

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JUN 20 1983

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

1. Name

historic Longbranch Annex

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number ^{LA} Hwy 36 and Gordon St. N/A not for publication

city, town Abita Springs N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Tammany Parish code 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Erwin T. Salathe, Jr. 504-393-1607

street & number 5744 Sutton Place

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of state LA 70114

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 510 E. Boston P. O. Box 1090

city, town Covington state LA 70433

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Abita Springs Historical Preservation has this property been determined eligible? yes no
Survey

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records St. Tammany Department of Development

city, town Covington 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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Longbranch Annex (c.1890) is located in Abita Springs about ten miles north of the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The two-story, three-bay, galleried, frame boarding house has four support buildings which include a c.1890 cottage and shed, a c.1925 bungalow-style cottage, and a mid-twentieth century shed. Located in a rural, pastoral setting, the Annex is stylistically almost identical to the Longbranch Guesthouse, which is already listed on the National Register as part of the Longbranch Hotel Complex. The Annex and its three contributing support buildings are substantially intact and consequently are able to convey their historical associations. (The mid-twentieth century shed is listed as a non-contributing element.)

The main building features numerous late-nineteenth century decorative details which include:

- (1) An imbricated shingled gable front with a gable window that has small panes of glass around its perimeter.
- (2) A shed-roofed, two-tier gallery with elaborate Stick Style trim.
- (3) Central entrances on each floor with side lights and, on the second floor, a transom.
- (4) A late-nineteenth century wooden mantel, wide baseboards, and a newel post with recessed panels in the first floor interior.
- (5) A second floor with a central hall flanked by two rooms on either side, centrally located double fireplaces with wooden mantels in each room, doors with transoms, plaster walls, and very plain chair rails, baseboards and door surrounds.

There are four support structures, two of which date from the height of Abita Springs' tourist boom (1887-1917). Immediately adjacent to the Annex is a two-room, gable-roofed, board and batten shed with two small additions constructed of the same material. About 200 feet to the west is a gable-roofed frame cottage with a shingled gable front and shed-type galleries on both the front and rear. The four-bay building is two rooms deep and two rooms wide and has beaded board interiors. Between the cottage and the main building is a c.1925 bungalow-style, one-room deep building with shed-type dormers. All three of the aforementioned outbuildings are listed as contributing elements because each supported the Annex in its historic role as a resort. In addition, there is a dilapidated mid-twentieth century open shed with a flat tin roof supported by two-by-fours. It is listed as a non-contributing element.

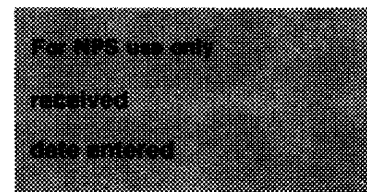
The Longbranch Annex has received the following alterations:

- (1) Addition of a small one-story gabled kitchen wing in the rear (c.1940).
- (2) Replacement of double doors in the first floor entrance with a single leaf door. (The size of the opening has not been altered.)
- (3) Two walls on the first floor have been removed, causing a loss of the central hall on this floor and the moving of the mantel.
- (4) The double fireplace on the first floor has been enclosed to form two closets.
- (5) Two of the three rear rooms on the first floor have been remodeled with the installation of acoustical ceilings and paneling.

CONTINUED

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Continuation sheet Longbranch Annex

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

- (6) The floors have been carpeted.
- (7) One of the two chimneys has been removed.

The following changes have occurred in the dependencies since construction:

- (1) Four of the porch columns on the c.1925 bungalow have been replaced with wrought iron style columns.
- (2) The bungalow's porch has been screened in and enclosed at one end.
- (3) As previously mentioned, the c.1900 shed has been enlarged using similar material to the original.

