National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Natchitoches, Louisiana

494/D-24A

Oakland Plantation
Prud'homme's Store
Historic Structure Report

PLEASE RETURN TO:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cultural Resources
Southeast Region

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3017

June 15, 2004

Dear Colleague:

In accordance with the National Park Service "Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Resources," we are pleased to provide you with copies of three Historic Structure Reports for buildings at Cane River Creole National Historical Park: the Big House at Oakland Plantation, Prud'homme's Store, and the Gin Barn at Magnolia Plantation. These reports are part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation and management guidelines for the cultural resources of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region.

These Historic Structure Reports were prepared by the Southeast Region's Division of Cultural Resources, Historic Architecture Branch, but reflect and incorporate the work of many others who have conducted critical historical research and building investigation on these buildings over the last decade. We hope this information will prove valuable to those interested in the historic architecture of Oakland and Magnolia plantations.

Sincerely,

J Anthony Paredes, Acting

Dan Scheidt
Chief, Cultural Resources Division

Enclosures

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

OAKLAND PLANTATION

~ PRUD'HOMME'S STORE ~

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Cultural Resources, Southeast Region
National Park Service

2004

Color Scans
11/19/2004

The historic structure report presented here exists in two formats. A traditional, printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the NPS (SERO), and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, the historic structure report also exists in a web- based format through Park Net, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

Cultural Resources
Southeast Region
National Park Service
100 Alabama St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-3117

2004
Historic Structure Report
Prud'homme's Store
Cane River National Historical Park
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana
LCS#: 91617

Previous page, Prudhomme's Store, c. 1980

Prud'homme's Store

Historic Structure Report

Recommended by: _____ Aug 8 2002
Acting Chief, Cultural Resources Stewardship, Southeast Regional Office — Date

Approved by: _____ August 22, 2002
Acting Superintendent, Cane River National Historical Park — Date

Concurred by: _____ 9/3/02
FOR Regional Director, Southeast Region — Date

Contents

List of Figures ix

Foreword xv

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Executive Summary 1

Administrative Data 5

Location Data 5
Related Studies 5
Cultural Resource Data 6

PART 1 DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

Historical Background & Context 11

Sharecropping, Merchants and Crop Liens 12
J. Alphonse Prud'homme's Store 14
Bermuda Post Office 20
End of an Era 23

Chronology of Development & Use 27

Original Store, c. 1873 28
Office Addition, c. 1880 31
Front Attic Extension, c. 1880 31
North Shed Addition, c. 1880 33
North Shed, First Expansion, c. 1885 33
Uncle Buddy's Apartment, c. 1890 35
South Addition, c. 1910 35
Other Modifications, early 1900s 36
Post-WWII Changes 39
Changes Since 1960 40

Physical Description 45

Historic Character 46
Associated Site Features 47

Foundation 48
Structural System 49
Roof 49
Doors 50
Windows 52
Exterior Finishes 54
Front Porch 55
Back Porch 56
Store (002) 57
Post Office (001B) 62
South Shed (001A) 63
North Shed (003) 64
Office (006) 65
Uncle Buddy's Room (004) 67
Dressing Room (005) 68
Record Room (007) 68
Tool Room (008) 69

PART 2 TREATMENT & USE

Introduction 73

Ultimate Treatment & Use 75

Alternatives for Treatment & Use 77

Requirements for Treatment & Use 79

Recommendations for Treatment & Use 85

REFERENCE

Sources of Information 105

Primary Sources 105
Oral Interviews 107
Secondary Sources 107

APPENDIX A

HABS Drawings 109

APPENDIX B

Materials Analysis 115

List of Figures

1 View of Prud'homme's Store from the north, about 1920. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)* *21*

2 Prud'homme's Store, about 1930. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)* *22*

3 Prud'homme's Store, about 1940. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)* *23*

4 Prud'homme's Store, about 1940. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)* *24*

5 Prud'homme's Store, about 1980. *(Louisiana SHPO)* *24*

6 Rear of Prud'homme's Store, about 1980. *(Louisiana SHPO)*J. 24

7 Tin-type image of Prud'homme Store, dated February 1878. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)* *28*

8 Photograph of Prud'homme's Store, c. 1907, just prior to addition of rooms on south side. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)* *36*

9 View of store from northwest, c. 1920. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)* *38*

10 View of Prud'homme's Store, c. 1940, showing original gasoline pump. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)* *39*

11 View of Store from northeast. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *46*

12 View of Store from southwest. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *46*

13 Cistern at northeast corner of Store, built by J. C. Keyser in 1877. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 47

14 Gas pumps, installed c. 1950 in front of the store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2000)* *48*

15 Typical brick foundation pier with original wood blocking. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *48*

16 View of floor framing beneath original building. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 49

17 View west in attic of store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 49

18 View of south shed of roof with original ventilator (c. 1900). (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 50

19 Doors and Windows, Prud'homme's Store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 51

20 View of front doors. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 51

21 Top, view of spring latch at back door; bottom, view of rim lock with porcelain knob at front door. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 52

22 View of front window, W-2, with temporary ventilator. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 53

23 View of window W-12 in south addition. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 53

24 View of W-6 on north side of building. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 54

25 View of northeast corner of building, showing mixture of exterior finishes. Arrow notes original detail of post top. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 55

26 View of front porch ceiling. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 55

27 View north on back porch. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 56

28 View of original column base on back porch. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 56

29 View east in 002. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 58

30 View of shelving for dry goods on south wall. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 59

31 View of frame on north wall; missing drawers held nuts, bolts, and other hardware. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 60

32 View of north wall, showing shelves for groceries and covered bins for bread *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 60

33 View of gate that separates store from post office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 61

34 View of ceiling-hung rack used for match storage. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 61

35 View to southwest of post office added along with 001 around 1908. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 62

36 View to southeast of post office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* 63

37 Left, view west in south shed (001); bottom, view east in south shed. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001) 64

38 Top, view west in north shed; bottom, view east in north shed. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *64*

39 View south in office (006). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *65*

40 View north in office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *66*

41 View of phone booth in southeast corner of office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *66*

42 View northeast in Uncle Buddy's room (004). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *68*

43 View southwest in record room (007). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *69*

44 View northwest in record room. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)* *69*

Project Team

Project Manager	**Danny Scheidt,** Historical Architect National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA
Author	**Tommy Jones,** Architectural Historian National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA
Building Investigation	**Tommy Jones,** Architectural Historian National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA **Randy Conrad,** Historical Architect National Park Service Denver Service Center Denver, CO
Document Layout/ Intranet Access	**Jon Buono,** Historical Architect National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA
Program Reviews	**Bob Blythe,** History **Allen Bohnert,** Curatorial & Museum Services **Danny Scheidt,** Historical Architecture **Jon Buono,** Historical Architect National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA
Condition Assessment	**Ali Miri,** Historical Architect National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Atlanta, GA
Materials Analysis	**Barbara Yokum,** Architectural Conservator National Park Service Northeast Cultural Resource Center Lowell, MA

Foreword

We are pleased to make available this historic structure report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. We would particularly like to thank the staff at Cane River Creole National Historical Park, especially the park's superintendent Laura Soilliere and its historical architect Eric Z. Ford; Mary Lyn Warner at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Watson Memorial Library, Northwestern State University of Louisiana; and the staff at the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. We hope that this study will prove valuable to park management and others in understanding and interpreting the historical significance of the Prud'homme's Store at Oakland Plantation.

Dan Scheidt, Chief
Cultural Resources Division
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service

Executive Summary

The rural stores that sprang up all across the South in the decade after the Civil War quickly became the center of rural life. As Dr. Ann Malone pointed out in her study of Oakland, "the postbellum rural merchant was all things to his community... His store was the hub of the local universe. It was the market place, banking and credit source, recreational center, public forum, and news exchange."[1] Because of this, Prud'homme's Store at Oakland, which began operation during the Reconstruction period and remained in operation until 1982, is perhaps the most important surviving structure for interpretation of plantation life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Historical Summary: Much of the historical information in this report is found in historical research compiled by Cane River Creole National Historical Park since 1994. Especially important is

1. Dr. Ann Malone, "Oakland Plantation, Its People's Testimony" (incomplete and unpublished MSS prepared for the NPS, 1999), p. 92.

the work of Dr. Ann Malone Rose and Carolyn Breedlove. For preparation of this historic structure report, research in official Post Office records documented the history of Bermuda Post Office and its tenure in the store. The park has compiled numerous oral interviews with family members, and transcripts of these interviews provide a number of details about the store's history. Additional oral interviews with Vivian Prud'homme Flores and Kenneth Prud'homme were also conducted by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Stewardship staff during the course of the present study. Mr. Prud'homme was especially helpful in documenting details of the store's treatment and use in the twentieth century. In addition, the Prud'homme papers in the Southern Historical Collection at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill were researched. These include store ledgers and a variety of other documents pertaining to the operation of the store. Finally, numerous documents, books, and other materials at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center of the Watson Memorial Library at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches have been essential to compilation of this report.

The earliest certain references to a store at Oakland Plantation are J. Alphonse Prud'homme's business licenses for the store, which are dated in June 1873. It is possible that the store was actually in existence for a few years before that, although that is not likely. Certainly the store did not exist before 1868. If it had been constructed before that date, the store's construction almost surely would have been mentioned in the plantation journals that were regularly kept through 1867.[2]

By the first decade of the twentieth century, Alphonse Prud'homme II recalled, the store "had everything from something to eat, to something to work, to something to wear."[3] In addition to its function as a retail outlet, the store housed the Prud'hommes' plantation office in a room added at the rear of the building around 1880. This is where plantation accounts were kept and settled with the sharecroppers and tenants who worked the land. Interpretation of this role is as important as interpretation of the retail use of the store itself.

Prud'homme's Store also housed the Bermuda Post Office sporadically after its establishment in 1877 and continuously from 1924 until 1967, when the post office was finally discontinued. The presence of the post office reinforced the overall importance of the store to the entire community around Oakland Plantation, although the store itself continued to operate until 1982.

Architectural Summary: Ms. Barbara A. Yokum, architectural conservator with the Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, National Park Service (NPS), conducted an extensive analysis of the painted finishes and other materials in the store in 1998. Her investigation confirmed the approximate date for the store's construction that had been suggested by historical research. Her investigation also established a general

2. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 127.
3. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 156.

chronology of the store's historical evolution, which has been refined and expanded during the course of the present study. Also in 1998, Ali A. Miri, historical architect with the Southeast Regional Office (SERO), NPS, developed a historic structure assessment report on the physical condition of the building. Both of these studies have greatly informed the present study and are included in the appendix to this Historic Structure Report.

Prud'homme's Store is a one- story, wood-framed structure set on brick piers, measuring approximately 41'- 5" by 57'- 5" and containing just over 2,000 square feet of floor space, which includes the front porch. The structure consists of the original end- gabled building (c. 1873) plus a series of additions that brought the structure to its present form and configuration by about 1910. Not used as a store for nearly twenty years, the building remains in relatively sound condition, in spite of significant deterioration of the front and back porches and of portions of the additions.

Vernacular design and construction techniques broadly define the character of Prud'homme's Store. Like most such buildings, including the store at Magnolia Plantation, the Oakland store is a simple, utilitarian structure that was built in response to specific needs and circumstances, with little consideration of architectural style or refinement of detail. Several aspects of the present building contribute to the vernacular character of the store. The reuse of materials from older buildings is significant and most prominent in some of the counters and shelving in the main store and in the paneling that was added at the east end of Room 004. Windows, siding, hardware, and woodwork were also relocated and reused from one part of the store to another as the various additions were made.

Also significant to the overall vernacular character of the building is the craftsmanship exhibited in various aspects of the building's construction and maintenance over the years. The main store (002), the office (006), and record room (007) were well- built, if simply designed; some of the later additions (e.g. 001A, 003 and 005) amount to little more than sheds and are devoid of interior finishes beyond a wooden floor. The manner in which the Prud'hommes repaired and maintained the building is a significant aspect of the building's historic character, particularly as it evolved after World War I. Features such as the use of two or three pieces of glass to replace single broken panes in the back door, the use of 7- foot doors in 7½- foot openings, and the mixture of shutter types and styles around the building are all indicative of an approach to construction, repairs, and maintenance that focused entirely on utilitarian considerations while virtually ignoring any aesthetic considerations.

Recommendations: Issues of use have been central to the development of recommendations for treatment, since it is changes in use that generally dictate most rehabilitative treatment. If the store were used as a place for assembly or for offices, for instance, those uses would require extensive changes and alterations to the building. The proposed use of the store for sales and interpretation is, techni-

cally, a change in use; but the impact of that change can, if carefully managed, be minimal and need not require extensive rehabilitation and the inevitable diminishment of its historic character and integrity.

Since the historic building is largely intact and, although deteriorated, easily repaired; and, since no drastic change in its use is proposed, preservation is the recommended approach to treatment of the building and its individual elements.

Administrative Data

Location Data

Building Name:	Prud'homme's Store
Building Address:	4386 LA Hwy. 119 Natchez, LA
LCS#:	91617

Related Studies

Ballos, T. *Completion Report - Oakland Plantation Emergency Stabilization, Cane River National Historical Park, Natchitoches, Louisiana.* North East System Support Office, North East Cultural Resources Center, Building Conservation Branch, and Denver Service Center, NPS, 1997.

Breedlove, Carolyn. "Bermuda/Oakland Plantation, 1830- 1880." Unpublished masters thesis, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, 1999.

Lawliss, L., C. Goetcheus, and D. Hasty. *The Cultural Landscape Inventory and Assessment, Cane River Creole National Heritage Area Natchitoches, Louisiana.* Southeast Support Office, Atlanta, Georgia, 1997.

List of Classified Structures Team. *Historic Resources Documentation, Cane River National Historical Park,* Southeast Support Office, NPS, Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.

Malone, Ann Patton. "A Draft Response to NPS Focus Questions Relating to the Oakland Oral History Project." 1997.

Malone, Ann Patton. "Oakland Plantation, It's People's Testimony." Draft report from oral history project, 1998.

Miri, A. A. *Historic Structure Assessment Report: overseer's House, Store and Post Office, South Slave Cabin, North Slave Cabin, Oakland Plantation, Cane River National Historical Park, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.* Southeast Support Office, NPS, Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.

National Park Service. *Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.* 2000.

Technical Information Center. *Special Resource Study Environmental Assessment - Cane River, Louisiana.* Denver Service Center, NPS, Denver, Colorado, 1993.

Yocum, B. A. *Oakland Plantation: Overseer's House, Store and Post Office, and Main House Materials Analysis and Physical Investigation, Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area, Natchitoches, Louisiana.* Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, Northeast Field Area, NPS, Lowell, MA, 1998.

Cultural Resource Data

National Register of Historic Places: Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation, contributing structure, originally listed August 29, 1979 (upgraded from local to statewide significance August 2, 1989) under Criteria A for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

National Historic Landmark District: Oakland Plantation, listed in 2001 for its significance in the areas of architecture and agriculture. It is of architectural significance as one of the nation's most complete expressions of the rural French Creole building tradition. It is significant in the history of American agriculture as one of a very limited number of large plantation complexes

remaining in the South.

Periods of Significance: The period of significance for Oakland Plantation concludes about 1960, around the time that the last of the sharecroppers and tenants were leaving the plantation. However, the Bermuda Post Office continued to operate in the store until 1967 and, because of that, remained important to the local community. The store declined rapidly in importance after that time, although it remained in operation until 1982.

Proposed Treatment: In essence, the ultimate treatment of Prud'homme's Store should be to preserve the building as it exists today while making those changes that are necessary to meet the park's program of use for the site. This approach would include

- preservation and repair of the building's *existing* features and material,
- rehabilitation of the building's electrical system to comply with modern building and life safety codes,
- installation of a new staff rest room,
- adaptations to improve handicapped accessibility to the building while negotiating a plan of compliance alternatives where full compliance would destroy the building's integrity, and
- adaptations to improve the interior climate (temperature and relative humidity) of the building, while avoiding installation of a central HVAC system.

PART 1
DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

Historical Background & Context

In 1907, Simon N. Patten published his influential book *A New Basis for Civilization* in which he argued that, until the mid- nineteenth century, virtually every society dealt with "an economy of scarcity." By the 1850s, however, industrialization began to make possible a consumer- driven "economy of surplus" that, as the title of his book indicated, transformed American society by the early 1900s.[1] Between 1859 and 1899 alone, the number of manufactured products jumped from two million to over eleven billion;[2] and, even in rural areas, a plethora of country stores as well as mail- order catalogs such as Montgomery- Ward (1872) and Sears (1886) brought the fruits of this material culture to even the most isolated farm family. Barter remained an important part of rural economies until well into the twentieth century; but, increasingly,

1. Thomas J. Schlereth, *Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915* (Harper-Collins, 1991), pp. 141-142.
2. Dr. Ann Malone, "Oakland Plantation, Its People's Testimony" (incomplete and unpublished MSS prepared for the NPS, 1999), p. 92.

"store- bought" goods were a part of everyday life.

