

10-17-75

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JUL 28 1975
 RECEIVED
 DATE ENTERED **AUG 19 1975**

**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 Abita Springs Pavilion

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *NW* End of Main Street

CITY, TOWN Abita Springs VICINITY OF 1st - F. Edward Hebert
 STATE Louisiana COUNTY St. Tammany CODE 22 103
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Leased by Town of Abita Springs from St. Tammany School Board

STREET & NUMBER
Level Street

CITY, TOWN Abita Springs VICINITY OF Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Courts Office - Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Boston Street

CITY, TOWN Covington Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Regional Planning Commission Historic Preservation

DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Regional Planning Office - 333 St. Charles Avenue

CITY, TOWN New Orleans Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Abita Springs Pavilion was constructed in 1888. The raised octagonal structure is entirely of wood and Victorian in style. It is 46 feet high and 52.6 feet in diameter.

There is a concrete foundation with four drinking fountains surrounding it which are now capped. The center was lower and was an overflow for the spring beneath it. There are eight 12" x 18" posts which support an upper level and a shingle type roof. The upper level has a wooden floor and at one time there was a long wooden foot bridge leading to this upper level. Railings that went around this level are now missing.

There is an earthen level now only three quarters of the way around the pavilion. The actual spring has been cemented over so it no longer flows.

The structure was repaired while in the ownership of the State, that is, between 1948 and 1965.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Historic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Poitivent and Favre

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abita Springs Pavilion was constructed to encourage and allow the consumption of the spring waters for medicinal purposes. The community of Abita Springs takes its name from the spring and the area was long a very popular summer resort for the inhabitants of New Orleans.

The Choctaw Indians are supposed to have considered the waters to have had healing powers. Sources agree that "Abita" is an Indian word, but there is no agreement as to its meaning.

The property around the spring was purchased from the United States in 1853. In 1867 in a sworn statement, Dr. T. M. D. Davidson, who had moved to Covington (the nearest community to Abita Springs) in 1857 and had been a "practicing physician continuously since," stated that "these springs are mineral water--highly medicinal. These springs are valuable on account of the medicinal qualities--I consider them very valuable for being a resort for boarders and invalids"1

An ad placed in The St. Tammany Farmer, a parish newspaper, in May of 1880 stated as follows:

THE FAMOUS ABITA SPRINGS----MRS. F. A. BOSSIER
Has opened her house at the famed Abita Springs,
three miles from Covington for the reception of
boarders, . . . a pretty cottage, with good well,
outhouses etc. near the spring to rent for the
season.²

On June 26, 1887, the first railroad train arrived at Abita Springs. Some six months later a post office was established.

The Pavilion itself was constructed in 1888: "Messrs. Poitivent and Favre have just built a commodious pavilion over the Springs, so constructed as to be beyond the reach of high water"3

Newspapers of the time stated the "Curative Properties of the waters of the Abita Springs became better known, and the general healthfulness of the locality attracted considerable attention."⁴ Simon's Hotel and Restaurant, with a French kitchen in the Parisian Style noted it was the "Closest place to Springs and Depot."⁵

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The St. Tammany Farmer, Covington, La.
Louisiana Municipal Review, Baton Rouge, La., May - June 1941
Records of 6th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany
Office of Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.
Town Hall records, Abita Springs, La.
Clerk of Court Records, Courthouse, Covington, La.
St. Tammany Parish School Board

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,5 | | 7,8,4 | 1,4,0 | | 3,3 | 7,5 | 5,3,0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

UTM OK
B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Patecek Johnson for

ORGANIZATION

Town of Abita Springs

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Level Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Abita Springs

STATE

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Jay R. Broussard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Dept. of Art, Historical & Cultural Preservation

DATE

July 25, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

8/19/75

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAELOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

AUG 18 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Abita Springs Pavilion (cont'd)

A passenger on the East Louisiana Railroad related his impressions thus:
Florenville then Abita Springs. Can anyone tell anybody about Abita Springs? I have heard so much about them that I suppose everybody else has heard, that it leaves one at a loss to say anything that has not already been told. The medicinal qualities of the Springs have not been over-rated, so I am told.⁶

An article entitled "Life at Abita Springs" described the pleasure seekers from among the wage-workers and counter hoppers of the great Southern Emporium.
. . . All who can move around light out for a ramble to the springs and through the pinewoods. . . or can recline upon the seats of the ample pavilion . . . There are four well kept and commodious hotels in a few hundred yards of the main Artesian Saline Calebian Springs⁷

The community of Abita Springs was formally organized by 1903 and chartered in 1912.

The Pavilion and surrounding grounds were purchased by the State of Louisiana in 1948 and included in the state's park system. It was sold to the St. Tammany Parish School Board in 1965 and was not used for several years.

