

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THEME: Architecture

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**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 Mayor Girod House

AND/OR COMMON

Mayor Girod House - The Napoleon House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 504 Chartres Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Orleans

CODE

071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Impastato

STREET & NUMBER

504 Chartres Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orleans Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

421 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

Mayor Girod House is a three story building with walls of stuccoed brick. The hipped roof has four dormers with segmental pediments along the Chartres Street side and one dormer with a triangular pediment on the St. Louis Street side. An octagonal cupola which affords a view of the river surmounts the roof. The house could be called Louis XVI in its formal severity of stripped classicism. No applied orders of pilasters or columns relieve the plain walls. Shallow relief of rectilinear molding which runs along the first and second floor levels forms window molding as it continues somewhat like a Greek key band, around the windows. Similar banding follows under the cornice line and at the edges of slightly rounded corners, almost creating the effect of the wall being divided into recessed panels. Shallow balconies decorate the second floor level of both the old and new structures, with low ironwork railings. The subtle elegance of the design lends an austere beauty to the imposing building.

The original stair rises from the courtyard through all three floors in a broad graceful sweep. Three elliptical windows at the second story level of the main house open onto the courtyard which is enclosed on the other sides by the earlier two story building and connecting links.

The interior, although broken up for apartments, retains most of its original wooden mantels and interior woodwork. The mantels are typical Louisiana style with boxed paneled fireplaces and tall narrow paneled overmantels that extend to the high ceiling cornices. The one in what was once the main living room is particularly elaborate. The mantel itself has double engaged columns with a garland frieze below the shelf. Tall attenuated pilasters form the overmantel with a starred lunette flanked by carved angels in carved relief above. The section of cornice above the mantel is dentiled to add greater ornament to the central focus of the room. Other mantels, although not as highly decorated, are still carefully detailed and varied in design.

The building is in very good condition when its constant use as a multi-family residence is considered. The main stair is also heavily worn and should receive attention.

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 checked="" 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 1797-1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the best examples of the continuing French architectural influence in New Orleans, the Mayor Girod House, is a structural composite dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Mayor Nicolas Girod built the three-story section of the building in 1814 attaching it to a two-story section constructed by his brother in 1794. Little altered and unrestored, the Mayor Girod house is an important and excellent example of a large French colonial townhouse in the United States.

HISTORY

In 1814, Nicolas Girod, then serving his first term as mayor of New Orleans, inherited from his brother, Clause Francois, a corner lot at Chartres and St. Louis Streets. He built the large main house which is sometimes known as The Napoleon House because of local stories which tie Girod to a plan to rescue the former French leader and give him the house as his residence. Girod owned the house until his death in 1841. The Impastato family has owned the building for about seventy years. A bar and grill is now located in the first floor and the rest of the house has been converted into apartments, but great care is taken by the current owners to maintain the structure of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arthur, Stanley, Old New Orleans, New Orleans, 1926.
- Wilson, Samuel Jr., A Guide to the Early Architecture of New Orleans, New Orleans, 1960.
- Vieux Carre Commission file, Vieux Carre Commission Office, New Orleans.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	71831270	8317330	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

7/15/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Landmark Designated: April 15, 1970
 Boundary Certified: 3/4/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

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The Mayor Girod House is located on the southeast corner of the Intersection of Chartres and St. Louis Streets. The house abuts directly to adjoining buildings on the other two sides. The boundary is drawn to coincide with the property boundary beginning at the near curb of the southeast corner of the intersection of Chartres and St. Louis Street then continuing southeast along St. Louis to the end of Girod house property, then northeast along this east property line to its end, then northwest along the north line of the Girod property to Chartres Street then southwest along the near curb of Chartres to the point of beginning.