The rural stores that sprang up all across the South in the decade after the Civil War quickly became the center of rural life. As Dr. Malone pointed out in her study of Oakland:

> The postbellum rural merchant was all things to his community. His store was the hub of the local universe. It was the market place, banking and credit source, recreational center, public forum, and news exchange.[3]

Because of this, Prud'homme's store at Oakland, which began operating in the early 1870s and continued until 1982, is perhaps the park's most important surviving structure for interpretation of plantation life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Sharecropping, Merchants and Crop Liens

The collapse of the South's slave- based labor system and the widespread destruction and neglect of railroads, factories, and plantations that had occurred during the Civil War left the South's predominantly agricultural economy in shambles and forced planters like Phanor Prud'homme to renegotiate their relationships with their former slaves from the bottom up. In spite of the turmoil and uncertainty of 1865, Prud'homme negotiated contracts with those of his workers "who did not leave with the Yankees in the spring of 1864" and began to return the plantation to normal operation. With his death in October of that year, however, it was left to his son Alphonse Prud'homme to settle up with the workers in January 1866 and to negotiate contracts for the next year.[4] In early January 1867, Prud'homme's "hands" offered to renew their contract from 1866, but only if they got all Saturdays off. "I will not agree to that," Prud'homme wrote in the plantation journals that he resumed keeping in 1866. He was still unsure of himself, however, and needed the advice of his uncle Felix Metoyer to finally decide to "stick to my decision and give only Saturday PM at risk of losing all hands." Two days later, the old contracts were renewed and Alphonse was able to record "hands quiet[,] appear settled and satisfied."[5] Even in January 1869, however, Alphonse recorded in his journal that "we have had considerable difficulty contracting with our hands this year and many are not yet settled."[6]

By the late 1860s, an imperfect system of tenancy and sharecropping had become the arrangements of choice between planter and worker and began to bring some semblance of order to their relationship. Tenancy (i.e., renting of land on which to produce crops) offered some semblance of freedom, but few of the freed slaves, most with nothing but the clothes on their backs, had even the modest resources required to consider tenancy. Instead, they

3. Bennet H. Wall, *Louisiana: A History* (Arlington Heights, IL, 1990), p. 236.

4. Prud'homme Coll. #613, Series 3.1.2,"Plantation Journals," Folder 166, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina.
5. *Ibid.*, Folder 279.
6. *Ibid.*, Series 3.1.1., Folder 149.

contracted with planters to produce a crop, almost always cotton, to which they would be entitled a certain "share," usually no more than half, at the end of the season. While sharecropping did not require a cash outlay for land rental, it did require seed and equipment, which most "croppers" could not afford to buy. With little money in circulation, the crop lien laws that were passed in the late 1860s were critical to the sharecropping arrangement and contributed greatly to the rise of the country store. Since land and equipment were considered virtually worthless as collateral after the Civil War, these laws made it possible for farmers, including sharecroppers, to borrow against an unplanted crop to obtain the loans necessary to purchase seed and supplies for planting and the foodstuffs and other items necessary for survival until a crop was actually produced and sold. A "makeshift" arrangement held together by "financial baling wire," according to one historian, it gave credit- starved farmers (black and white) the money they needed to survive at a time when capital was scarce and most of the rural South had no ready access to a bank of any kind.[7]

Crop lien laws were "a curse upon the land," it has been noted, and by 1889 had succeeded in putting nearly three- fourths of the South's white yeomen farmers in debt to supply merchants and had made practically all black farmers little more than serfs upon the land.[8] Under the crop lien system, interest was not figured as such but rather factored into a two- tier price system, with credit prices often set thirty percent or more higher than the cash price. Although often usurious by today's standards, the interest charged through crop liens covered a great deal of risk for the lender, whose loans were secured by unplanted crops that were subject to the usual vagaries of weather and large market forces beyond the farmers' control. In addition, merchants like the Prud'hommes often paid factors and merchant suppliers high rates of interest themselves so that the Prud'hommes' twenty percent charges for credit seem relatively modest when considered in that context.

Although many Southern planters used the crop lien as a tool to reduce their former slaves to peonage, such appears not to have been the case with the Prud'hommes at Oakland, if Breedlove's interpretation of the historical record is accurate. Even after disastrously low harvests in 1867 and 1868, nearly all of Oakland's tenants and croppers received at least some payment in money at the year- end accounting in 1869. In 1873, only two of the tenants were in debt to the Prud'hommes and that only for a total of $7.72.[9] As Breedlove wrote, "Perhaps [the Prud'hommes] could have done more, or been more generous. On the other hand, they could certainly, in their environment and historical period, have done less, been less supportive and more selfish." She noted that there were "remarkably few errors"

7. C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South* (LSU Press, 1951), p. 180.
8. Wall, *Louisiana: A History,* p. 236.C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South* (LSU Press, 1951), p. 180.
9. 1873 ledger, Prud'homme Collection #613, Series 3.1.6.

in accounting in the Prud'homme's ledger books; and, in the end, concluded that the Prud'hommes' "relatively even- handed efforts complete a picture of [Oakland] and their management of it... as both enlightened and pragmatic."[10] It remained, however, that freed slaves—and poor whites, too, for that matter—had few options beyond the often- miserable sharecropping and tenancy arrangements that were offered by southern planters.

While a few general stores were established in rural areas before the Civil War, the clientele of these stores and their contribution to the local economy remained quite limited. Although railroads began to make possible widespread distribution of a growing tide of manufactured goods and produce, cash was scarce for white Southerners and virtually nonexistent for enslaved African- Americans. Infrequent purchases were generally limited to such staples as salt and coffee, which were not produced locally. After the Civil War, however, as the South's agricultural economy devoted more and more of its resources to cotton, even food staples like flour and meat were being imported from the Midwest and elsewhere, reinforcing a growing dependence on outside markets to supply local needs. More and more manufactured goods also poured on to the market, including new products like kerosene, that quickly became necessities themselves.

10. Carolyn Breedlove, "Bermuda/Oakland Plantation, 1830-1880," unpublished master's thesis, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, 1999.

J. Alphonse Prud'homme's Store

There is no evidence for the existence of a commissary *per se* at Bermuda during the antebellum period. The plantation remained relatively self- sufficient before the Civil War; in those cash- poor times, there was simply little demand for "store- bought" goods. In rural areas, especially, an "economy of scarcity" was the rule for almost everybody, black or white, and the foodstuffs and clothing that were doled out by the Prud'hommes to their slaves simply did not require a specialized building out of which to operate. The same was true in the years immediately after the war when corn meal and pork were the only items that the Prud'hommes routinely supplied to their sharecroppers.[11] The corn meal may have been produced on the plantation using a steam-powered mill like the "Felton" grist mill that Phanor Prud'homme installed at a new gin on the plantation in 1860. Salt pork was the other great staple; but, after the Civil War, nearly all of it was shipped from New Orleans in barrels, an indication that Prud'homme, like most other Southern planters, was devoting virtually all of his resources to cotton production.[12]

The advent of wide- spread sharecropping and tenant farming after 1868, however, brought the freed slaves into the market place for the first time and gave rise to plantation stores like the ones at Magnolia and at Oakland, where goods

11. "Contract With Hands, 1868," Series 4, folder 546, Prud'homme Coll., UNC
12. Several letters to and from Alphonse Prud'homme after the Civil War indicate that Prud'homme was dependent on shipments of pork to supply his hands; see Series 3.1.1, folder 149.

and produce could be bought on credit. With the concurrent rise in consumerism, the commissary store evolved into a general store patronized by all races of sharecroppers and tenant farmers as well as by the dwindling number of independent small farmers. Even after Emmanuel Prud'homme built his own store at Atahoe in the 1890s, the Oakland store continued to be a center for community life, especially for residents on the west bank of Cane River. At least until after World War II, when widespread use of automobiles brought increased mobility, the Oakland store remained a focal point for the entire community.[13]

The earliest certain proof of a store at Oakland Plantation is found in the business licenses that Alphonse Prud'homme was issued in June 1873. On June 3, the State of Louisiana and Natchitoches Parish issued retail merchant licenses to Prud'homme; and, on June 30, the Federal Internal Revenue Service issued him licenses to sell tobacco and liquor, two of the most popular items sold at the store in the nineteenth century.[14] Although it is possible that the store was in existence before 1873, that does not seem likely. Certainly the store was not in existence before 1868, when Prud'homme began keeping a record of the rations of meat that he dispensed to his workers.[15] If it had been constructed before that date, as Dr. Malone points out, it would almost surely have been noted in the plantation journals that were regularly kept through 1867.[16] Since the store ledgers begin in 1873, the first licenses were issued then, and that is the year that Alphonse and Emmanuel Prud'homme formally divided their father's old plantation, it is probable that the store opened that year as well.[17]

No record of the store's construction has been located, but it is likely that all of the lumber in the building was sawn at Alphonse Prud'homme's saw mill across Old River in the Kisatchie Hills. In operation before the Civil War, the saw mill resumed operation after the war and supplied lumber for the Prud'hommes' reconstruction of their plantations' buildings as well as to Matthew Hertzog, the Metoyers, and many others.[18]

Throughout the 1870s, most of the plantation supplies and goods for the store were brought in by river boats to a large warehouse that stood between the road and the west bank of Cane River just south of the present bridge at Oakland.[19] Although river boats continued to ply the river until it was dammed in 1908, low water frequently prevented river transport above the Red River rapids at Rapides, necessitating laborious overland transport to points

13. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 126.
14. Original licenses can be found in Series 3.2.8, folder 461, Prud'homme Coll., UNC
15. See Series 3.1.2, Folder 166, Prud'homme Coll., UNC
16. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 127.
17. "Plantation and Store Ledgers, 1873-1982," Series 3.1.6, folder 289, Prud'homme Coll., UNC.
18. "Lumber and Sawmill Books, 1860-1883," Series 3.2.10, folders 468-469, Prud'homme Coll., UNC Only two of these books, 1860-1862 and 1882-1883, have survived.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 126, 162-3.

Figure 1 Earliest known photograph of Prud'homme's Store. On reverse side: "PaPas Store Feb 1878 Bud, Albert, Lallah by Nancy (nurse) 2 yrs 4 mos old: Phonse, Alain Metoyer Dog Queen John." *(Prud'homme Family Collection)*

north, including Oakland.

The New Orleans & Pacific Railroad (later called the Texas & Pacific) was organized shortly after the Civil War; in 1871, Natchitoches appointed an agent to negotiate with the company to have the rail line brought through the parish. In 1875, Alphonse Prud'homme and others, including Benjamin Metoyer, even donated rights of way for the railroad through their property; but, when the line was actually constructed in 1882, it bypassed the town of Natchitoches entirely. Nevertheless, with a station at Cypress, railroad transport quickly replaced the majority of river- borne transport after 1882. Threatened with economic ruin as a result of the routing of the railroad, the business leaders in Natchitoches incorporated their own railroad company in 1885 and, two years later, levied a special tax to commence construction of a "Tap Line" railroad from the Cypress station north to Natchitoches. Surveyed by Alphonse Prud'homme, the spur line paralleled the present route of Louisiana Highway 1, bringing rail service through the heart of Isle Brevelle and within a couple of miles of Oakland Plantation.[20]

By 1895, and probably before, Brevelle Station (sometimes called Prud'homme Station) had been constructed near the railroad crossing at Bayou Brevelle, about half- way between Natchez and Cypress. According to Mayo

20. Southern Publishing Company, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana* (Tuscaloosa, AL: Mills Historical Press, 1985 reprint of original 1890 edition), p. 315.

Prud'homme, Alphonse Prud'homme "put a side track there [to] pick up cotton, or anything else that had to be shipped." [21] Eventually, however, Prud'homme closed the station to reduce cut- through traffic on the Oakland farm road that began near the store and Big House and ran southwesterly to the railroad station. By the early 1900s, too, a new station was built west of Oakland at the growing community of Natchez, which provided somewhat more convenient railroad access for the plantation. This also may have contributed to Prud'homme's decision to close the Brevelle Station.[22]

Although Alphonse Prud'homme I established the store at Oakland, he did not spend his time behind the counter. Instead, around 1878, he hired August Lambre Prud'homme[23] to run the store and keep the books. One of Alphonse's numerous cousins in the area, Lambre Prud'homme married Lucy Leveque in 1880 and continued to operate the store until his death in 1894. Lucy was the daughter of the Prud'hommes' doctor J. A. Leveque, who lived and worked at the "Cottage" just to the southwest of the store from around 1866 until his death in 1893. It may have been after Lambre's death that Alphonse Prud'homme's son Jules Lecomte "Buddy" Prud'homme (1867- 1916) began managing the store for his father and using the store as his residence. According to family tradition, Uncle Buddy's sense of personal hygiene left something to be desired as far as his sisters were concerned, although it should be noted that young men often moved out of the main house when they reached adulthood. In any event, a small apartment was built for Buddy on the north side of the store building where he is believed to have lived the rest of his life.[24] In addition, around 1900, Alphonse Prud'homme's son Edward assisted his brother as a clerk in the store.[25]

Even before the arrival of the railroad, however, Prud'homme carried a surprising array of goods at his store, including such specialties as sherry, salmon, and oysters. While some of these items were special orders, Prud'homme took full advantage of the flood of material goods that were widely available and, at least for some, affordable in the years after the Civil War. In 1873, the store carried not only staples like salt pork, flour, rice, sugar, coffee, and lard, but also whiskey, tobacco, candy, cheese, crackers, sardines, salt, pepper, and molasses. Prud'homme also carried hardware like tools, hinges, skillets, padlocks, looking glasses, brooms, pocket knives, and fish hooks, as well as a variety of fabrics and other dry goods. "Coal oil," or kerosene, was also on sale, although in 1873 it was still sold in bottles and five- gallon cans.[26]

21. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 161.
22. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 9 May 2001; "Natchez, Louisiana," unpublished MSS, Creighton Coll. (Folder 5), Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Watson Memorial Library, Northwestern State University of Louisiana.
23. Lambre Prud'homme was the brother of the diarist Pierre Lestan Prud'homme. Their parents were Jacques Lestan Prud'homme and Marie Eliza Lambre.
24. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 3 April 2001.
25. 1900 Federal Census, Natchitoches Parish.
26. "Plantation and Store Ledgers, 1873," Series 3.1.6, Prud'homme Coll., UNC.

Figure 2 View of Prud'homme's Store, about 1907, prior to construction of south additions. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)*

After the advent of the railroad through the parish in 1882, the array of goods and produce expanded significantly. A variety of clothes and household goods was available along with some fresh produce, especially apples and oranges, and an expanding array of canned goods, including pineapple, milk, and "potted meat." Berkson Brothers, Prud'homme's regular wholesale grocer in New Orleans, was even able to supply him with claret, lobster, and other delicacies that the Prud'hommes as well as some of their tenants enjoyed.[27] Cologne, Castile soap, tooth brushes, iodine, and paregoric were some of the toiletries and medicines sold in the store in the 1880s.[28]

27. *Ibid.*, folders 295-298; Solomon Williams was one of the Prud'hommes' tenants who bought lobster on more than one occasion.

By the 1890s, many store keepers, perhaps including Alphonse Prud'homme, were also showcasing luxury items like cuckoo clocks, chromolithographs, and stereoscopes. At the same time, manufacturers provided all sorts of product dispensers such as Burpee Seed Company's chromolithographed exhibits that changed with the seasons. Some store owners even set up "five and dime" counters, imitating the merchandising concept pioneered by F. W. Woolworth in 1879.[29] In addition, bulk goods like eight- pound sacks of Quaker Oats and forty- pound loaves of plug tobacco gradually gave way to packaged products, especially after 1900, as advertising and a "packaging push" began to consolidate a consumer- driven economy. Even the proverbial cracker barrel began to disappear as the National Biscuit Company, organized in 1898, pushed its pre- packaged Uneeda Biscuits in a prototypical campaign of mass marketing and distribution.[30] Still, dried beans, rice, lard, coffee and sugar continued to be sold in bulk at Prud'homme's Store until well into the twentieth century.[31]

By the first decade of the twentieth century, Alphonse Prud'homme II recalled that the store

> had everything from something to eat, to something to work, to something to wear. Those old country stores were really what you'd call department stores. You could go in there and buy

28. Camphorated tincture of opium, a popular pain killer.
29. Schlereth, *Victorian America*, p. 143.
30. Schlereth, *Victorian America*, p. 145.
31. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 3 April 2001.

> groceries... clothes... implements, tools, and everything else." [32]

In addition to cane fishing poles and cotton picking bags, Mayo Prud'homme also remembered

> the big old pink flannel bloomers that women used to wear and shirts without collars for the celluloid collars. We had the collars in there also and the cuffs, high button- up shoes for women, reading glasses, dyes, bric- a- brac- - you name it.[33]

In addition to food stuffs and dry goods, the store carried "Varsol," a heavy- duty cleaning fluid, as well as kerosene, which was one of life's essentials in the days before rural electrification brought power to the Cane River valley in the late 1930s. S. F. Bowser of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, produced the first pumps that would dispense precise quantities of oil and kerosene in 1885 and, by 1889, had a thriving factory and a sales force of fourteen. The wood- framed kerosene tank and pump still in the north shed (003) of the store comprise one of these early Bowser- manufactured systems; it probably dates to the 1890s. Motor oil and gasoline were also sold at the store, even before World War I; but, not until the late 1910s were modern gasoline pumps using underground tanks perfected. Around 1920, the Prud'hommes installed one of the early "visible pump" systems (invented in 1918) for gasoline, which remained in service until around 1950 when it was replaced by the present pumps.[34]

The store also provided another outlet for local produce, including pecans that Prud'homme would purchase from area residents "on halves" and store until picked up by L. S. Johnson Pecan Company in Natchitoches. In the yard to the north of the Big House, Alphonse Prud'homme even created two small ponds where he raised "shiners" that he sold for fish bait in his store.[35]

In addition to its function as a retail outlet, the store building at Oakland had other uses as well. The early addition to the rear or west end of the original store building was, according to family tradition, built specifically as an office for J. Alphonse Prud'homme I. He also built the room off the south side of the office to house his books and records; and both his son Phanor II, grandson Alphonse II, and his great- grandsons Kenneth and Mayo continued to use these rooms for office space throughout much of the twentieth century.