A New Orleans newspaper, upon learning of the revived interest in the springs wrote in 1972

A group of concerned Abita residents who remember the charm and magnetism of the old St. Tammany spa of a decade of two ago, with its Abita Park, Pavilion, picnic grounds, bubbling springs and winding spring-fed river. . . are attempting to restore the park to some of its original magnificence There are scores of New Orleanians who nostalgically remember their childhoods when their parents took them to Abita Springs for the Summer.⁸

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ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

Abita Springs Pavilion (cont'd)

- ¹Records of the 6th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany, Suit #1132
- ²The St. Tammany Farmer, Covington, Louisiana, May 22, 1888
- ³The St. Tammany Farmer, December 22, 1888
- ⁴The St. Tammany Farmer, February 25, 1888
- ⁵The St. Tammany Farmer, January 7, 1888
- ⁶The St. Tammany Farmer, September 9, 1888
- ⁷October 20, 1888
- ⁸New Orleans States-Item, June 29, 1972

9. Bibliography (cont'd)

States-Item, New Orleans, La. June 29, 1972

Road

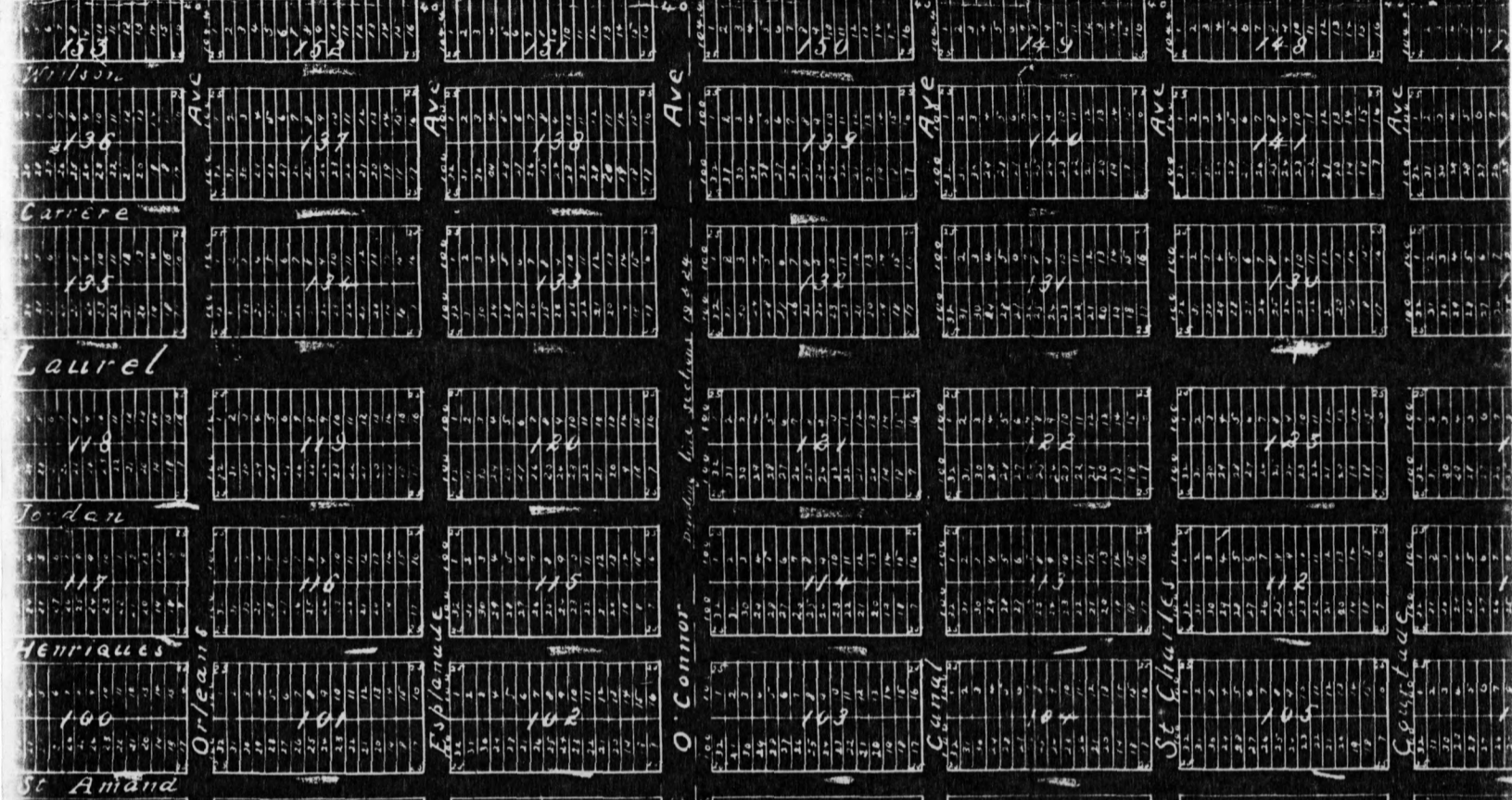
Property

County

Oswald's Property

Property

N T G S R N I E S 1/2 Sec NW 10 of S



Davis' Property

S

Abita River

Labat's

Longbeach

Springs

Hotel Depot

Hotel

East La

