & 25, Block - 3, of the Town of Kentwood, and being more fully described as beginning at the S.E. corner of said Block - 3; thence along the north R/W line of Avenue E, West 195.97'; thence North 322.00'; thence East 195.97' to the west R/W line of 11th Street; thence along said R/W line, South 322.00' to P.O.B. contains 1.449 Acres, all as shown on map.

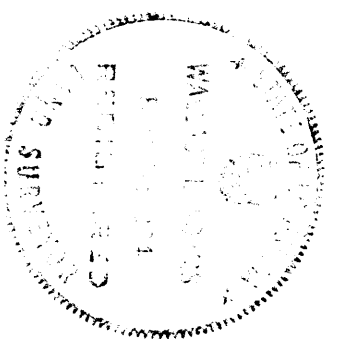
Reference: Plat of survey and map by M.K. Johnston, C.E. & R.L.S., dated 8-27-77.



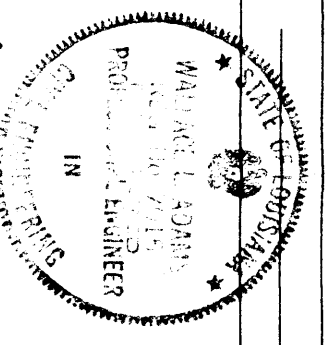
SCALE 1" = 50'

LEGEND
CORNER FOUND.....●

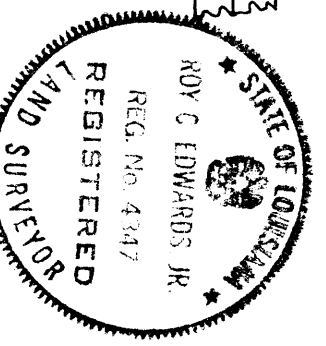
Kent House
Kentwood
Tangipahoa Parish
LA



Wallace L. Adams
WALLACE L. ADAMS P.L.S. & P.C.E.
DATE: 5 _____ 8 _____ 84



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HAMMOND, LOUISIANA. PHONE 542-0653
DRAWN BY: Joseph L. Helg



Roy C. Edwards, Jr.
ROY C. EDWARDS, JR. P.L.S.
DATE: 5 _____ 8 _____ 84