

DATA SHEET
PHS V100

PHO 698 717

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1979

**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

Oaklawn Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

La. Highway 494

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

VICINITY OF

5th - Jerry Huckaby

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Natchitoches

CODE

069

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Peter Cloutier

STREET & NUMBER

c/o 3 Decourneau Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchitoches

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 71457

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Natchitoches Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchitoches

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June 1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oaklawn Plantation is set at the head of the longest alley of live oaks in the area, amid open flat farmland along the Cane River.

Measuring 84' by 65', the massive hip roof raised plantation house has galleries on three sides. The main story is raised a full story above the ground, with slaves' rooms underneath which have fireplaces. The main floor itself has three large, almost square rooms along the front with a large central room to the rear which is flanked by two pairs of smaller rooms. All but one of these rooms have fireplaces, with four large chimneys which are placed in between rooms and which emerge at irregular places in the roofline. The 28-column gallery encompasses the main floor in the front, rear, and one of the sides. The other side, which never had a gallery, has been appended with a screen porch, bedroom and bath. The gallery is reached by an exterior stair at the front and rear. In the late 19th century, a kitchen was installed in a filled-in portion of the rear gallery.

The ground floor is of soft brick with steps which were stuccoed over in 1928. The heavy hewn structure has bousillage walls and beams about 18" on center. Particularly noteworthy are the massive roof timbers with struts braces and king posts. The present slate roof dates from 1952, at which time four dormers were removed.

The exterior of the main floor has simple square post galleries without entablatures, 9-over 9 windows with much of the glass, and transom French doors. Taken overall, the house has a simple, massive and spreading quality. Noteworthy interior features include the simple Greek Revival style wrap-around fireplaces, the exposed beam ceilings, and the opening between the front and rear halls, which has a clear span of 20 feet with ten folding panel doors under a twenty-foot transom.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1830-1835 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Narcisse Prudhomme

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Given its hip roofed, galleried plan, with servants' rooms below the main floor, its cypress and bousillage construction, and its lack of interior halls, Oaklawn can be seen as a classic example of a French Colonial style plantation house. Moreover, of all the examples of French Colonial architecture in the Natchitoches area, Oaklawn is the largest and grandest. This can be seen in its 84-foot facade, its large rooms (each of the three front rooms exceeds 20' x 20'), and its massive timbers. This can also be seen in its transom opening between the front and rear halls. Openings of this type appear in many Natchitoches plantation houses and are typically about ten or twelve feet wide. But at Oaklawn the opening between the two halls is almost twice that size.

According to local and family tradition, Oaklawn plantation house was built between 1830 and 1835 by Narcisse Prudhomme for his son P. Achille Prudhomme. According to the act of sale transferring the land in 1916, Narcisse Prudhomme had acquired the land "from the several original entrymen from the U. S. Government as shown by the U. S. Government Township plats covering T. 8, R. 7 and T. 8 R. 6."

The 1860 Census suggests that Narcisse Prudhomme was a prominent planter. He was 83 years old, a native of Louisiana, and head of a household of eight. He owned 104 slaves who lived in 24 slave dwellings. The value of his real estate was \$57,600 and of his personal estate \$124,690. He owned a total of 4,000 acres of land, of which 900 were improved. The value of his livestock was \$9,490. During the previous year his plantation had produced 5000 bushels of corn and 646 bales of cotton (400 pound bales).

Most readily available information concerning the man who lived in the house, P. Achille Prudhomme, comes from census data. In 1850 he was head of a household including his wife Estelle and their seven-month-old daughter. He listed his occupation as "farmer" and the value of his real estate as \$50,000. He owned 909 acres of land, of which 500 were improved, and 43 slaves. During the previous year his land had produced 4500 bushels of corn and 160 bales of cotton (400-pound bales).

The figures in the 1860 Census are generally somewhat larger. By this time Achille Prudhomme was heading a household of seven. He owned 81 slaves who lived in sixteen slave dwellings. The value of his personal estate was

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Act of Sale of 20 December 1916, Samuel J. Ward and others to Charles Edgar Cloutier, Natchitoches Parish Records. Copy in National Register nomination file for Oaklawn Plantation, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

Census of 1850. Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Population Schedule, p. 90; Agriculture Census, p. 485, Slave Schedule, p. 924.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	49,819,000	350,365,000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries encompass a rectangle which extends to the rear of La. Route 119. It also extends 150 ft. either side of the axial driveway and 100 ft. behind the house.

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

Peter Cloutier

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October 27, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o 3 Ducournau Square

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Natchitoches

Louisiana 71457

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.

~~OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE~~ SIGNATURE

Bernard Lamar

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-8-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams

DATE

3-28-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Marcella Shiff

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-27-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

\$82,300 and that of his real estate was \$60,620. He owned 3370 acres of land, of which 650 acres were improved. He owned \$6,125 worth of livestock, and during the previous year his land had produced 3500 bushels of corn. Unfortunately no figure was given for cotton production.

According to the act of sale of 1916, Achille Prudhomme obtained title to Oaklawn as a result of his father's will of 1859. In 1886, W. H. Jack acquired the plantation from the heirs of Achille Prudhomme and his wife. In the years following, the plantation was broken up, and the house passed through the hands of several owners until 1916, when Charles Edgar Cloutier acquired 547 acres of the old plantation, including the home, from five persons in return for a consideration of \$20,000. Cloutier was the husband of Adeline Prudhomme, the great-granddaughter of Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prudhomme, founder of a large plantation nearby. Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prudhomme was the brother of Narcisse Prudhomme, the builder of the Oaklawn House. Oaklawn presently continues to be in possession of the heirs of Charles Edgar Cloutier.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Menn, Joseph K. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana--1860. New Orleans:
Pelican Pelican Publishing Co., 1964.

Report by Peter Cloutier, owner of Oaklawn Plantation, 6 September 1978, in
National Register nomination file for Oaklawn Plantation, State Historic
Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.