During World War II, Mrs. Alphonse (Rosalie Keator) Prud'homme II's parents came to live at Oakland. "Grandpa" Mayo Sands Keator (1869- 1955) was a civil engineer who had spent many years with the railroads, but he was also fascinated with new technology and was an inveterate inventor. Converting Uncle Buddy's old apartment into a workshop, he spent many

32. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 126.
33. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 156. Beginning in 1920, Phanor Prud'homme inventoried the contents of the store around the first of each year; see "Inventory Books, 1872-1970," Series 3.2.7, Prud'homme Coll., UNC.
34. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," pp. 157-158, 160.
35. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 157.

hours at his workbench creating a variety of items, including lamps, a telescope, a photo enlarger (which he created out of a coffee pot), and even a "perpetual- motion machine." His brother Charles Keator lived at Campti and, since he was associated with the telephone company, arranged to have the first telephones installed at Oakland. Exactly when this occurred has not been documented, although there was telephone service along Cane River by 1906. In addition, according to the family, the system included a local "intercom" system that connected the office in the store to the big house and to the doctor's house, where the Prud'hommes' sister Marie Adele and her husband, Jesse Emmett Brett, Jr., lived after their marriage in 1932.[36]

Bermuda Post Office

It is easy to underestimate the importance of mail to rural Americans before the advent of telephones and radios, neither of which came into widespread use in rural areas until the rural electrification programs of the 1930s. Until that time, mail and the newspapers that were delivered to local post offices remained the principal link to the outside world, a link that was only reinforced by the advent of mail- order catalogs like Montgomery- Ward and Sears in the late nineteenth century.

One of the great difficulties after the Civil War was restoration of post offices in the old Confederacy, and not until 1867 were a majority of Southern post offices operational again. Even then, post offices were few and far between so that, by the time Reconstruction ended in April 1877, the closest post offices to Oakland Plantation were at Natchitoches, thirteen miles to the northwest, and Cloutierville, eighteen miles to the southeast. As a result, even the Prud'hommes might not pick up their mail but once or twice a week; for many rural residents, it might be weeks or months between trips to the post office.

In December 1877, Alain L. Metoyer was appointed post master for a new post office called "Bermuda" in Natchitoches Parish.[37] Although postal records do not indicate the precise location of that office, the map accompanying the application appears to indicate that the post office was located at Oakland Plantation, probably in Alphonse Prud'homme's plantation store.[38] Since there was as yet no free delivery of mail except in urban areas, rural post offices, which were almost always associated with a country store, were a great boon to area residents. The merchant, too, benefited since the presence of a post office helped increase his traffic and sales.

Smaller rural post offices proliferated in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, especially

36. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 3 April 2001.

37. "Post Master Appointments, "Records of U. S. Post Office, microfilm M841, Roll 51, Federal Archives and Record Center, East Point, GA. Note that the section numbers in the Post Office records do not always correspond to the actual surveyed section numbers in Natchitoches Parish.

38. "Post Office Locations, "Records of U. S. Post Office, microfilm M1126, Roll 244, Federal Archives and Record Center, East Point, GA.

after Congress authorized construction of the "Star Routes" network of post roads in 1879. Over the next ten years, the number of Southern post offices increased from 11,309 to nearly 19,000. Probably because it was not conveniently located on one of the "star routes," the Bermuda Post Office was discontinued in February 1879.

In the spring of 1882, J. Alphonse Prud'homme I applied to have the Bermuda Post Office re- established, since there was still no post office closer than Natchitoches and Cloutierville. There was no village in the area either; but Prud'homme noted on his application that the area was "thickly settled," with perhaps 4,000 residents who would benefit from a more convenient post office. Although that number may have been exaggerated, the application was granted in July 1882 and, in January 1883, began operation with John Dean Wood Sero acting as post master. For unknown reasons, Alain Metoyer replaced Sero as post master at Bermuda Post Office in August 1883 and retained that position until at least the turn of the century.[39] By the spring of 1890, however, the Bermuda Post Office had been moved from Oakland Store to a new location on the opposite bank of Cane River, a half mile or so downstream from Oakland.[40]

39. Post Office records do not document the date of Metoyer's retirement (or death) as postmaster at Bermuda. In the 1900 Federal census, Metoyer listed his occupation as "postmaster."
40. The Post Office records do not document the date at which the Bermuda post office was relocated but do document that it had been moved to the east bank of Cane River below Oakland by the spring of 1890.

Figure 3 View of Prud'homme's Store from the north, about 1920. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)*

While the post office was a vital link to the outside world for most rural Americans, mail still had to be picked up at local post offices; for many people, that could mean the better part of a day's travel, round- trip, so that farmers might delay mail pick- up for days, weeks, or even months. Free home delivery was begun in forty- nine of the nation's larger cities in 1863, but not until 1893 did Congress authorize the Rural Free Delivery (RFD) system in the U. S. Post Office. Local merchants, fearing competition from Sears and other mail- order houses, fought the RFD system and, not until the fall of 1896 did the first rural carriers began deliveries in West Virginia. Even then there were strong efforts in the Senate to kill RFD mail, which many thought simply too expensive to implement. Some even argued that RFD mail would deprive "the rural family of about the only

Figure 4 Prud'homme's Store, about 1930. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)*

break in the monotony of its lonely life, that comes from a visit to the post office once or twice a week," an argument that most rural families would have dismissed out of hand. So positive was the response to the system that, in 1902, the RFD system became a permanent part of the Post Office; by 1905 more than 32,000 rural routes were in operation.[41]

Free delivery of mail brought a new feature to the landscape: the residential mail box. Initially, the type of mail box was left to the individual's discretion and everything from empty lard pails and soap boxes to old apple crates was used. By 1902, however, the federal post office issued regulations that restricted the size and construction of private mail boxes and required that they be marked "Approved by the Postmaster General."

41. United States Postal Service, "1775-1993, The Postal Role in U. S. Development," *History of the U. S. Postal Service* (http://www.usps.gov/history/his2.htm, 5 March 2001).

The mail man on his rounds (women did not commonly carry mail until after World War II) also became a fixture of everyday life and a vital communication link for the local community in his own right. The postman not only delivered the mail but also kept the community apprised of births, deaths, marriages, and the weather as well as who was sick and the status of crops in the neighborhood. Many even augmented their income with a wide array of side- line ventures. The *New York Sun* reported that post men

> sell provisions, dry goods, furniture, horseshoes, farming implements, fertilizer, chocolate caramels, and tar roofing; take subscriptions for newspapers, magazines, and turf investment bureaus; insure lives and houses, erect lightning rods, and put down driven wells.

The newspaper even noted that "one Iowa mail carrier's delivery business grew so large he towed three large wagons of merchandise as he delivered the mail"! As a result of these excesses, Congress banned such sales by mail carriers in 1904.[42]

In June 1903, J. Alphonse Prud'homme was appointed postmaster for the Bermuda Post Office after the death of Alain Metoyer. It is not clear if the Bermuda Post Office was again located at Prud'homme's Store on the west bank of Cane River at that time. Although Prud'homme's descendants have suggested that the Bermuda Post Office was located at the Oakland store until Prud'homme's death in

42. Schlereth, *Victorian America*, p. 180.

1919, post office records show that Valsin Lambre, a distant cousin of the Prud'hommes, was appointed post master in June 1904, at which time the post office was relocated to Lambre's Store on the *east* bank of Cane River about a half mile northeast of Oakland. F. Ursin Lambre was appointed postmaster in September 1913; presumably, the Bermuda Post Office remained at Lambre's Store until Lambre died in December 1923.[43] In January 1924, J. Alphonse Prud'homme II was appointed post master for Bermuda Post Office, and the office was moved back to Prud'homme's Store at Oakland Plantation, where it remained for more than forty years.

Figure 5 Prud'homme's Store, about 1940. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)*

End of an Era

The range of goods available at Prud'homme's store expanded through the first half of the twentieth century, and the store remained a center of community life into the 1950s. By then, however, improved roads (La. Hwy. 1 was paved from Alexandria to Natchitoches in 1936) and widespread use of automobiles greatly expanded how and where people shopped and supplied their material needs. Many if not most of the Prud'hommes' clientele recognized the relatively high cost of goods at country stores and used the store less and less as better options became available. Camille Metoyer, the Prud'hommes' cook for many years, remembered that "if we'd run out of something, we'd buy it there"; otherwise, the majority of their purchases were made in Natchitoches, especially after World War II.[44]

In addition, as the cotton economy was destroyed by the boll weevil in the early twentieth century, large numbers of black sharecroppers and tenant farmers abandoned the plantations for better jobs and less discrimination in the North, especially during and shortly after World War I. After World War II, the exodus from the countryside mushroomed as tenancy and sharecropping gave way to large- scale, mechanized agricultural operations and people of all races sought the better life that seemed to beckon in the nation's cities and towns. With most rural areas experiencing a drastic decline in population, many institutions like the country store and the rural post office closed their doors for good in the 1950s and 1960s.[45] The Prud'hommes hung on a little longer, but many of these stores never enjoyed the large clientele

43. Note that this Lambre's Store is not the same store as the present abandoned store at Lambre's gin just up the road from Oakland on LA Hwy. 494.

44. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," p. 158.
45. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," pp. 177-178.

Figure 6 Prud'homme's Store, about 1940. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)*

Figure 7 Prud'homme's Store, about 1980. *(Louisiana SHPO)*

of Prud'homme's Store. Emmanuel Prud'homme's small store across the bridge from Oakland, for instance, was never much more than a commissary for his workers and, even at that, ceased operation before World War II. The Lambres also operated a slightly larger establishment just around the bend from Oakland; but, even by the time they built a new gin there around 1953, the store itself was little more than a canteen for the employees.[46]

Figure 8 Rear of Prud'homme's Store, about 1980. *(Louisiana SHPO)].*

Alphonse Prud'homme II retired as post master in February 1962, replaced by his son, J. Alphonse Prud'homme III, who served for only four years before resigning in April 1966. His wife, Martha Jane Allen Prud'homme (b. 1932), served as interim post master until July when Mrs. Cleo M. Draugnet (1913- 1978), who had married a grandson of Pierre Emmanuel and Julie Buard Prud'homme of Atahoe, was appointed to the post. Already the days of the Bermuda Post Office were numbered, however. With better roads, RFD mail service was nearly universal and there was simply no longer much need for the country post office; so, at the end of the business day on July 14, 1967, service at the Bermuda Post Office was formally terminated.[47] After running a post office at Oakland off and on for nearly a hundred years, the Prud'hommes were at last on a rural delivery route and had to put up their own private mail

46. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 9 May 2001.
47. Post Office records give the date at which the Bermuda Post Office was discontinued.

box at Oakland's front gates. Alphonse Prud'homme II continued to operate the Oakland store for a few more years; but, by the early 1980s, he was nearly blind and, in the fall of 1982, regretfully closed the store. Most of the merchandise was sold at that time, and for the next twenty years, the building was used mostly for storage.[48]

48. The last store inventory in the Prud'homme Coll. was made in 1970; see Series 3.2.7, folder 460.

Chronology of Development & Use

The general chronology of the evolution of Prud'homme's Store at Oakland Plantation was established through materials analysis and physical investigation of the existing building in the summer of 1998. The primary investigator was Barbara A. Yokum, architectural conservator with the Building Conservation Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center, NPS, in Lowell, Massachusetts. See Appendix A for a copy of her report and for details of the materials analysis, which are only summarized below.

Research and building investigation during the course of the present study produced additional information and allowed for some refinement of the conclusions reached in Yokum's report. Investigation has been hampered, however, by the large number of artifacts and amount of debris that remains in the building. Further investigation after the building is cleared and cleaned but before other work proceeds will certainly reveal additional important information about the evolution of the historic building.

In its original configuration, which is documented by a single tintype photograph taken in 1878 (see Figure 1, below), Prud'homme's Store was typical of hundreds of such stores, including the one at Magnolia Plantation, that were constructed all

across the South in the nineteenth century. Corresponding to the present building's main room (002), the original store was significantly altered or expanded on at least four separate occasions during the first thirty or forty years of its existence. These additions brought the building to its present configuration before World War I.

In addition to the basic retail function of the building, Prud'homme's Store had other uses as well. At an early date, Phanor Prud'homme II established his office for the plantation at the store, an office which he later enlarged and which was used by his son and grandsons for that same purpose until the 1980s. For a number of years from the 1890s until his death in 1916, Jules Lecomte "Uncle Buddy" Prud'homme made his residence in part of the store. Between 1945 and 1955, "Grandpa" Keator, the father- in- law of Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme II, used part of the store for his workshop. Most significantly, from 1924 until 1967, Prud'homme's Store was the location of the Bermuda Post Office, which greatly enhanced the store's role as an important community gathering place.

Original Store, c. 1873

Historical documentation, including business licenses and ledger entries, suggest that Prud'homme's' store at Oakland was built in 1873. It is assumed that construction occurred after 1867, since the store is not mentioned in the rather detailed plantation journals that were regularly kept through that year. A date of

Figure 9 Tin-type image of Prud'homme Store, dated February 1878. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)*

1868 has been suggested for the store's original construction, based upon that being the year when sharecropping began at Oakland.[49] That date is probably too early, however, given the political and social turmoil of the period and the fact that the sharecropping system did not arrive full- blown but rather developed in an ad hoc way in the late 1860s.[50] The logistics of the system, including the plantation store, were not fully sorted out until the 1870s. Phanor Prud'homme died in October 1865; and, although the first of several succession sales was held in December 1868, his estate was the subject of litigation until September 1871 and formal division was delayed until April 1873.[51] The business licenses that Alphonse Prud'homme was issued in June 1873 probably mark the beginning of the store's operation.

49. Ann Patton Malone, "A Draft Response to NPS Focus Questions Relating to the Oakland Oral History Project" (NPS, 1997), p. 28.
50. Malone, "Oakland Plantation ...," pp. 113-117.
51. Breedlove, "Oakland Plantation," p. 43-44.

The original store building, which corresponds to the main room (002) in the present building, was a simple, balloon- framed, gable- ended structure, oriented toward the road and measuring approximately 20' wide and 30'- 4" long. A full- width front porch, approached by three wooden steps, was covered by a shed roof supported by four wood posts approximately 6" square.

The exterior of the building was apparently whitewashed from the beginning and, by the time the tin- type photograph was made in 1878, had been painted with red trim, shutters, and doors, and white window sash (see Yokum paint analysis in Appendix A).

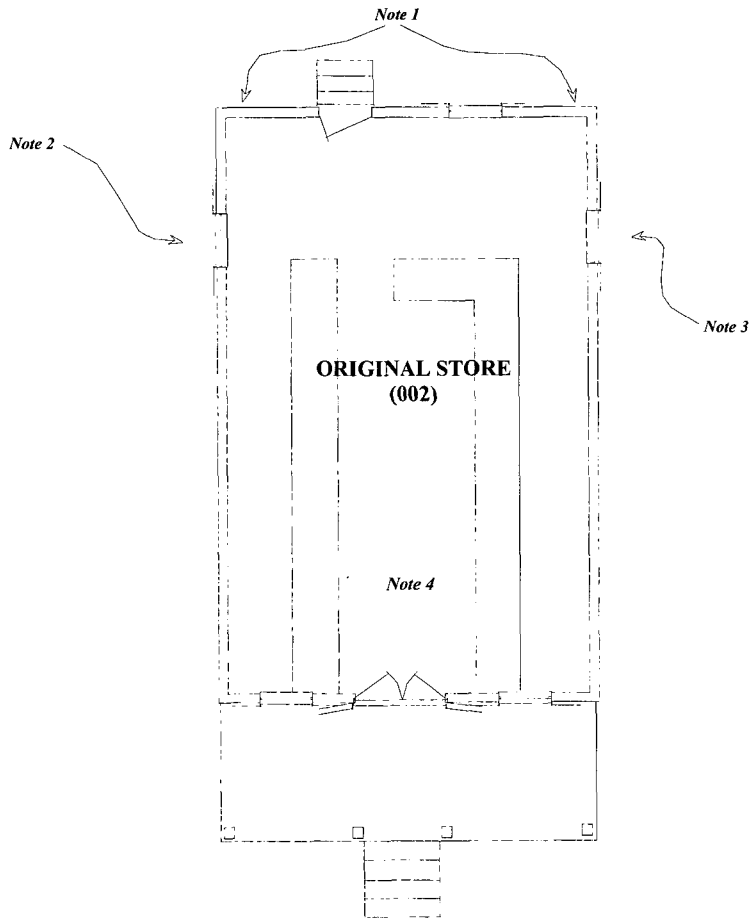
Along Cane River, well water was never potable and cisterns were omnipresent wherever it was necessary to have water for human consumption. The cistern off the northeast corner of the store was completed in May 1877 by J. C. Keyser, Sr., a mason who did a variety of work at Oakland in the 1870s and who built many of Natchitoches' brick buildings in the late nineteenth century.[52] Although the cistern itself is not visible in the 1878 photograph of the store, the roof drain that fed it is visible in the photograph.

52. Inside the rear cover of Rosalie Keator Prud'homme's genealogy book (Series 5.2, folders 633-634, Prud'homme Coll. NCU) is this notation: "Store cistern made by J. C. Keyser, Sr., May 9, 1877." There are several references to other work by Keyser at Oakland in the plantation ledgers and journals. Also see biography of Keyser in Mills, *Natchitoches Parish*, p. 354.

The exterior of the store was finished with wood siding, laid flush on the walls beneath the front porch and laid with a 5"- 6" lap elsewhere on the building. The only original siding that remains in its original location is the flush siding on the front of the building and the lapped siding on the south wall of 003. The original siding on the west end of the original building was apparently relaid as flush siding and now forms the east wall of 006. Much of the rest of the original siding probably remains on the building but was relocated as the various additions were made.

It is not clear if the attic was floored originally. If it was, however, it was probably accessible only by two ceiling hatches, one large one that is located about eight feet from the front wall and another smaller hatch close to the rear wall. There is no indication that the building had a fireplace originally; but a third hatch located near the rear wall may mark the location of an old wood stove flue, since there does not appear to be another good reason to have two hatches adjacent to one another at that location.