In addition, a few metal awnings have been installed in various locations throughout the complex.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Annex and its cottage are substantially intact and consequently able to convey the full measure of their historical significance. Although the interior of the first floor of the Annex has been altered, its second floor is almost completely original. The exterior alterations are minor and reversible. Furthermore, the very important setting of the Annex and its outbuildings remains. The bungalow was built to accommodate additional guests during the 1920's. Although it does not date from the Annex's era of significance, it does not detract from the setting and, if anything, indicates that the Longbranch Annex continued to prosper after World War I while the resort economy of Abita Springs went into a general decline. The mid-twentieth century non-contributing shed is not obtrusive and the present owners expect to remove it in the near future.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates c.1890–c.1930 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Longbranch Annex is significant at the local level in the area of science because it materially illustrates a specific era and once prevalent philosophy of American health care. It was once part of the Longbranch Hotel complex, which is the only remaining example of the once numerous resort hotels in Abita Springs. These hostels served the people of the New Orleans area who sought the curative powers of the clean air and mineral waters offered by the town's resorts.

Abita Springs was one of several resort communities located in the "Ozone Belt." People from the New Orleans area came to these communities to partake of the supposed health giving powers of the ozone available in the area along the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Victorian medical theory held that ozone in the air had special recuperative and regenerative powers when inhaled by the infirmed.

In addition to the ozone and rural surroundings, a special draw to Abita Springs was the sparkling mineral water that came from the local springs. Indian legend told of the curative power of the water, and as early as 1854, the area was promoted as a health resort. The town grew slowly after the Civil War, but the railroad from New Orleans opened in about 1890 and brought larger numbers of people to the town and to hotels like the Longbranch and its Annex. There they relaxed and sought the restorative powers of the water and ozone, especially during the summer when yellow fever was a threat in New Orleans.

The Longbranch Annex was built at the height of the Abita Springs resort boom to accommodate the overflow of guests from the Longbranch's main complex, which is approximately 1250 feet to the north. At first glance it seems identical to the Longbranch Guesthouse, but closer examination reveals it to be somewhat more sophisticated with more elaborate galleries and plastered rather than beaded board walls. This would befit its prominent location on a path, now overgrown, between the main hotel and the Abita Springs Pavilion (National Register).

During Abita's heyday, accommodations were found in small boarding houses and about nine large complexes comprised of substantial buildings and complementary structures like the Annex and its neighboring cottage. The few remaining boarding houses have been converted into residences and the only remaining overall complex is that at the Longbranch (National Register) and its Annex.**

**The Annex is being nominated individually because a sizable expanse of wooded land, under separate ownership, and a highway separate it from the main complex.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Tammany Parish Planning Commission. Abita Springs, Louisiana; Historic Preservation Survey, 1980.
 Blitch, J. Buchanan. "Story of the Longbranch." Research report prepared for National Register nomination on the Longbranch Hotel Complex, 1981.
 Blitch, J. Buchanan. Personal communication, April 12, 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1 acre

Quadrangle name Covington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	8	3	9	4	0	3	3	7	5	7	0	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

See attached plat 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

ASSISTED BY OWNERS

name/title National Register Staff, Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana

date April 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

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
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/9/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 7/21/83

