

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Louisiana	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. Theme XX - Architecture (Colonial), V, IV
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop	4. APPROX. ACREAGE .02 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) 941 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Orleans Parish.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Mr. Joseph Meraux, 941 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, erected toward the end of the 18th century, is an excellent example of a French Colonial Louis XV townhouse of briquete-entre-poteaux construction.¹

The structure was built sometime between 1772 and 1791 by Jean and Pierre Lafitte, illicit dealers in "black ivory" (slaves), who according to tradition, posed as blacksmiths to mask their nefarious trade. The small one-story building is now used as a bar.

Present Appearance

Nearly square, the house originally had four rooms of equal size. The original interior partitions have been removed to form a large room for use as a bar. There was no galerie, so that the typical French Colonial double-pitch roof was no longer needed, but the tradition is remembered in the graceful flare of the hipped roof at the eaves. The roof is covered with tile, a roofing material that came into general use in New Orleans after the fire of 1794.

Designed in the formal Louis XV style, the graceful flare of the roof line and the delicately pedimented and pilastered dormers contribute elegance to the symmetrically handled facade of the small building. The briquete-entre-poteaux construction is clearly visible on the exterior where the plaster has crumbled away to expose the soft brick between framing timbers of cypress. Remaining plaster and the exposed brickwork have been carefully stabilized to preserve both the structure and this "historic look."

¹(see page 2).

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources: give location of manuscripts and rare works)
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See page 2.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)
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See page 2.

/4658, 4682, 4685.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Excellent	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Bar	13. DATE OF VISIT March 19, 1968
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE May 10, 1968	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Louisiana	Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop

8. References:

James G. VanDerpool, "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A., 1632-1912" (N.P.S. Ms., 1966) 112; New Orleans City Guide (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1938), 248; Itale William Ricciuti, New Orleans and Its Environs (New York, 1938); Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Architecture--South (New York, 1956), Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 260.

9. Reports and Studies:

Historic American Building Survey: Cottage, 941 Bourbon Street, (six sheets, 1934) (4 photos, 1934).

7. Continued:

¹In briquete-entre-poteaux or colombage construction spaces between the timber uprights and diagonal traces of a structure were filled in with bricks. As the bricks were soft and porous, the exterior was covered by a coat of lime plaster to protect it from the rain.