According to one authority, most country stores had similar spatial arrangements "in which counters and shelves along the store's right side were devoted to dry goods; those on the left side to groceries, tobacco, sundries, and patent medicines; and the rear to kerosene,



NOTES:

1. The west end of the building was resided when the office (006) was constructed. Removal of the existing siding may show framing for original openings on this wall and confirm existence of the openings shown on this plan.

2. Evidence for the existence of this window was obliterated when 001B was constructed in the early twentieth century.

3. Evidence for this window opening can be seen in the siding on the north wall of 002 and on the south wall of 003.

4. Configuration of counters, shelves and other interior features of the original store are uncertain.

north

United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service** **Southeast Region** Cultural Resources Stewardship Division	Drawn by: T. Jones May 2001 Sheet 1 of 4	Oakland Plantation Prudhomme's Store ***Reconstructed Plan, 1873***

whiskey, and meat barrels."[53] At Prud'homme's Store, these arrangements were reversed, with dry goods on the left (or south) side of the store and groceries and so forth on the right (or north) side of the store.[54] Although it is clear that nearly all of the existing shelving in the main store (002) dates to the nineteenth century, it is unclear how much of it was part of the original construction. The counters and shelving on the sides of the store were probably part of that construction, although there have been a number of later alterations to the shelving on the north side. Window placement and ghosts of removed shelving components on the north wall of 002 suggest that the rear of the original store was kept open either as an office area or for barrels of bulk merchandise.

Office Addition, c. 1880

Ms. Yokum's analysis of the building suggests that the earliest additions to the store were the lengthening of the entire building to the rear, which created Room 006; the extension of the attic over the front porch; and the building of a small shed- roofed addition on the north side of the original building (part of Room 003). It is not certain that these alterations were all part of the same building campaign, nor did Yokum consider the date "circa 1880" absolute- - it is, she thought, "a best guess based on the available evidence." All three additions utilized circular- sawn lumber, probably from the Prud'homme saw mill, and machine- cut nails with shear points, similar to the materials used in the original construction of the store. Most of the work must have been done after Feb. 1878, because the photograph of that date shows the store with yet no additions to the front and north side. It seems most likely that these additions were made in the early 1880s in response to the changes brought by arrival of the railroad in the parish in 1882.

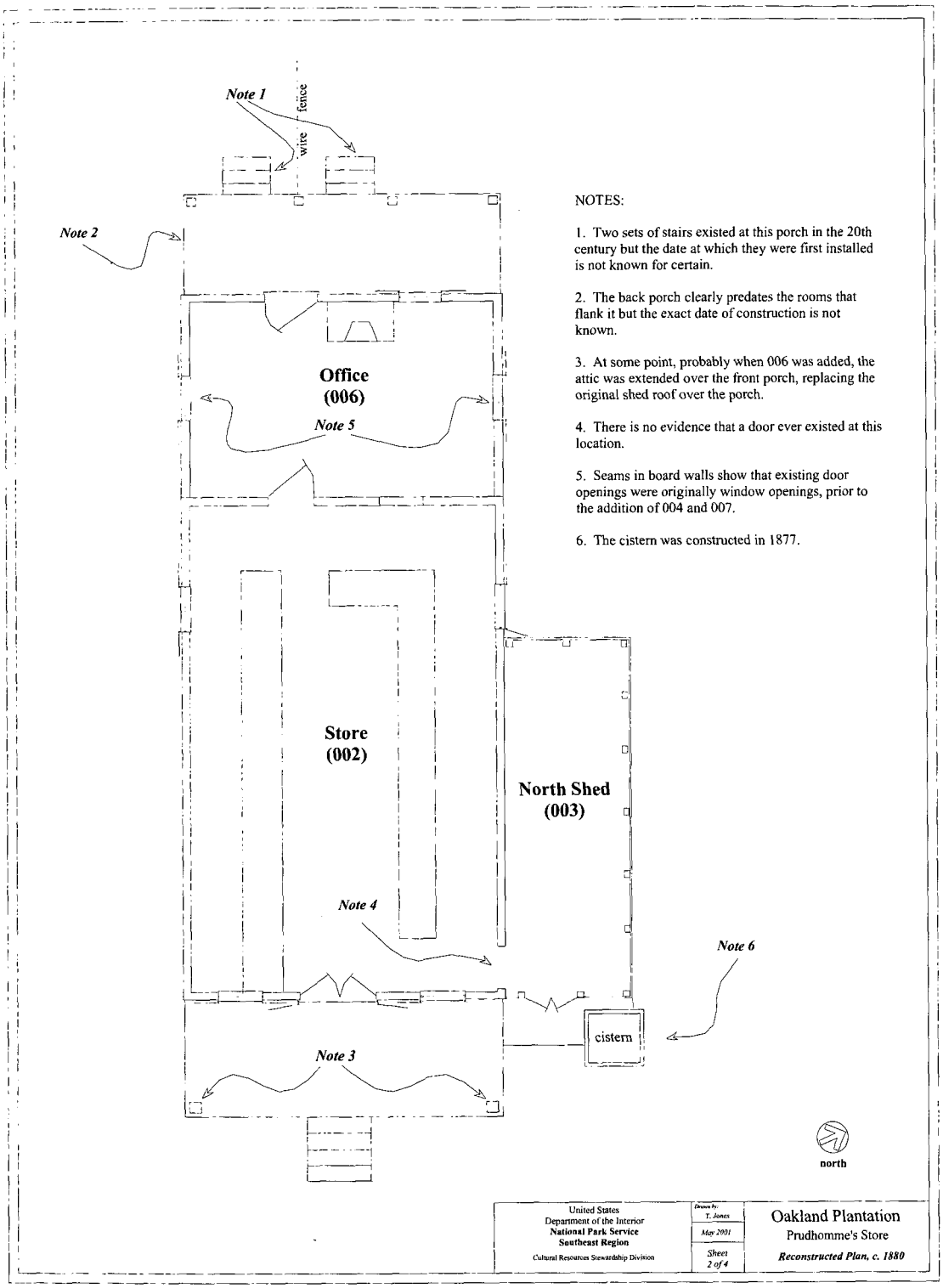
The dimensions and character of framing, flooring, and trim as well as the use of 7'- 6" high door openings suggest, however, the possibility that the rear office addition (006) could have occurred before the photograph was taken in 1878. Alphonse and Elise Prud'homme had six children by that time, and that alone could have provoked construction of an office separate from the big house. In addition, with a growing array of merchandise for sale, the addition of the office would have freed up display and storage space in the original store.

The lengthening of the store for the office added 12'- 4" to the building and included a brick fireplace and chimney and an enlarged attic. It also precipitated major changes to the west (rear) end of the original building, including removal of a double- hung window and relaying of the original lap siding as flush siding.

Front Attic Extension, c. 1880

The lengthening of the store's front pediment to replace the original shed roof over the front

53. Schlereth, *Victorian America*, p.143.
54. Interviews with Kenneth Prud'homme, April and May 2001. While his recollections are of the twentieth century store, it is likely that the general arrangement of merchandise remained little changed from the late nineteenth century.


Note 1
fence
wire
Note 2
Office
(006)
Note 5
Store
(002)
North Shed
(003)
Note 4
Note 6
cistern
Note 3
north
NOTES:
1. Two sets of stairs existed at this porch in the 20th century but the date at which they were first installed is not known for certain.
2. The back porch clearly predates the rooms that flank it but the exact date of construction is not known.
3. At some point, probably when 006 was added, the attic was extended over the front porch, replacing the original shed roof over the porch.
4. There is no evidence that a door ever existed at this location.
5. Seams in board walls show that existing door openings were originally window openings, prior to the addition of 004 and 007.
6. The cistern was constructed in 1877.
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Cultural Resources Stewardship Division
Drawn by: T. Jones
May 2001
Sheet 2 of 4
Oakland Plantation
Prudhomme's Store
Reconstructed Plan, c. 1880

porch may have occurred at the same time as the construction of the office, since there are several similarities in the added construction at the front and the rear of the attic. It is also possible that it occurred a short time later, perhaps in 1882 or 1883 when the new railroad at Cypress greatly expedited shipment of merchandise and goods for the store. It seems clear that this work, which vented the attic and extended it approximately 7½ feet to the east, was done to increase storage space. Probably as part of that work, the present ladder at the front of the store was also installed.

North Shed Addition, c. 1880

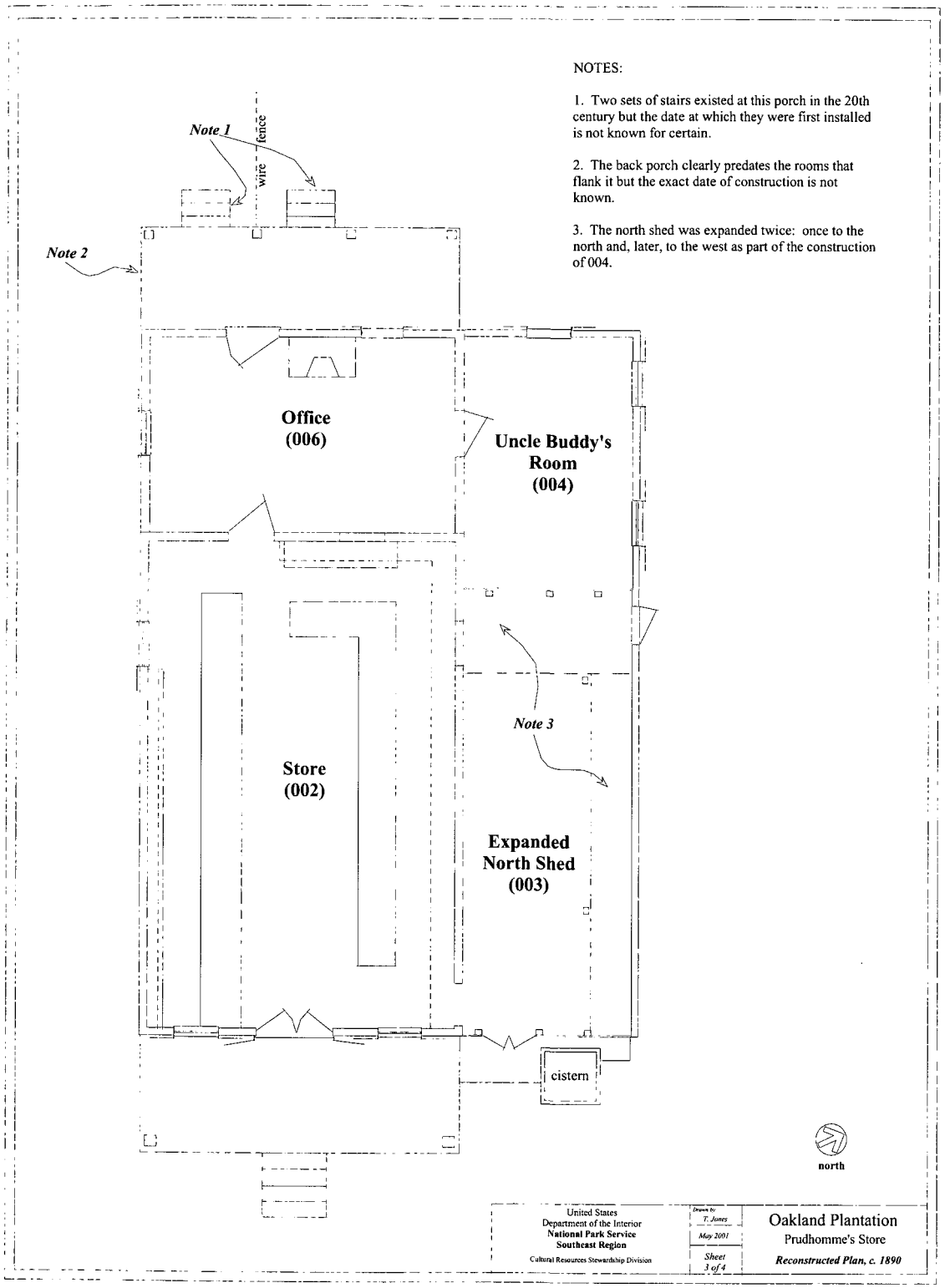
Based upon Yokum's analysis of the materials, it appears that this shed- roofed addition (part of 003) measuring approximately seven feet wide by twenty- two feet long was added to the north side of the original store building around the same time that the office was added and the attic extended. The dimensional variability of roof rafters and the mortising of posts into sills and headers on the original north wall suggest an early date for this addition as well. Later enlarged, the core of this early addition can still be readily identified in the present space, with original surviving elements including the front (east) wall and the wood- shingled shed roof.

For most of the twentieth century, the Prud'hommes used this addition for the storage of kerosene, Varsol, and motor oil, among other things, and it is likely that the shed was originally constructed for that purpose. Kerosene, also called coal oil, was first distilled in quantity in 1856; by 1860 thirty kerosene distillers were in operation in the United States, effectively ending the demand for whale oil for lighting. Hundreds of patents were issued for a wide variety of kerosene lamps and burners over the next fifteen or twenty years, and it is not surprising that one of the earliest additions to Prud'homme's Store may have been made to facilitate the sale of this and other flammable materials.

North Shed, First Expansion, c. 1885

Yokum found that the north shed (003) described above was enlarged within a few years of its original construction. This first of two expansions of the shed widened the structure to the north by approximately four feet, and an effort was made to match existing exterior materials, including flush- board siding on the front, lapped siding on the north elevation, and a wood- shingled roof (which remains in place under the existing twentieth- century metal roof and is the only such roof remaining on the building). The purpose of this addition has not been documented, but it may have been made to accommodate the wood- framed kerosene drums and Bowser pump, which remained in use until they were replaced by the red metal tank and pump after World War II. Both sets of equipment remain in the room today.

In the second quarter of the twentieth century, the north shed was also used by the Prud'hommes for salt- curing of pork, and residue from that process is in evidence through


NOTES:
1. Two sets of stairs existed at this porch in the 20th century but the date at which they were first installed is not known for certain.
2. The back porch clearly predates the rooms that flank it but the exact date of construction is not known.
3. The north shed was expanded twice: once to the north and, later, to the west as part of the construction of 004.
Note 1
fence
wire
Note 2
Office
(006)
Uncle Buddy's
Room
(004)
Note 3
Store
(002)
Expanded
North Shed
(003)
cistern
north
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Cultural Resources Stewardship Division
Drawn by
T. Jones
May 2001
Sheet
3 of 4
Oakland Plantation
Prudhomme's Store
Reconstructed Plan, c. 1890

out the floor area along the northeast side of the room. Most of this use probably occurred after the old mule barn burned in 1927, at which time the old smoke house was converted for use as a mule barn.

Uncle Buddy's Apartment, c. 1890

According to family tradition, Room 004 was built as an apartment for "Uncle Buddy" Prud'homme. Reportedly, this was because Buddy's sisters developed issues with his personal hygiene, although unmarried males often moved out of the main house when they reached their majority. There is no date traditionally associated with construction of this apartment, but the use of cut nails in construction of the rooms suggests that it occurred no later than the 1890s. Jules "Buddy" Prud'homme turned twenty- one in 1888, and his teen- aged or younger sisters were all still living at home until 1894. These dates seem to form reasonable brackets for a construction date for this room.

At the same time that 004 was constructed, the north shed was expanded again. The original shed and its first expansion had stopped short of the window at the rear of the north side of the original store building. When 004 was built, the window was closed and the area between the east wall of 004 and the west wall of 003 was incorporated as part of 003. The window was reused in construction of 004.

No certain reason has been identified for the lower floor levels used in these alterations. The difference may have been simply to allow for more interior head room in the living area (004) while maintaining an approximation of the roof line that was already established by the earlier shed roof of Room 003.

South Addition, c. 1910

Yokum dated the south addition to around 1900, based in part on the pencilled dates on the east wall of Room 001B. The earliest of these dates is "7/13/08" which is scratched into the surface of the wall with a nail.[55] A recently-discovered photograph (see Figures 2) of the store taken about 1907 shows the south addition not yet present, suggesting that the addition was constructed sometime between the latter part of 1907 and mid- summer of 1908. Covering the entire length of the store's south elevation, this shed- roofed addition is wood framed and built on brick piers, similar to all previous store construction. The exterior siding replicated the existing siding: flush boards on the front facade and lapped weather boards on the south and west elevations. The addition differed from earlier store construction by using wire nails- - a nail type that was manufactured as early as the 1870s, began to supplant cut nails in the 1890s, and came into general use by the 1900s.

A continuous sill (which is hand hewn and may have been salvaged from another location) runs the entire length of the south side additions, clear evidence that 001A, 001B, 007, and

55. In the uncertain light in the store, the "8" can and has been misread as a "4"; but close examination confirms the 1908 date.

Figure 10 Photograph of Prud'homme's Store, c. 1907, just prior to addition of rooms on south side. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)*

008 were all built at the same time. The Prud'hommes remember that Alphonse Prud'homme installed the double- beaded, tongue- and- groove paneling to "rat proof" 007 for storage of records and books. Whether or not this paneling was installed as part of the original construction of these spaces or as a somewhat later modification has not been determined.

Room 001A was used primarily for dry storage. A crude bin in the northwest corner of the existing space was used for storage of pecans in the twentieth century. In the southeast corner, a small ice house was also a feature of 001A through most of the twentieth century. Removed by the Prud'hommes after 1960, the ice house featured thick wood- framed walls, filled with sawdust for insulation and lined with what was probably galvanized sheet metal. A similarly- framed and insulated door, separate from the existing door at the east end of the room, provided access to the ice house, which was regularly filled by the ice man on his rounds. A simple wooden ramp was generally kept in place in front of the ice door to allow easy maneuvering of the large blocks of ice into and out of the storage area. Very little physical evidence for this ice house has survived, since its removal included removal of the door and re- siding of the east end of 001.

