

P4007-923

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: LOUISIANA	
COUNTY: ORLEANS PARISH	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.22.0006	DATE 9/28/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Pitot House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ducayet House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1440 Moss Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Orleans

STATE Louisiana	CODE 17	COUNTY: Orleans Parish	CODE 071
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**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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Louisiana Landmarks Society and The City of New Orleans

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Gallier Hall, 545 St. Charles Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans	STATE: Louisiana	CODE 1690
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Conveyance Office, Civil Courts Building, Orleans Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Loyola Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans	STATE: Louisiana	CODE 1690
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Independence and Capitol Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 0010
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

71.9.22.0006 9/28/71

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pitot House was one of several small country residences or plantation houses erected along this section of Bayou St. John at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century when the extensive plantation of Don Santiago Lorreins was subdivided. This is one of the houses described by C.C. Robin on his 1803 visit:

Here the land is cleared and one sees here and there the handsome houses of the countryside. They are of the most varied form, some built of wood surrounded by galleries in the Chinese fashion, others built of brick are surmounted by a gallery in the Italian manner. Several have colonades and there are among them some that would do credit to the suburbs of Paris. All of them have a garden in front. Avenues of magnificent orange trees can be seen . . . .

The house is a fine example of the raised basement Louisiana colonial house. Its plan is typical, consisting of three rooms on the ground floor across the front, facing the south and the bayou. Behind, there is a recessed, jalousie enclosed gallery with the stairway to the upper story. At each end of the gallery is a small, nearly square room or cabinet. Two round, plastered brick columns support the gallery above. Across the front is a colonnade of eight similar columns that is extended along the east side with an additional four columns. The lower story is entirely of masonry construction, plastered on the exterior, and originally on the interior.

The upper story is identical in plan, with one double chimney and two fireplaces to heat the two rooms at the west end of the house and a single chimney and fireplace for the room at the east end. The walls, both interior and exterior, of the upper story are of brick-between-posts construction. The main roof rafters frame on the exterior walls of the three principal rooms, the roof extending from these at a lower pitch to cover the galleries and rear cabinets. The gallery roof is supported by turned wood columns and the railing has been restored "in the Chinese fashion" according to a sketch made of the house by the French naturalist, Charles Alexandre Le Sueur when he was in New Orleans, 1828-30.

The windows and doors were all of the French casement type with segmental arched heads. All exterior openings were provided with wood batten blinds. The exterior walls of the upper story are covered with wide, beaded ship lap siding, except, where protected by galleries, they are plastered. The roof, originally of wood shingles, is now covered with asbestos shingles simulating the original.

In 1964, the house was moved from its original site to an adjacent, publicly owned one by the Louisiana Landmarks Society to prevent its imminent demolition for the construction of a school building. The upper story, including roof and galleries, was moved intact. The masonry walls of the lower story had to be re-constructed, though many of the original masonry columns were moved and re-used.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. Description

Probably during the period between 1848 and 1857, when the house was owned by Felix Ducayet, the original roof form was changed by raising and extending the original rafters above the ridge line to eliminate the double pitch roof form. Dormer windows were also added, two in front and two in the rear. Extensive interior alterations were made to the interior and additions made in the rear in the 1930's when the house was remodelled for use as a convent. These alterations and additions have now been removed and the house is being restored to its original form by the Louisiana Landmarks Society under the direction of Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr., architects.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pitot House is a significant example of the once common raised basement, Louisiana colonial small plantation house. The site it occupied originally, and also its present site, was part of the extensive plantation of Don Santiago Lorreins who had purchased the property on November 15, 1771 from René Huchet de Kernion whose mother had inherited it from her first husband, Antoine Rivard de La Vigne, Jr. Rivard's father had been granted this land on November 28, 1708 by concession of Bienville, ten years before Bienville founded the city of New Orleans.

On October 9, 1799 Lorreins' son sold a 200 foot tract of the plantation to Don Bartolome Bosque, a Majorcan who a few years before, in 1796, had built his notable town house, now 619 Chartres Street. It was probably Bosque who began construction of the Pitot House on the bayou, for many of its details are similar to his Chartres Street house, notably the diamond-paned transoms over the doors. On May 28, 1800, Bosque sold the property with buildings to his Chartres Street neighbor, Joseph Reynes who was probably the first to live in the new house on the bayou. On June 22, 1805, Reynes sold the house to Madame Vincent Rillieux, great-grandmother of the noted French artist, Edgar Degas. Five years later, on April 3, 1810 she sold the house to James Pitot who had served as the first mayor of the incorporated city of New Orleans, 1804 - 1805.

On August 25, 1813, Pitot transferred title to the house to Beverley Chew and Richard Relf, business associates of Daniel Clark, who five days later transferred it to the Banque de la Louisiane. These were probably financial transactions and Pitot is presumed to have lived in the house until it was sold by the bank to Albin Michel on June 17, 1819. It was during the Michel ownership that the house was visited by the French naturalist, Charles Alexandre Lesueur, who sketched the bayou scene from its gallery and also sketched the house.