for *Melores Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

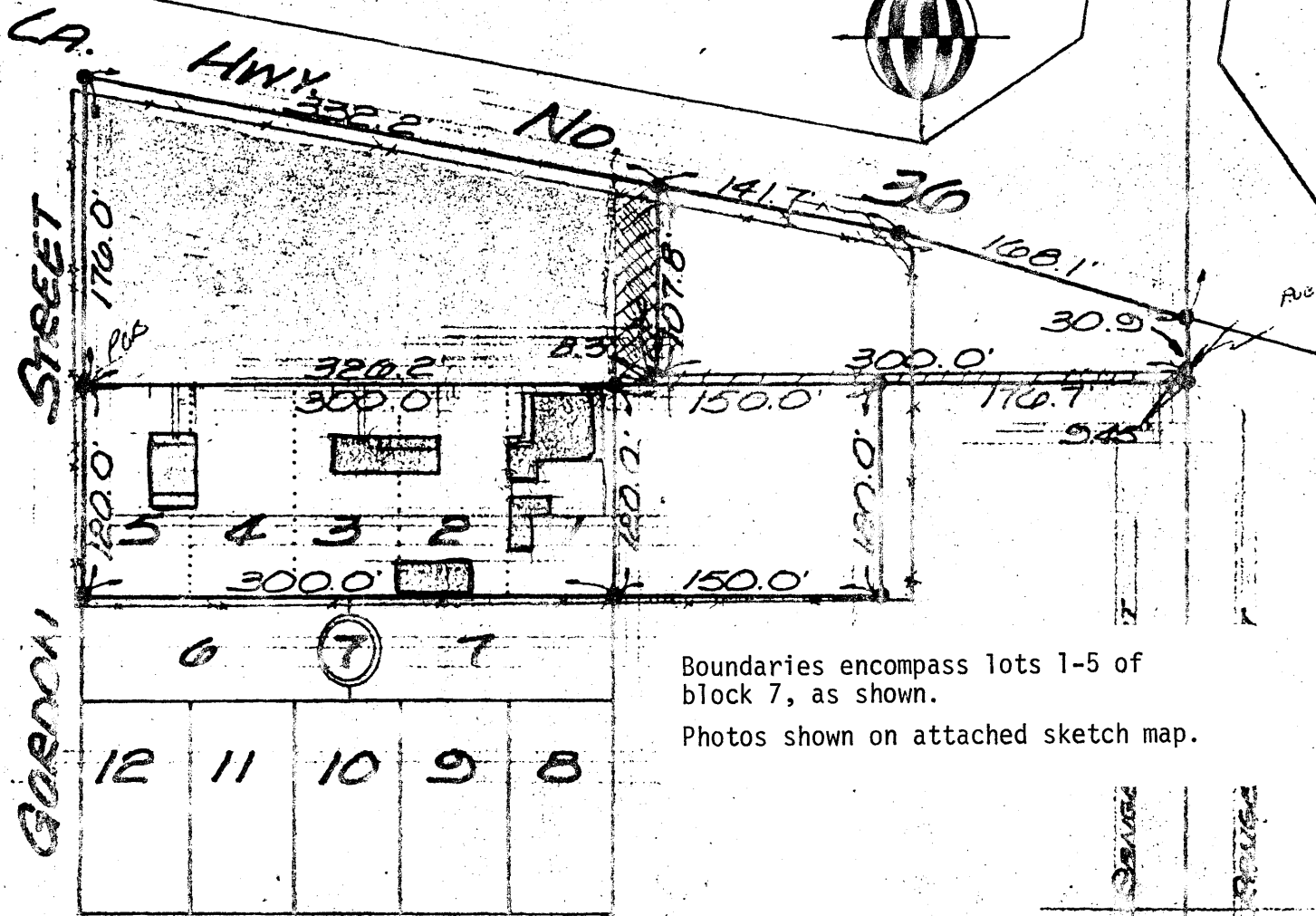
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

LONGBRANCH ANNEX

Abita Springs, LA



Boundaries encompass lots 1-5 of block 7, as shown.

Photos shown on attached sketch map.

NORTHWEST DIVISION, ABITA SPRINGS, SECTION 30
TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 11 EAST, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA.

MAP PREPARED FOR

SHOWING A SURVEY MADE OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN Section 30 Township 6 South, Range 11 East, Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

THIS MAP IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PHYSICAL SURVEY MADE ON THE GROUND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE UNDERSIGNED:

CERTIFIED CORRECT.

LAND SURVEYING Inc.

COVINGTON, LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR

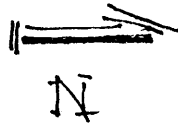
SCALE: 1" = 100'

DATE: September 9, 1981

NUMBER

SKETCH MAP

LONG BRANCH
ANNEX
ST. TAMMANY
PARISH



Boundaries shown
on attached
plat map.