Room 008 was used for tool storage and for a grindstone for sharpening saw blades and other implements. No other historical use has been identified for this room.

Other Modifications, early 1900s

Room 005 was clearly built after the construction of 004 and was reportedly built as a "bath room" for Uncle Buddy. Since there was no running water in the building until the late 1930s, the space never included any sort of plumbing fixtures or lines before that time. His "bath room" probably consisted of little more than a pitcher, wash basin, and a chamber pot or "slop jar." Wire nails were used in the construction of 005, and the south wall is finished with the same double- beaded, tongue- and- groove paneling found in 001B and 007. However, the size and detailing of 005 is different from that of 008, suggesting that 005 and the rooms on the south side of the building were built at different times.

The east wall of 004 was originally finished with flush- laid siding, probably taken from the original west end of 003. That siding is now

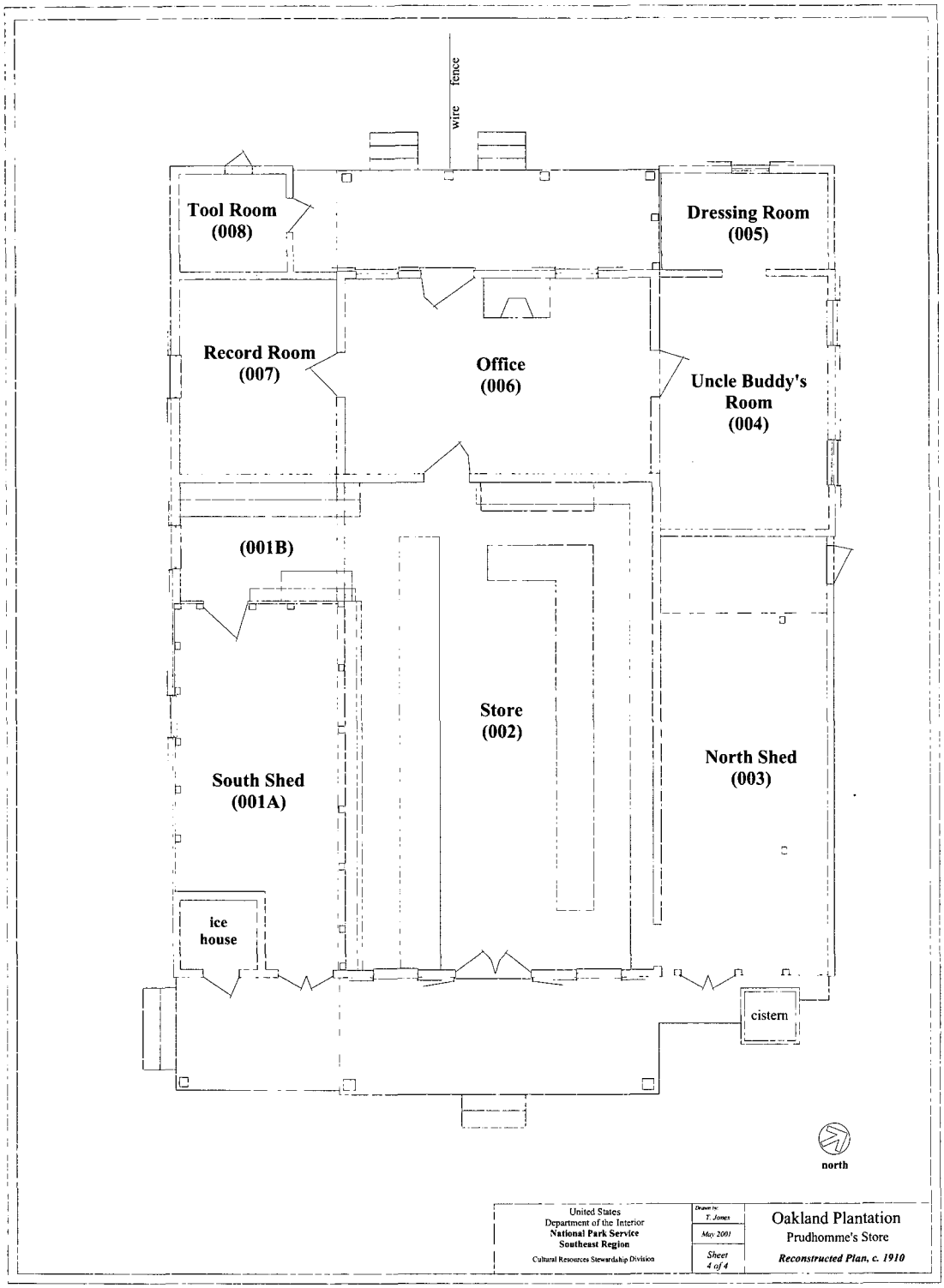

fence
wire
Tool Room
(008)
Dressing Room
(005)
Record Room
(007)
Office
(006)
Uncle Buddy's
Room
(004)
(001B)
Store
(002)
North Shed
(003)
South Shed
(001A)
ice
house
cistern
north
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Cultural Resources Stewardship Division
Drawn by:
T. Jones
May 2001
Sheet
4 of 4
Oakland Plantation
Prudhomme's Store
Reconstructed Plan, c. 1910

Figure 11 View of store from northwest, c. 1920. *(Henley Hunter Coll, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University)*

covered with an odd assemblage of unmolded, recessed wooden panels. These panels are hand- planed and show an accumulation of at least eight layers of lead- based paints, far more layers of paint than are found anywhere else in the building. Clearly these panels were salvaged from some other unidentified building. The quality and design of the paneling do not suggest a provenance related to any other building known to have existed at Oakland, except possibly the big house itself. However, when the old Lecomte House (where Phanor Prud'homme died in 1865) was taken down in Natchitoches about 1906, the slate roof was salvaged for reinstallation on the big house at Oakland. Given the unique character and odd placement of the paneling, it is possible that Uncle Buddy or another family member salvaged the paneling from the Lecomte house and installed it for sentimental reasons in 004 around that time.

In 1909, the Prud'hommes also acquired their first automobile, which they probably fueled with gasoline dispensed in cans that were purchased in Natchitoches or shipped to the store. The first gasoline pump using an underground tank was invented in 1898; but not until 1916 was the "visible pump" with its distinctive glass cylinder.[56] It is likely that the single "visible pump" seen in early photographs of the store was installed around 1920 and continued in use until around 1950, when Alphonse Prud'homme II got a new Lincoln. Since the car required the use of high- octane gasoline, Prud'homme replaced the old pump with the pair of existing pumps, one for "regular" gas and one for "ethyl," as the higher octane gasoline was then called. Parts of the original pump remain inside the store building.

Telephone service came to Oakland by 1906, perhaps facilitated by Rosalie Keator Prud'homme's brother, "Uncle Charlie" Keator, who lived at Campti and worked for the telephone company. At that time, the Prud'hommes installed the telephone booth in the southeast corner of the office.

In 1936 and 1937, the New Deal's rural electrification program came to the Cane River area, and the store and other plantation structures were wired for electricity at that time. Since the store was only operated during daylight hours

56. See "Collecting Old Gas Pumps in Traverse City," http://www.michigantraveler.com/gaspump.html.

(and since lighting requirements were not what they are today), electrical lighting was minimal. More important, electricity made it possible for a Coca- Cola refrigeration bin to be installed in the store. This allowed the store to participate in the great boom in the consumption of cold soft drinks that began during World War II. It also gave a place to keep cheese, sausage, and a few other perishables and was apparently the only refrigeration unit ever used in the store.

In addition, electrification allowed the Prud'hommes to install an electric pump in Uncle Buddy's old dressing room (005) to replace the old ram- type pump that Phanor Prud'homme II (or his father) had installed at Bayou Brevelle to bring water to the water tank on the north side of the Big House. Since the brackish ground water in the area was unsuitable for drinking, this water was used only for washing clothes and bathing while the cisterns continued to be used to provide drinking water.

Post-WWII Changes

After World War II, Prud'homme's Store continued to function more or less as it always had and with few modifications. When Grandpa Keator decided to set up a workshop in Uncle Buddy's old room (004) after 1945, a small work bench was constructed for him between the windows on the north wall. Additional lighting was run, and he kept an acetylene tank in the northeast corner of the room.

Figure 12 View of Prud'homme's Store, c. 1940, showing original gasoline pump. *(Prud'homme Family Coll.)*

When the Prud'hommes started using propane- fired burners for weed control in the late 1950s, two large propane tanks were installed at the rear and along the southwest side of the store. These were removed in the late 1990s.

The 1878 photographs suggests that, when it was originally constructed, Prud'homme's Store was located within the fenced enclosure that delineated the house yard from the plantation's principal agricultural buildings. The yard around the store was enclosed on the south side by a board fence that ran from the southeast corner of the east pigeonnier, along the north side of the farm lane, and returned in front of the store along what is now La. 494. A single wooden picket gate opened from the road to an unpaved pathway to the front steps of the store. By 1907 the board fence had been replaced by a picket fence (compare Figures 1 and 2, above).

Wire fences with wooden posts characterized the fencing within the living memory of Ken-

neth Prud'homme and it is likely that these were installed in the early twentieth century. Probably when these wire fences were installed, fencing was terminated at each of the front corners of the store, leaving the area in front of the store unfenced to provide easier vehicular access to the store.

In 1958 Oakland was used for filming of John Ford's *Horse Soldiers*, for which a temporary split- rail fence was created by wiring split rails to the old wire fences. Alphonse Prud'homme liked the look of those fences so much that he had the wire fences replaced with the present split- rail fence shortly afterwards.[57] The split-rail fence that intersects the northeast corner of the building follows a line that was established by a wire fence at least by the 1940s. At the rear of the store, however, another wire fence ran from about the center of the back porch in a westerly direction to intersect the east side of the carriage house. This placement made possible entry into the store from the house yard or from the farm lane without going through a gate; but this placement also made it necessary to decide which of the two sets of back- porch steps to take each time the Prud'hommes left the store. When the rail fences were put up, the Prud'hommes decided to relocate this fence to run from the northwest corner of the store to the northeast corner of the carriage house and replaced the double steps from the back porch of the store with the existing single set of brick steps.

57. Interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, April 2001.

Changes Since 1960

Very few changes were made to the store after 1960. One of the most significant changes was the removal of the ice house and its door onto the front porch. In the 1970s or early 1980s, the Prud'hommes installed electrical connections for a window- mounted air- conditioner in Room 007, which Kenneth and Mayo Prud'homme began to use as an office. Around that time, too, they had the old brick chimney, which had deteriorated, taken down below the roof line. By the 1990s, the building had been essentially abandoned. In spite of these changes, were J. Alphonse Prud'homme I alive today, he would still have no difficulty in recognizing the store that he and his son Phanor created in the late nineteenth century.

Oakland Prud'homme's Store Time Line

1864	Sep 16	Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme I (JAP I, b. 1838) marries Elise Lecomte
1865	Sep 18	P. Phanor Prud'homme II (PPP II) born
	Oct 12	P. Phanor Prud'homme I (b. 1807) dies
1867		Informal agreement between JAP I and Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme (PEP) to divide the old Bermuda Plantation with JAP I taking the Big House
1868	Dec	First of several succession sales at Bermuda regarding Phanor I's estate; lawsuit filed over administration of Phanor I's estate
1870	Sep	PEP relocates across the river to Atahoe
1871	Mar	Louisiana Supreme Court sends Phanor's estate case back to parish court
	Aug	PEP and JAP I mortgage Bermuda Plantation for $2,100
	Sep	Phanor I's estate case settled in parish court; JAP I authorized to pay debts
1873		EP's house at Atahoe burns
	Apr	Formal division of Bermuda Plantation between JAP I and PEP
	Jun 3	**JAP I issued retail merchant license by State and parish**
	Jun 30	**JAP I issued licenses for tobacco and liquor sales**
1875		JAP I, Lecomtes and others donate land for railroad right- of- way (not built until 1882)
1877	May 9	**J. C. Keyser, Sr. (b. 1835, see bio in *Memoirs*) completes cistern for store**
	Dec 28	**Alain L. Metoyer is appointed post master for new Bermuda Post Office**
1878		PEP buys right to operate a ferry on Cane River; **A. Lambre Prud'homme begins operating store for JAP I**
1879	Feb 5	**Bermuda P. O. discontinued**
c. 1880		**Office (006) and north addition (003) constructed at store; attic extended**
1880		JAP is director newly- established Merchants and Planters Protective Union

Oakland Prud'homme's Store Time Line

1882		Texas & Pacific Railroad built through Natchitoches Parish with station at Cypress
1883	Jan 12	John D. W. Sero appointed post master for new Bermuda P.O.
	Aug 21	Alain L. Metoyer appointed post master for Bermuda P. O.
	Dec 26	Marie Noelie Prud'homme born
c. 1885		**North shed (003) of store enlarged**
1887	Aug	Work begins on "Tap Line" railroad from Cypress to Natchitoches
c. 1890		**Uncle Buddy's room (004) created on north side of store**
1896		Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme II (JAP II) born
c. 1900		**Buddy's dressing room (005) constructed**
1903	**Jun 5**	**JAP I appointed post master at Bermuda**
c. 1904		Boll weevil invades upper Louisiana
1906		Old Lecomte town house in Natchitoches dismantled; slate used to re-roof Big House at Oakland; **paneling may have been re- used in store**
1908		Last high water at Oakland (because of damming of Cane River)
c. 1908		**South additions (001, 007, 008) to store constructed**
1910	Jul 6	Prud'hommes acquire a Ford automobile
1912		Iron bridge built over Cane River
1916	Oct 5	Jules Lecomte Prud'homme, "Uncle Buddy," dies
1919	Feb 17	JAP I dies
1923	Oct 20	Elisa Lecomte Prud'homme dies
1924		**Bermuda P.O. relocated from Lambre's to Prud'homme's Store**
	Aug 9	JAP II marries Rosalie Keator
1927		Old mule barn/stables burn down; **north shed of store comes into use as a place for curing meat.**
1936		Dams create Cane River Lake; La. Hwy. 1 paved with concrete from Alexandria to Natchitoches
c. 1937		Rural electrification comes to Cane River area; **allows installation of an icebox and lights in store**
c. 1941		Last cotton ginned at Oakland

Oakland Prud'homme's Store Time Line

1941	Dec 31	Mrs. PPP II (Marie Laure Cloutier) Prud'homme dies
1945	summer	Grandma and Grandpa Mayo Keator come to live at Oakland
1948	May 21	PPP II dies
c. 1949		Tractors replace mules at Oakland
c. 1950		**Two new gasoline pumps installed at store**
1955	Feb	Grandma Keator dies
	Nov	Grandpa Keator dies
1958		Filming of John Ford's *Horse Soldiers*
1962	**Feb**	**JAP II retires as Bermuda postmaster**
1967	**Jul 14**	**Bermuda P. O. closes**
1980		New concrete bridge built across Cane River
1982	**Fall**	**Prud'homme's Store closed**
1984		Prud'homme's auction farm equipment
1988		Oakland named Bicentennial Farm
	Jun 13	JAP II dies
1993		Congressionally- mandated study of Cane River area completed
1994	Nov 2	Public Law 103- 449 passed by Congress creating Cane River Creole National Historical Park and the Cane River National Heritage Area
1997		Prud'hommes sell Oakland Plantation to NPS
1998	Jun	Prud'hommes vacate Oakland

Physical Description

This section contains a systematic accounting of all features, materials, and spaces according to age, significance, and general integrity. Materials analysis, physical investigation, and a comprehensive condition assessment of Prud'homme's Store were conducted in 1998, and data and analysis from those investigations have greatly informed the present study. Details of the findings from those investigations have been incorporated freely into the present report; see Appendix A for Barbara A. Yokum's "Materials Analysis and Physical Investigation" and Appendix B for Ali Miri's "Historic Structure Assessment Reports" on Prud'homme's Store.

Prud'homme's Store is a one- story, wood- framed structure set on brick piers, measuring approximately 41'- 5" by 57'- 5" and containing just over 2,000 square feet of floor space, including the front porch. The structure consists of the original end- gabled building (c. 1870) plus a series of additions that brought the structure to its

Note: A plan of the existing structure can be found at the end of this section.

Figure 13 View of Store from northeast. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 14 View of Store from southwest. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

present form and configuration by the early twentieth century.

Not used as a store for nearly twenty years, the building remains in sound condition, in spite of significant deterioration of the front and back porches and of portions of the additions.

Historic Character

Vernacular design and construction broadly define the character of Prud'homme's Store. Like most such buildings, including the store at Magnolia Plantation, the Oakland store is a simple and utilitarian structure that was built in response to specific needs and circumstances, with little consideration of architectural style or refinement of detail. With the exception of the office and part of the south addition, the several additions which characterized the store by the early 1900s, are, if anything, even more utilitarian in nature than was the original store.

Several aspects of the present building contribute to the vernacular character of the store. The reuse of materials from older buildings is significant and most prominent in some of the counters and shelving in the main store and in the paneling that was added at the east end of Room 004. Windows, siding, hardware, and woodwork were also relocated and reused from one part of the store to another as the various additions were made.

Also significant to the overall vernacular character of the building is the craftsmanship exhibited in various aspects of the building's construction and maintenance over the years. The main store (002), the office (006), and record room (007) were well- built, if simply designed; some of the later additions (e.g. 001A, 003 and 005) amount to little more than sheds and are devoid of interior finishes beyond a wooden floor. In particular, the manner in which the Prud'hommes repaired and maintained the building is a significant aspect of the

building's historic character as it evolved after World War II. Features such as the use of two or three pieces of glass to replace single broken panes in the back door, the use of seven- foot doors in seven- and- a- half- foot openings, and the mixture of shutter types and styles around the building are all indicative of an approach to construction, repairs, and maintenance that focused entirely on utilitarian considerations while virtually ignoring any aesthetic considerations.