Nine years after Michel's death, his son and heir then living in Paris, sold the property to Felix Ducayet whose name has often been identified with the house. Here Ducayet conducted the notable Bayou St. John Farm, raising "all the finest improved varieties of hogs and poultry". The property was sold at a Sheriff's sale in 1857 to Paul J. Gleises who sold it on April 29, 1859 to Jean Louis Tissot. Tissot's

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

I. W. Ricciuti, *New Orleans and Its Environs, the Domestic Architecture*, New York, 1938, pl. 35.  
 Samuel Wilson, Jr., *A Guide to the Early Architecture of New Orleans*, New York, 1959.  
 Thomas Ashe, *Travels in America*, London, 1808, p. 343.  
 Stuart O. Landry, Jr., ed. *Voyage to Louisiana by C.C. Robin 1803-1805*, New Orleans, 1966, p. 30.

**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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29°	58'	54"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	05'	20"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Samuel Wilson, Jr., Architect**

ORGANIZATION: **Louisiana Landmarks Society**      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**203 Gallier Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **1690**

**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 George W. Peake

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 18 June, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**SEP 28 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Swint  
 Keeper of The National Register

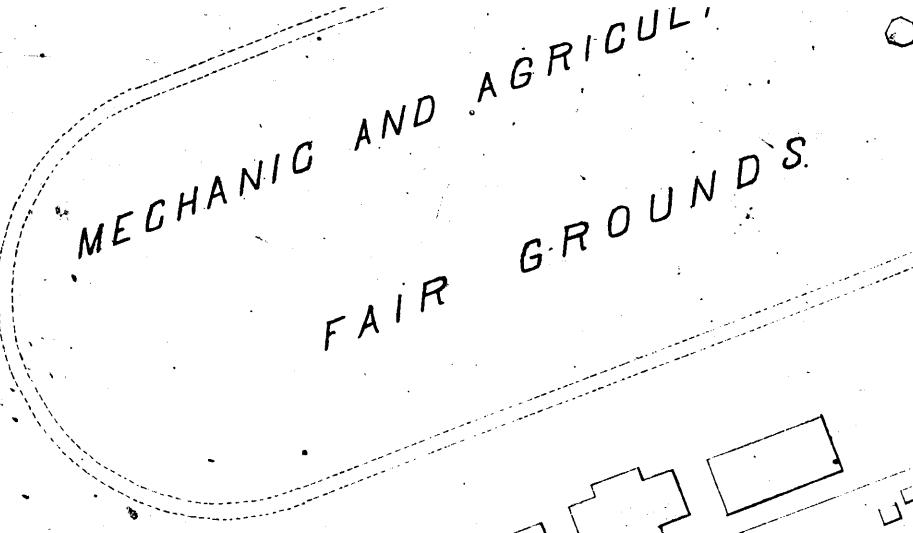
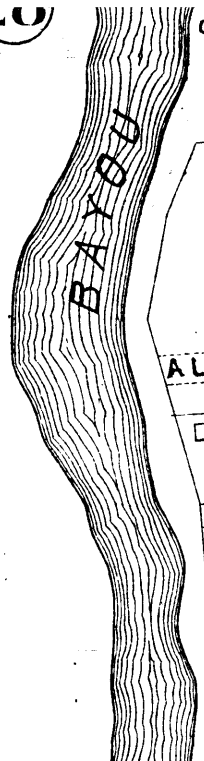
Date **SEP 21 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. Significance

son, Judge A. Louis Tissot, first Senior Judge of the Civil District Court and judge of the former Second District Court, owned it until 1894. After several other transfers, the house was finally bought on July 11, 1904 by Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and first U.S. citizen to be canonized as a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church. It was the Missionary Sisters who gave the house to the Louisiana Landmarks Society when they erected their new school on the site in 1964.

The house is thus significant not only for its architectural importance but also for the succession of distinguished persons who have owned and lived in it. The site to which it was moved and on which it now stands is also significant as part of the colonial Lorreins plantation whose history goes back to 1708. Lorreins sold this 200 foot tract on September 22, 1800 to Bernard Coquet who established a well known amusement park here, known as Tivoli. This property has an interesting and well documented history until it was acquired by the city of New Orleans in 1943. Here the city established the Henry Co. Desmare Playground on part of which, by action of the City Council, the Pitot House was moved in the summer of 1964.



O'RELLEY ST.

1759

AUBRY ST.

1748

DABADIE ST.

1742

LOUISIANA JOCKEY CLUB

1758

1757

1744

1745

1740

NEW MEADOWS

DUGAYET ST.

ESPLANDE ST.

1739

1551

FORTIN ST.

1550

1556

1557

MAUREPAS ST.

1554

1553

FLORIDA ST.

1538

1526

CITY R.R.

492

NEW SITE

491

ORIGINAL SITE

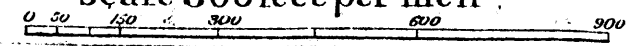
GRANDE ROUTE

PART OF

**3<sup>RD</sup> DIST.**

**NEW ORLEANS**

Scale 300 feet per Inch



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
719.22.0006	9/28/91

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Pitot House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ducayet House			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1440 Moss Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
New Orleans,			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Louisiana	17	Orleans Parish	071
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
Atlas of the City of New Orleans, pub. F. Robinson Co. 828-84 Nassau St., New York			
SCALE: 300 feet per inch			
DATE: 1883			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



INDIAN BEACH  
394 11 SW

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

90° 07' 30"  
30° 00'

778000m E.

779

780

781

5'

SPANISH FORT 1:50,000

783



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STREET AND NUMBER: 1440 Moss Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans			
STATE: Louisiana	CODE 17	COUNTY: Orleans Parish	CODE 071
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1966			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			