Associated Site Features

Facing nearly due east, the building is set less than 40 feet from the main road (La. 494) where it intersects the old farm lane that bisected Oakland Plantation. The store is also nearly opposite one of the few bridges over Cane River, which brought additional traffic (and business) to the store from across the river after the first bridge was constructed in 1912.

Cistern: The cistern is approximately 40½ inches square, constructed of brick, and rises 29 to 32 inches above grade. The exterior faces are stuccoed and there is a small overflow (approximately 8" by 7" and covered by an iron grill) near the base on the north side. An iron pump, which is historic but whose date of installation has not been established, is still in place on top of the cistern's wooden cover. "Mast. Foos & Co., Springfield, O., 191 [sic]" is imprinted on the iron body of the pump.

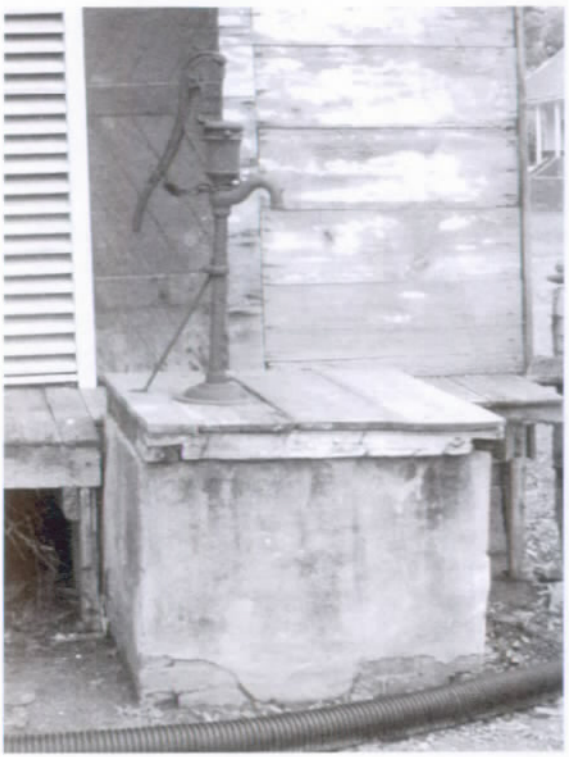


Figure 15 Cistern at northeast corner of Store, built by J. C. Keyser in 1877. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)

The cistern is the oldest of the landscape features associated with the site. Built in 1877, the cistern itself is not visible in the 1878 photograph of the store, although the gutter that directed roof run- off into it is visible. The store cistern was not included in the archaeological survey and testing project at Oakland in 1998, and its internal condition has not been documented.

Gasoline Pumps: Installed in 1950 or 1951, the two gasoline pumps in front of the store are set on concrete pads. Metal cases are rusting; but reset cranks, hoses and dial covers are intact. Ad plates below display windows are missing.

Figure 16 Gas pumps, installed c. 1950 in front of the store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2000)*

Figure 17 Typical brick foundation pier with original wood blocking. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Privy: There was also reported to have been an outhouse or privy associated with the store, but it has not been located.[58]

Foundation

The store is set on a series of 36 low brick piers, most of which are surmounted by large cypress blocks. Piers are generally about 8" by 17" or 8" by 21", except at the front porch where larger piers 12" by 16" and 12" by 24") are present, and at the rear additions where smaller piers (12" by 12") are present.

The piers establish a sill height of about fourteen inches above grade on the south side of the building and eight to ten inches above grade on the north side. However, comparison of the 1878 photograph of the store with mid-twentieth century photographs and existing conditions shows that the store originally sat perhaps two feet off the ground, versus less than fourteen inches today. Although this elevation in grade level around the perimeter of the store (especially around its east end) could have occurred naturally during some of the floods that swept through before the early 1900s, it is more likely that it occurred during grading and later paving of the road along Cane River, perhaps in the 1910s or 1920s.

The use of cypress blocks on top of masonry piers can be documented elsewhere in the locale; the use of cedar and cypress blocks as piers in direct contact with the ground has also been documented elsewhere across the South.[59] At Prud'homme's Store, these blocks may have been used as a way of isolating the sills from the potentially- damaging effects of rising damp in the masonry piers. Blocking is four to five inches thick and generally conforms to the dimensions of the masonry piers.

58. Transcript of interview with Kenneth Prud'homme, 14 April 1997, p. 4.

59. Cedar Grove Plantation (c. 1840) in Columbia County, Georgia, still retains some of its original cedar piers.

There have been a variety of alterations to the piers, especially those around the perimeter of the building where uncontrolled runoff from the roof has caused erosion and deterioration of many of the piers. In several instances, single blocks of cypress are replaced by a 2" by 8" plate and a trio of 4" x 4" blocks, all of which probably represent twentieth century repairs. Historic piers at the southwest corner of the building and at both corners of the front porch were replaced by temporary blocking on concrete block during recent NPS stabilization of the structure.

Figure 18 View of floor framing beneath original building. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Structural System

Except for some hand- hewn sills and sash-sawn lumber reused from other buildings, the entire building is framed with circular- sawn lumber. Dimensions of lumber and the types of connections used vary between the oldest parts of the building (002 and 006) and the later additions. The framing for the original store and the earliest additions uses non- standard dimensions (i.e., 3" by 8", 2" by 3", 2½ " by 3¾", etc.), with a combination of mortise- and-tenon and cut- nail connections typical of the Reconstruction period. Later additions used standard dimensions (i.e., 2" by 6", 2" by 8", etc.), with mortised connections replaced by connections made entirely with wire nails.

Figure 19 View west in attic of store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Roof

It is thought that the original roofing of the main store (002), the office addition (006), and the north shed (003) were all done with wood shingles, presumably cypress, laid in typical fashion over rough- sawn, widely- spaced roof lath (i.e., sheathing). The original wood- shingled roofs have now been replaced with standing- seam, galvanized roofing, except over 003 and 004, which are both covered with corrugated sheet metal roofing. The original wood-shingled roofing remains intact over 003.

Figure 20 View of south shed of roof with original ventilator (c. 1900). (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)

By the time the south additions were made in the early 1890s, the domestic production of sheet metal products had made metal roofing much cheaper and widely available so that the original roofing for those additions was almost certainly the standing- seam, galvanized steel roofing that remains in place on the building. Probably at the same time, the older wood-shingled roofs and decking were removed and replaced with the present solid wood decking (boards eight to ten inches wide) and standing- seam metal roofs.

The pair of sheet- metal ventilators located at the ridge line of the main gabled roof were most likely installed at the same time as the standing- seam metal roofs. Half- round gutters and round downspouts, visible in some of the early photographs, were installed at this time as well.

There has been no laboratory paint analysis of any coatings on the metal roofing; but surviving paint suggests that, historically, the metal was painted silver.

Doors

Door openings are variable in size and configuration. Heights range from 7'- 5" at the oldest openings (D- 1, D- 6, D- 9) to 6'- 8" in the most recent openings (D- 8, D- 10). Door hinges are mostly fixed- pin, butt type. Rim locks (i.e., surface- mounted) were used at most doors. Except for D- 6, all existing doors are historic.

D- 1: Double doors in 4- 8" by 7'- 5" opening; each door with six lights above two vertical panels; 1¼" stock in stiles and rails; three 3" by 3" butt hinges on each door; rim lock with porcelain knob. Transom is 1'- 4" by 4'- 10", five lights; top hinged with wooden latch on wall above opening; no shutters; ten one- inch iron bars installed vertically on exterior. Double shutters cover opening; each shutter built up with 1" by 8" vertical boards with rabbetted edges on exterior face and 1" by 5" diagonal boards on interior; hinged with 3" by 3" butt hinges; large iron hooks as stays on each leaf of shutters.

D- 2: Opening is 3'- 6" by 7'- 0"; shutters only, built up like those at front doors (D- 1).

D- 3: Opening is 3'- 6" by 7'- 0"; no doors; shutters like D- 2; pivoting iron bar for locks, 43" long.

D- 4: Opening is 2'- 8" by 7'- 0"; no evidence that a door ever existed at this opening.

D- 5: Opening is 2'- 8" by 7'- 0"; door is pine, 1" stock for stiles and rails; four vertical panels; rimlock on inside face, knob missing.

D- 6: Opening is 3'- 0" by 7'- 5"; door is 3'- 0" by 6'- 10"; Kenneth Prud'homme stated that he and his brother installed this door after 1960 but not as a replacement for an earlier door. The historic door for this opening is now leaning behind the counters on the north side of the store (Rm. 002). Original wooden door is constructed of ¾" by 10½" tongue- and- groove boards; 3" by 2½" butt hinges.

D- 7: Opening is 2'- 8" by 7'- 0"; door is four-panel pine, similar to D- 5; porcelain knob intact; 3- ½" by 3½" butt hinges.

D- 8: Opening is 2'- 6" by 6'- 8"; door is constructed of 1" by 9" (to 10- ¾") tongue- and-groove boards, 2½" by 3" butt hinges; rim lock with mineral knob; knob missing on exterior.

D- 9: Opening is 3'- 0" by 7'- 6"; interior door is 7'- 0" with the gap at the top filled by leather; nine lights over two vertical panels; moldings similar to front doors; some broken lights have been repaired using multiple pieces of glass. The existing metal latch on the door may not be original, given what appears to be the "ghost" of an earlier latch; the existing latch (at right) is similar to gravity latches found in the Big House and was probably salvaged from another building. A thin metal rod is mounted on the hinge side of the door by two small brackets on the interior face of the door and one on the interior casing. The mechanism appears to

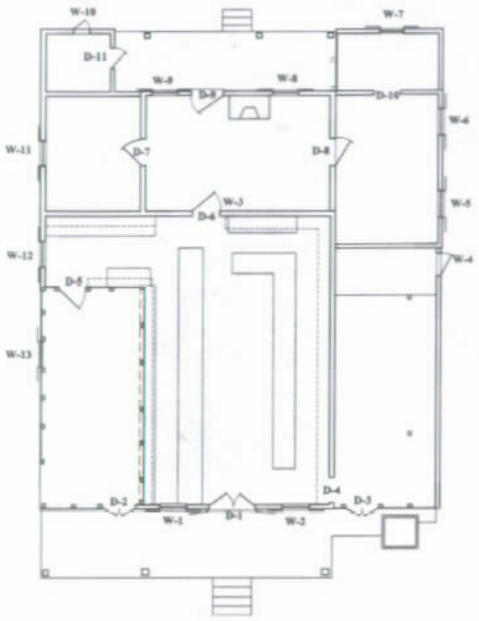


Figure 21 Doors and Windows, Prud'homme's Store. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 22 View of front doors. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

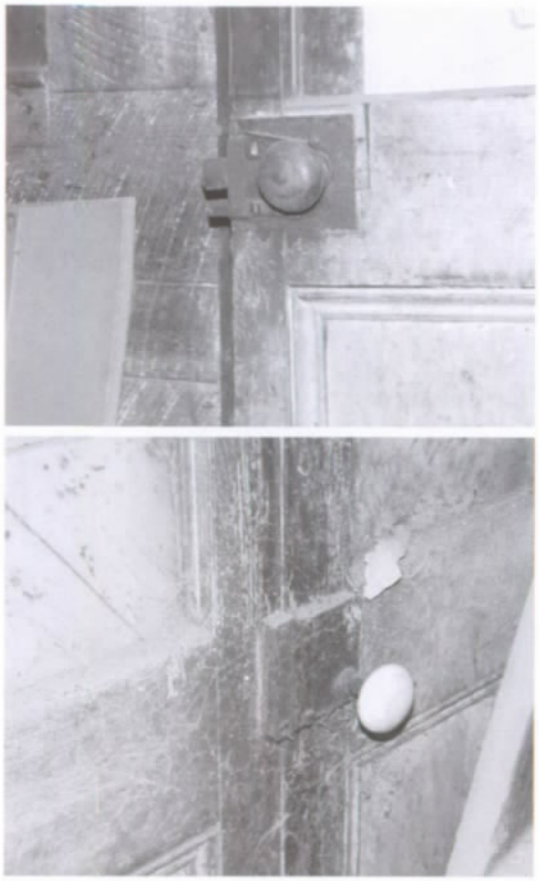


Figure 23 *Top, view of spring latch at back door; bottom, view of rim lock with porcelain knob at front door. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

function as a door opener. Exterior shutter at this opening is full height, composed of vertical tongue- and- groove boards, 3½", 8½" and 11" wide; hung with 4" by 4" butt hinges replacing original strap hinges; existing Yale lock replaces original rim lock; large iron shutter hook is missing; metal pull is mounted on outside face of door.

D- 10: Opening is 2'- 8" by 6'- 8", replacing original window; door is constructed of three-inch- wide, double- beaded, tongue- and-groove boards, similar to that used for paneling in some other parts of the building; there is no lock set, only a simple wooden turn latch mounted on the door casing.

D- 11: Opening is 2'- 0" by 6'- 5"; door is constructed of ¾" by 5" tongue- and- groove boards, similar to that use in flooring in some parts of the building. On inside face of door are pencilled notations: "June 27, 1912/ hand 1 spade/ & shovel rehand by putting in new handles/ cleaned out June 28, 1912."

Windows

Windows are variable in size and configuration; most are double- hung with a fixed top sash. There are no sash pulleys, but most windows are fitted with wood or metal sash stays. All are fitted on the exterior with either louvered or solid shutters except the interior opening at W- 3; some louvered shutters on south side have been covered by solid boards. All existing window sash and shutters are historic. Several of the doors and windows were fitted with temporary ventilating louvers during NPS stabilization of the structures in 1996.

W- 1: Sash is 2'- 8" by 5'- 6", 6/6; shutter construction is similar to door shutters at D- 1; hung with 3½" by 3½" butt hinges; sliding sill latch on left- hand shutter; metal lock bar closes both shutters.

W- 2: Sash is 2'- 8" by 5'- 6", 6/6; shutters and other details like W- 1.

Figure 24 View of front window, W-2, with temporary ventilator. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

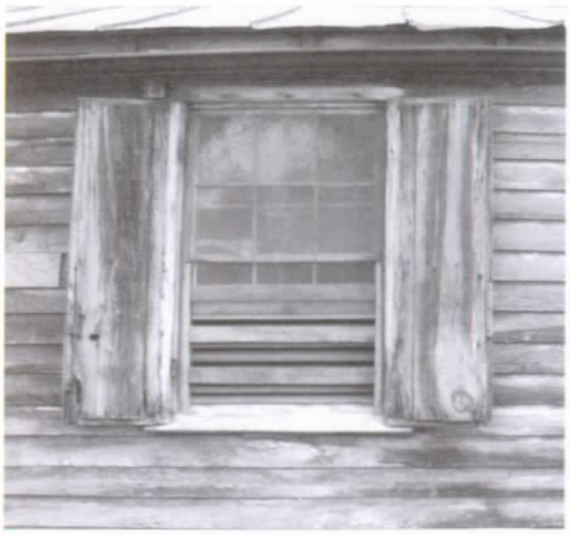


Figure 25 View of window W-12 in south addition. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

W- 3: Fixed sash is 1'- 9" by 2'- 6"; frame is painted black; sash appears to be recycled from furniture or showcase.

W- 4: Opening is 2'- 6" by 4'- 0"; no sash originally but opening closed with six 1" by 2" wooden bars. Shutters are missing, but existing hinge pins indicate shutter similar to that at W-6.

W- 5: Sash is 2'- 4" by 5'- 5", 6/6. Shutters have fixed louvers with two- inch slats.

W- 6: Sash is 2'- 8" by 5'- 5", 6/6, probably relocated from original opening in north wall of main store (002). Opening closed on exterior by single, solid, wooden shutter hung on nineteen- inch iron strap hinges. Lower part of opening is also protected by four wooden slats, 1"by 2."

W- 7: Sash is 2'- 4" by 3'- 9", 6/6; exterior shutters with adjustable louvers, 1½" slats.

W- 8: Sash is 2'- 8" by 5'- 5", 6/6, probably reused from original opening in main store (002); shutters have adjustable louvers with 2¼" slats. Three wooden slats are mounted horizontally as burglar bars in the lower half of the opening.

W- 9: Sash is 2'- 10" by 4'- 5", 6/6; shutters like those at W- 8. Three wooden slats are mounted horizontally as burglar bars in the lower half of the opening.

W- 10: Opening is 1'- 8" by 2'- 6", no sash; opening closed by solid shutter made with five- inch, tongue- and- groove boards.

Figure 26 View of W-6 on north side of building. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

W- 11: Sash is 2'- 10" by 4'- 5", 6/6; shutters are not in place but are stored in crawl space beneath Room 008; movable louvers with solid boards mounted on exterior face. An air- conditioning unit has been installed in this window, along with metal burglar bars.

W- 12: Sash is 2'- 10" by 4'- 5", 6/6; louvered shutters are missing some slats and have been boarded on exterior with left- hand shutter also boarded on interior. Three wooden slats, 2½" by ¾", are mounted as burglar guards on the lower part of the windows.

W- 13: Sash is 2'- 10" x 4'- 5", 6/6; louvered shutters like those at W- 12, boarded on inside face. Three wooden slats, 2- 1/2" by 3/4", are mounted as burglar guards on the lower part of the windows.

W- 14: Top- hinged, transom sash, 3'- 8" x 1'- 2", five lights; re- used from another building.

W- 15- 16: Attic gable- end openings are 2'- 6" by 4'- 0", originally fitted with four- panel louvered shutters, hinged opening; replaced with temporary single panel louvered shutter, fixed in place.

Exterior Finishes

With two exceptions, the exterior of the building is finished with six- inch clapboards laid with an approximate five- inch exposure. The exceptions are the walls of the front porch, where the boards are laid flush, and the north end of the back porch, where the outside of the south wall of 005 has no finish at all. As additions were made to the building, siding and other materials were often relocated, confusing the apparent chronology of the building's painted finishes. However, identification of the type of attachment (cut nails or wire nails) for specific boards or areas helps establish the chronology of the building's development.Window and door casing consists of plain boards, one inch thick and three to four inches wide. There are no drip caps or other trim. Trim was painted red initially (with white window sash). In the early twentieth century, greys and greens were typically used for trim; but by World War II, much of the trim had been painted white.

Historically, the exterior clapboard was whitewashed; but in the early twentieth century, the lower portions of the walls to about 24 inches were painted red. The building appears not to

have been repainted since before World War II.

In addition to the now- missing sign for "Bermuda P. O.," the front of the store featured a variety of other signage, some of which remains in place. These range from advertisements for products like Winston cigarettes and Black Draught laxatives to signage announcing "J. Alphonse Prud'homme, Farm Bureau Insured."Of special note on the exterior walls of the building was the large billboard sign on the south side that is visible in mid- twentieth century photographs of the building.

Figure 27 View of northeast corner of building, showing mixture of exterior finishes. Arrow notes original detail of post top. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Front Porch

The original store (002) included a full- width front porch framed on 3" x 8" joists and hewn end sills that are extensions of the sills on each side of the original building. When the north addition (003) was added, the floor was extended to the north, adjoining the cistern. Later addition of the rooms on the south side of the existing building included extension of the porch to the south as well. Framing for both of these additions was made with 1- ¾" by 5½" joists. Existing flooring is seven- eighths to one inch thick and eleven to twelve inches wide, all of which is attached with wire nails and date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

The 7" by 7" posts that support each corner of the gabled portion of the porch appear to be original. Some of the original drip cap and trim at the top of each post is missing. A plain 4" by

Figure 28 View of front porch ceiling. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 29 View north on back porch. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)

Figure 30 View of original column base on back porch. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

4" post without trim supports the outside corner of the shed- roof over the south extension of the front porch. The shed roof at the north end is simply cantilevered from the front side of the north shed addition.

The ceiling of the original portion of the porch is formed by exposed 3" by 8" joists and the underside of the attic flooring. A small, screened vent opens into 001A at the top of the wall near the south end of the porch. It corresponds to a similar vent that runs from 001A to the back porch.

A short "skirt" of three runs of boards is hung from the headers that support the attic and roof framing across the front of the porch and at each end. All of this skirting appears to be contemporaneous with the extension of the attic after 1878 and to pre- date the north and south additions. The skirting across the front was once painted and lettered "P. Phanor Prud'homme," but nearly all of that paint has now disappeared.

Back Porch

The original porch is framed on a hewn sill approximately 7" by 7" and a sawn joist 2¾" by 7½", both of which run the length of the porch. A short extension at the south end of the porch

was constructed along with the tool room (008). Most of the floor boards are installed with cut nails and are presumably original. The main portion of the deck is formed by boards one inch thick and five and a half to seven inches wide; the extension to the south is

decked with tongue- and- groove boards, one inch thick and five inches wide, similar to those used in 006 and elsewhere on the interior.

Only one of the four original posts that support the attic and roof survives. Located at the northwest corner of the porch, that post is approximately 4" by 5" and features a distinctive "foot" similar to the detail found on the porch posts on the Big House. It is formed by a two-inch- diameter semicircular hole that was intended to reduce the amount of end grain that is in direct contact with the porch deck, thereby reducing moisture penetration. The two center posts have been removed and replaced by a single post placed near the center of the span. It is not clear when the 4" by 4" post near the southwest corner of the porch was installed, although it is apparently older than the center post.

Originally there were two sets of steps to the back porch, one on each side of a fence that ran from the carriage house to the middle of the back porch. When the old wire fences were replaced with the existing split- rail fence after filming of "The Horse Soldiers" in 1958, the fence was relocated to its present position and the present brick steps constructed.

Also of interest is the small screened vent at the top of the east wall next to Room 008. It connects to a wooden interior soffit that runs through 007 and provides ventilation for the south shed (001A).

Store (002)

This room always functioned as the main retail space for Prud'homme's Store, with the other interior spaces not generally accessible to the public. Except for the installation of electricity in the late 1930s and more- recent minor repairs to the flooring, the space has been little altered since the last major building campaign at the store around 1900, when part of the south wall was removed for the construction of 001B.

Floors: Floor joists for this room are generally 3" by 8" set 27 to 36 inches on centers. Flooring consists of tongue- and- groove boards, one inch thick and 9½ to 13¾ inches wide, generally in lengths of ten feet, and blind- nailed.

Walls: Wall framing typically uses 4" by 6" corner posts and 2½" by 3¾", circular- sawn studs, set on 28 to 32 inch centers. Walls are finished with plain boards (not tongue- and- groove), nine to thirteen inches wide, all of which have been whitewashed. Two early openings in these walls have been closed. On the north wall, near the north end of 003, is the outline of an original (c. 1870) window opening. On the west wall, above and to the left of the door on that wall, is a small opening, now closed, that apparently pre- dated the addition of the office (006). Its purpose has not been identified, although it may have simply been for ventilation, a necessity if kerosene and other such oils were being sold in the store prior to the addition of the north shed (003).

Figure 31 View east in 002. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Ceiling: The ceiling, which is approximately fourteen feet high, is composed of the exposed attic floor joists, 3" by 8" and 28 to 32 inches on centers, and the exposed underside of the attic floor boards. The attic is floored with plain boards (not tongue- and- groove), one inch thick and 9- ½ to 11½ inches wide.

There are four historic openings in the ceiling. The largest, measuring about 28" by 62", is located next to and parallels the front wall of the store. It is fitted with a wooden ladder that provides access for attic storage. The ladder, which was probably installed when the attic was enlarged about 1880, is hinged at the south end of the opening and was originally raised and lowered by means of a rope and pulley mechanism. At some early date, the opening was lengthened by about two inches and the ladder reset. This was probably done so that the ladder would clear added shelving above the opening into 003.

The other openings are much smaller, each less than eighteen inches square. The one closest to the west wall may have been made to accommodate a flue for a stove. Replacement of roof decking when the present metal roof was installed has eliminated clues there that might have confirmed the use of this opening for that purpose.

The other two openings may have been the only way to access the original (c. 1870) attic. One is just in front of the small opening near the west wall and the other is about eight feet from the east wall. Both were made redundant by the ladder at the east of the store.

Trim: Window and door openings are trimmed with plain- board trim, laid flush. Window trim is generally 1" by 2¾"; door trim is generally 1" by 4". Door and window stops are unmolded.

Main Counters: There are two main counters in this room, both about 36 inches high. The south counter is about 30½ inches wide and is about 27 feet long. The north counter, which is L- shaped, is about 26- ½ inches wide and also around 27 feet long. Both are set about 43 inches from the outside walls of the store. The counters are paneled on the front but open in the rear; if any shelving was present underneath, it no longer exists. A single small drawer, about fifteen inches wide and four and a half inches deep, is located under the south counter. Divided into five sections, it held phonograph needles, threads, and other small sundries. Both of these main counters are of similar construction using cut nails and wide (up to 1" by 16") boards over a rough frame of 2" by 3" and 2" by 4" lumber. Fronts are constructed with recessed panels and the unpainted tops are hand- planed. The character of the material (hand planing, paint residues, material dimensions) confirms that much of the material was salvaged from other structures. What are apparently separate sections in each counter are most likely the result of the relatively short lengths of the salvaged material (a characteristic of antebellum saw milling) and do not necessarily offer clues to later alterations to the counters.

It is likely that both of these counters were in place within the first ten or twenty years of the building's existence, although both underwent alterations as the building itself was altered and expanded. The first such alteration would have occurred when the north shed (003) was added around 1880. This addition necessitated removal of about three and a half feet at the east end of the north counter. The office (006) was created around the same time and it was probably then that the short el at the west end of the north counter was created, perhaps using some of the material removed from the east end. Similarly, when Room 001B was constructed around 1900, the south counter was shortened by about twelve to eighteen inches.

Figure 32 View of shelving for dry goods on south wall. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

A section of counter top without a base is hinged to the south end of the el of the north counter so that it could be raised and lowered to allow passage from behind the counters. At the west end of the south counter is a small

wooden gate, hinged to the west wall of the room, which closed off the post office section of the store. The "pigeon- hole" post office box originally sat at the west end of this counter; a glass cabinet that held spools of thread rests at the east end of this counter.

Shelving: In addition to the main counters on the floor of the room, banks of shelving above narrow counters line the south, north, and west walls, with the banks on the north and south walls the oldest. The north and south banks of shelving were originally about 24 feet long and terminated at windows located on each side at the rear of the store.

The south range of shelving is the least altered, although there were some changes to the west end when Room 001B was created about 1900. Constructed with 11" stock and cut nails, it features a narrow counter about 15½ inches wide beneath six shelves arranged in five bays and rising to about 8'- 9" above the floor. Beneath the counter were nine drawers, each about 12" by 24", although only four remain in place. According to Kenneth Prud'homme, these were used for "various and sundry articles of clothing" as well as for fireworks. A small glass-fronted cabinet is also built into the shelving on the south wall and originally was used to display cosmetics.

The range of shelving on the north wall is of similar construction to that on the south wall, but paint "ghosts" and relocated cleats indicate that the north range has undergone more alterations. At its east end, construction of the door to the north shed (003) necessitated removal of

Figure 33 View of frame on north wall; missing drawers held nuts, bolts, and other hardware. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 34 View of north wall, showing shelves for groceries and covered bins for bread *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

part of the original shelving. In addition, installation of a series of small, glass- fronted cabinets required relocation of several runs of shelving along the north wall. These cabinets are slightly different in size and configuration; two are located on the second shelf and two on the lower shelf. The longest cabinet on the lower shelf is divided into two compartments and was used for candy and gingerbread; the other cabinet on the lower shelf held bread. The left- hand cabinet on the second shelf also was used for bread while the other cabinet on the second shelf was used for tobacco products. A fifth cabinet, located near the center of the wall, is perhaps the oldest of these cabinets; its use has not been identified.

At the west end of the north wall, the shelving was extended after closure of the window on that wall around 1890. Of special interest is the bank of small drawers that held nuts, bolts, screws and other hardware.

The shelving along the west wall was probably installed after construction of the office (006) and may not have been built until after construction of Room 004 around 1890. It also includes a counter about 16½ inches wide by seven feet long.

Utilities: Although the store may have had a wood or coal burning stove in its earliest days, through most of the twentieth century, it remained unheated. Only after the Prud'hommes began using propane gas for agricultural purposes in the late 1950s did they install a small, gas- fired space heater in the store itself.

Figure 35 View of gate that separates store from post office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 36 View of ceiling-hung rack used for match storage. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)

Lighting, too, was minimal, with natural daylight generally providing the only illumination for the store's interior. Ceiling- hung, kerosene lights were used as necessary, although the store was rarely occupied after sundown.

When rural electrification became a reality around 1937, some minimal wiring was installed in the store. Lighting included three ceiling-

Figure 37 View to southwest of post office added along with 001 around 1908. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

hung fixtures, each holding a single unshaded light bulb. All three have similar equipment, including fabric- insulated wiring and switched brass lamp holders. One is located at the east end of both the north and south counters; the third is over the west counter. A light switch near the front doors operated the lights at the gas pumps in front of the store.

There are no convenience receptacles in the store except for a single ceiling- hung extension that operated the store's only refrigerator box. Installed in the late 1930s primarily for Coca-Colas and other soft drinks, it was also used for the storage of cheeses and sausages. That refrigerator box is now in the possession of Kenneth Prud'homme's daughter.

Miscellaneous Features: In addition to the shelving around the walls of the stores, a variety of merchandise was hung from the ceiling joists. Most of these items were simply hung from nails; but near the southwest corner of the room, two wooden racks are suspended from the ceiling. According to Kenneth Prud'homme, the larger of the racks was for brooms and mops, while the smaller rack was used to store matches, a hazardous item prone to spontaneous combustion.

Post Office (001B)

This space was created along with the other rooms on the south side of the building around 1900 by removing part of the south wall of the original store (002). When the Bermuda Post Office was in operation at Prud'homme's Store, this room functioned as a sort of mail room for the store.

Floor: Flooring is 1" by 5" tongue- and- groove.

Walls: Walls are finished with two different materials. The east and west walls are finished with seven and a half to eight inch tongue- and-groove boards, installed horizontally. The south wall is finished with three- inch, double-beaded, tongue- and- groove boards, also installed horizontally. None of the boards have been painted or varnished.

Of special note are the pencilled notations on the east wall. The date "7/31/08" appears to confirm that this room and its existing finishes were in place shortly after the turn of the twentieth century.

Ceiling: The ceiling is finished with three- inch, double- beaded, tongue- and- groove boards, similar to those used on the south wall and on parts of the walls in 007. These follow the slope of the roof rafters except along the north side

where the venting soffit runs between the back porch to the north shed (001A).

Trim: The same type of plain, flush- mounted trim used at doors and windows in the main store is also used in this room.

Shelving: The shelving in this room is slightly different from that in the main store. Boards are generally full 1" x 12" (1" x 11" stock was generally used in the main store shelving), and all outside edges have been "eased" by hand-planing.

On the west wall, a 25- inch- wide counter, approximately 11½ feet long, extends into the space defined as 002. Above it are four shelves, the top shelf 7'- 11" from the floor.

On the east wall is a low counter, 24 inches wide and about 4½ feet long. Above it are two shelves, ten inches wide and about 80 inches long.

South Shed (001A)

Constructed around 1900, the interior of this space was never finished with wall or ceiling boards. The siding on the south wall of the original store was probably removed when this room was built and then reused on the exterior of the building. One of the most significant features of this room was the ice house, which was located in the southeast corner. Accessed by a door on the front porch, it was reported by Kenneth Prud'homme to have been wood-framed, lined with metal, and walls and doors insulated by sawdust. It was removed after 1960

Figure 38 *View to southeast of post office. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

and there is virtually no evidence of its size or configuration in the existing building.

Flooring: Floor joists are generally 2" by 8". Flooring is 1" by 5" tongue- and- groove, similar to that used in 006.

Walls and Ceiling: These were historically left unfinished. Note that the original framing of the south wall of the original store (c. 1870) is exposed on the north wall of this room.

Shelving: Three shelves, approximately seven and a half feet long, are located near the center of the south wall of this room. The shelving appears to be historic, wire nails indicating a construction date in the twentieth century.

Lighting: The only lighting, besides natural daylight through the window, is furnished by a

Figure 39 Left, view west in south shed (001); bottom, view east in south shed. (NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)

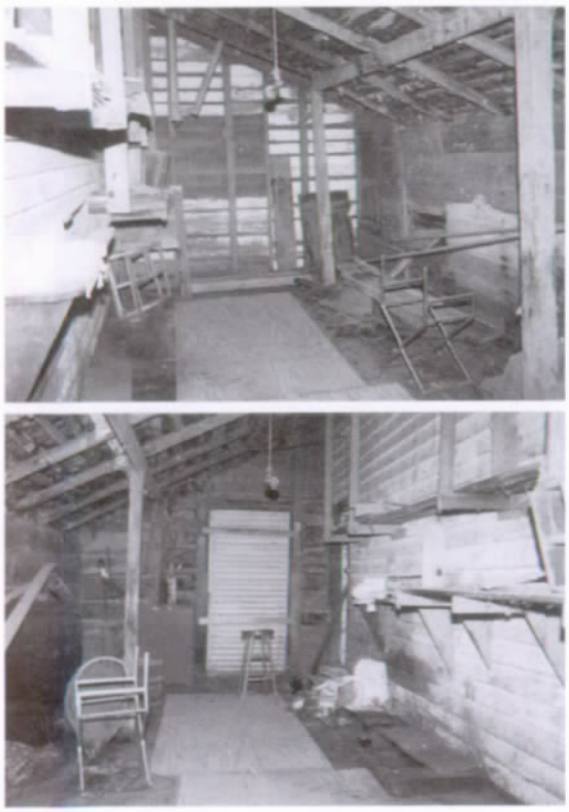


Figure 40 Top, view west in north shed; bottom, view east in north shed. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

ceiling- hung fixture, similar to those found in the main store (002).

Miscellaneous: In the northwest corner of the room is a low bin, roughly framed by 1 by 12s. According to the Prud'hommes, it was used for temporary storage of pecans that they purchased from area residents and then resold to a dealer in Natchitoches.

North Shed (003)

Connected to the main store (002) by a simple cased opening, this room may have been the first addition made to the store, around 1880. It may have been designed originally to hold kerosene, other flammables, and non- food merchandise.

The room was expanded once or twice, with its original configuration demarcated by the posts and header that run part of the length of the room and by the change in floor levels at the west end of the room.

Floor: The flooring in this room consists of plain boards (not tongue- and- groove), ten to eleven inches wide. The west end of the floor, which was framed along with Room 004, is about eight inches lower than the floor in the remainder of the space.

Walls: As with the south shed (001A), the walls in this space were generally unfinished. The south wall, however, is significant (and unique) in that it is the still covered by clapboards that formed the exterior of the store's original (c.

Ceiling: The ceiling is formed by the exposed rafters and decking of the roof. Visible are the original wood shingles now covered on the outside by corrugated sheet metal. Except in this room, all of the wood shingles and associated decking were replaced when the present standing- seam roofing on solid decking was installed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Lighting: A single ceiling- hung fixture, similar to those in the main store (002), is located near the center of the space.

Shelving: A series of wooden shelves and racks occupy the south wall of this space. Historic uses have not been determined, but all are constructed with machine- cut nails, indicating a construction date in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Miscellaneous: Of particular interest is the wooden kerosene tank and pump, which date to the nineteenth century. Approximately 30" by 31" by 39", it is marked "S. E. Bowser & Co., Oil Tank & Pump Works, Ft. Wayne, IN." Nearby is a second kerosene tank, which has a metal case (painted red) and capacity of 150 gallons. It dates to around 1950, according to Kenneth Prud'homme.

Office (006)

One of the earliest additions to the original store, this room was constructed as a plantation office by Alphonse Prud'homme I around 1880.

Figure 41 View south in office (006). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Floor: Flooring is 5¼" tongue- and- groove boards.

Walls: The east and south walls are finished with 1" by 6¾" boards that were originally used as exterior siding on the west end of the store (002). The west and north walls are finished with boards (not tongue- and- groove), ten to thirteen inches wide, similar to those used in the store itself.

Ceiling: The ceiling consists of the exposed joists and attic floor decking.

Windows: There were originally three windows in this room, but the windows on the north and south walls were replaced by doors to 004 and 007 respectively. The window on the south side of the present back door to this room was probably installed when the construction of 007 eliminated the window on the south wall. The window on the north side of the fireplace is an original opening.

Figure 42 View north in office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 43 View of phone booth in southeast corner of office. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Heating: The original store (002) may have been heated by a wood- or coal- burning stove; but, when Alphonse Prud'homme I built the office, he included a typical French Creole brick fireplace in its construction. The firebox is 38 inches wide and 31 inches high, with a ¾" by 4" cast- iron lintel, and set in a stuccoed base 28 inches deep, 54 inches wide, and 51 inches high. The exposed chimney stack is about 18" by 26".

In the early twentieth century, Phanor Prud'homme II installed a kerosene heater in the southwest corner of the room. The hole, now patched, for the flue to this heater is visible in the ceiling above this area. When the propane tanks were installed, mainly for agricultural use, the Prud'hommes replaced the kerosene heater with a gas space heater and the old fireplace opening was covered with sheet metal.

Lighting: Kerosene lighting would have been used in this room until the installation of electricity. At that time, a single ceiling- hung fixture like those used in the main store and elsewhere in the building was installed over the desk that the Prud'hommes kept beneath the small window on the east wall.

Shelving: Shelving, most of it ¾" by 11¼", has been installed along parts of the north and east walls. The top shelf runs the length of the north wall, about 7'- 3" from the floor; on the east wall it is set about 7'- 10" from the floor. A second shelf, about six feet off the floor is installed on the west side of the door to Room 004. A third shelf set about 4'- 10" from the floor and about 23 inches deep is located below the sec-

ond shelf. On the east wall, a second shelf set at six feet off the floor extends 5'- 10" along that wall.

Miscellaneous: According to Kenneth Prud'homme, prior to the installation of telephones at Oakland, they had already utilized telephone technology to create a local "intercom" system that connected the office in the store, the main house, and the doctor's house. This intercom phone was located on the wall between the back door and the south window on the west wall of the office.

When real telephone service came to Oakland, the Prud'hommes constructed a telephone booth in the southeast corner of the office. About 37" by 37" and eight feet high, it is constructed with three- inch, double- beaded, tongue- and- groove boards put together with wire nails. The door and sidelight used on the front (west) side were re- used from some other location and may be contemporaneous with the paneling on the east wall of 004. The door is 1'- 7" by 7'- 6" with ten lights and is flanked by a narrow sidelight with three lights above a solid wooden panel. On the rear (east) wall of the booth, the original telephone wiring is still in place.

On the west wall, near the northwest corner of the room is a single 60- amp, Square D fuse box which was probably part of the original 1930s wiring system.

Uncle Buddy's Room (004)

Entered from the office (006), this room is reported by the Prud'homme family as having been constructed as living quarters for Jules LeComte "Uncle Buddy" Prud'homme. Probably to insure maximum headroom, it was constructed with a floor level about eight inches below that of the office. Its use after Uncle Buddy's death in 1916 has not been documented until it began to be used as a workshop for "Grandpa" Mayo Keator when he lived at Oakland between 1945 and his death in 1955.

Floor: The flooring is three- inch, tongue- and-groove, pine.

Walls: The south wall of the room is finished with the original clapboards from the north wall of 006, relaid as flush siding. Of special interest is the exposed soffit and fascia at the top of the south wall. Although dating to the addition of the office (c. 1880), it probably matched the soffit and fascia on the original store (c. 1870) and is the only intact example of that feature remaining in the building.

The west and north walls of this room are paneled with wide boards (eight to ten inches wide). The east wall was originally paneled with siding removed from the original west end of the north shed (003). At an early date, this wall was covered by the existing unmolded, recessed panels salvaged from another building. The provenance of this paneling has not been established.

Ceiling: The ceiling is formed by the exposed rafters and decking of the roof. Height ranges

Figure 44 View northeast in Uncle Buddy's room (004). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

from around eleven feet along the south wall to about eight feet along the north wall.

Doors and Windows: As it was originally constructed, this room appears to have had a window on the west wall where the door to 005 is now located.

Lighting: Fluorescent light fixtures (non- historic) are hanging from a series of three historic electrical outlets on the ceiling above Keator's work bench.

Miscellaneous: Between the windows on the north wall is a small work bench, 23" by 86", constructed for Grandpa Keator after he moved to Oakland in the summer of 1945. In the northeast corner of the room is an acetylene tank that was also used by him.

Dressing Room (005)

Erroneously referred to as Uncle Buddy's "bathroom," this room is more- appropriately called a dressing room, since there is no evidence that it ever had any sort of plumbing.

Little more than a shed, it has only the rudiments of interior finishes. Flooring is three-inch, tongue- and- groove boards like those used in 004. The south wall is paneled with double- beaded, tongue- and- groove boards; but there is no exterior finish on the outside of the wall.

Nails and a wooden rack near the southeast corner of the room were apparently installed for Buddy's clothing. A small shelf, no longer fully attached, is located at the southwest corner of the room.

When electricity was introduced to Oakland in the late 1930s, the 50- gallon tank and pump at the north end of this room were installed. Powered by a small "Square D" breaker on the east wall, the tank is marked "Mason Sales Co., Natchitoches, LA."

Record Room (007)

Kenneth and Mayo Prud'homme used this room as an office after their father retired. They remembered that Alphonse I had "rat-proofed" it with bead board for storage of his records and books, which included early editions of Diderot's Encyclopedia and other rare volumes that the family had acquired in the early nineteenth century.

Floors: Flooring is 1" by 5" tongue- and-groove boards.

Walls and Ceiling: Walls and ceiling are finished with three types of material. The north and south walls and part of the ceiling are finished with three- inch, double- beaded, tongue- and- groove boards; the remainder of the ceiling is finished with three- inch, plain (unbeaded), tongue- and- groove boards. The east and west walls are finished with 1" by 8" boards.

The ceiling follows the slope of the roof rafters along the south side of the room. On the north side, the ceiling parallels the floor where a boxed chase runs from the vent on the rear porch to the vent on the east wall of the south shed (001A).

Lighting: This room had no overhead lighting. A single duplex receptacle on the west wall may date to the late 1930s, when the electrical system was installed. A single receptacle for a window- mounted air- conditioner was installed next to the window on the south wall in the 1970s.

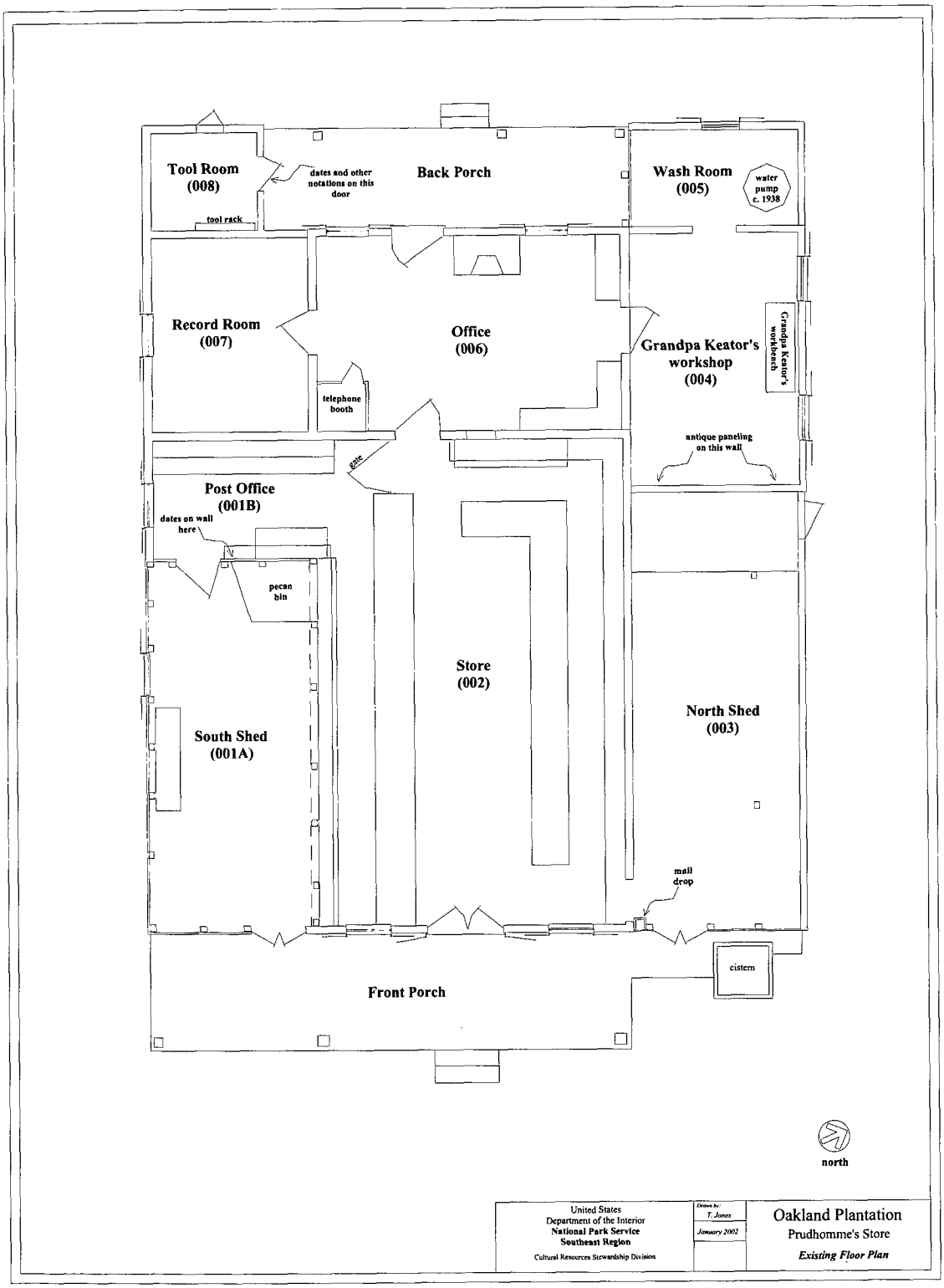
Miscellaneous: There is no evidence of shelving in this room.

Figure 45 View southwest in record room (007). *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Figure 46 View northwest in record room. *(NPS-SERO-CRS, 2001)*

Tool Room (008)

This room, which is entered off the back porch, functioned as a tool room where farm implements were repaired and sharpened. It has no interior finishes except for floor boards. On the east wall is a wooden tool rack, and some implements remain in the room. The exterior of the north wall is finished with board- and- batten siding, the only instance of that type of finish found in the store. Of special interest are the pencilled notations on the door (see above) which document some of the activities that were associated with this room.


Tool Room
(008)
dates and other notations on this door
Back Porch
Wash Room
(005)
water pump c. 1938
tool rack
Record Room
(007)
Office
(006)
Grandpa Keator's workshop
(004)
Grandpa Keator's workbench
telephone booth
antique paneling on this wall
gate
Post Office
(001B)
dates on wall here
pecan bin
Store
(002)
North Shed
(003)
South Shed
(001A)
mail drop
cistern
Front Porch
north
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Cultural Resources Stewardship Division
Drawn by:
T. Jones
January 2002
Oakland Plantation
Prudhomme's Store
Existing Floor Plan

PART 2
TREATMENT & USE

Introduction

Long before becoming a part of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Oakland Plantation was noted for its exceptional collection of extant historic structures and artifacts. As early as the 1950s, as the local historic preservation movement was beginning its efforts to preserve historic Natchitoches, the Prud'hommes were offering tours of Oakland, including a museum of plantation artifacts in the basement of the Big House.[1] Even John Ford's use of Oakland for filming of *Horse Soldiers* in 1958 reflected a growing appreciation for the unique way in which the Prud'hommes had managed to preserve their family's historic plantation. More formal recognition came in 1978, when Oakland and Atahoe, which together formed the Prud'hommes' antebellum Bermuda Plantation, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Finally, in 1997, Oakland Plantation became a part of the Cane River National Historical Park.

1. Association of Natchitoches Women for the Preservation of historic Natchitoches, *Natchitoches* (Natchitoches *Times*, 1958), p. 46.

For more than two hundred years, the Prud'hommes farmed the banks of the Cane River, building and rebuilding the plantation as its operation evolved and changed. Oakland did not entirely escape the Federal campaign up the Red River in the spring of 1864, and it has not survived subsequent changes with all of its historic buildings intact. Nevertheless, as the recently- completed General Management Plan (GMP) for the Park notes, Oakland (and its sister plantation, Magnolia) reflect a "completeness" in terms of setting, structures, and artifacts that is seldom encountered elsewhere in the South.[2]

Prud'homme's Store at Oakland is a simple, vernacular building that was originally constructed during the Reconstruction period but which also includes a series of historic late nineteenth and early twentieth century additions and alterations that are significant character- defining features of the building. Built as a store, the building underwent frequent changes over the first thirty or forty years of its existence, many of them in response to the addition of new products and an expanding retail trade. At least by the 1890s, the store (and the post office that was located there through much of its history) had become a focal point of community life. In addition, the store was the site of the Prud'hommes' plantation office for over a century, and it was the venue in which much of the interaction between the Prud'hommes and their tenants, sharecroppers, and other workers took place. As such, it offers a singular opportunity for interpretation of that important era in the plantation's history. Through Prud'homme's Store, many of the most important changes that occurred in the lives of rural Americans in the century after the Civil War can be interpreted.

This section of the historic structure report is intended to show how a plan for treatment and use of the Prud'hommes' store can be implemented with minimal adverse affect to the historic building while still addressing the problems that exist with the current structure and its proposed use. The following sections outline issues surrounding use of the building as well as legal requirements and other mandates that circumscribe treatment of the building. These are followed by an evaluation of the various treatment options—preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration—before describing in more detail the proposed ultimate treatment, which would be general repair and preservation of the building as it exists today.

2. National Park Service, *Cane River Creole National Historical Park General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Louisiana*, (NPS, 2001), p. 21; referred to as "Cane River GMP" below.

Ultimate Treatment & Use

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the *limited* and *sensitive* upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code- required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

In essence, the ultimate treatment of Prud'homme's Store should be to preserve the building as it exists today while making those changes that are necessary to meet the park's program of use for the site. This approach would include:

- preservation and repair of the building's *existing* features and material,
- rehabilitation of the building's electrical system to comply with modern building and life safety codes,
- installation of a new staff rest room,
- adaptations to improve handicapped accessibility to the building while negotiating a plan of compliance alterna-

tives where full compliance would destroy the building's integrity, and

- adaptations to improve the interior climate (temperature and relative humidity) of the building, while avoiding installation of a central, ducted, HVAC system.

These components also outline a natural hierarchy of treatment that can be used to establish priorities in achieving the ultimate goal, since it is likely that funding for the entire project will be spread over two or more budgetary cycles. Few of the individual treatment recommendations below can be considered in isolation, and because they are interrelated, practical considerations of logistics and economy of scale will make it necessary to combine elements from the different treatment components in different ways to accomplish the ultimate result.

The key to the success of this project will be good judgement in determining where replacement of a deteriorated building element is necessary. Deterioration in a portion of an element should not necessitate total replacement of the element, since epoxy consolidants and fillers can repair the damaged area, often without even removing the damaged element to make the repair. While total replacement of a damaged element is often recommended in rehabilitation projects, the success of a preservation project can be judged by the amount of historic material that remains. Even "replacement in kind" does not typically address natural processes that give the historic materials an aged appearance that cannot be duplicated except by the passage of time.

Alternatives for Treatment & Use

The four main approaches to treatment of historic buildings- - - preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction- - - require increasingly more aggressive levels of intervention into the existing building. Since the authenticity of the historical artifact (i.e., the building) decreases as more and more intervention is needed, several issues must be addressed in order to arrive at an approach that requires the minimum amount of intervention into the historic fabric of the building to achieve the desired goal.

The first of these issues is the relative historical importance of the building. Prud'homme's Store played a critical role in the plantation's operation during the tenant and sharecropping era and in community life into the late twentieth century. There can be little doubt as to the high level of its significance in the story of Oakland. Nearly all of the changes and additions that produced the existing building occurred within the historical period of significance and can contribute to the telling of that story in important ways.

A second set of issues surrounds the building's physical condition. Most of the store's distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and convey the building's historical significance so that there is no need for extensive intervention to restore or re-

construct lost features. In addition, deterioration is limited in scope, and the building does not need extensive repair and replacement.

Issues of use must also be considered, since it is changes in use that generally dictate most rehabilitative treatment. If the store were to be used as a place for assembly or for offices, such new uses would require extensive changes and alterations to the building. The proposed use of the store for sales and interpretation are, technically, a change in use; but the impact of that change can, if carefully managed, be minimal and need not require extensive rehabilitation and the inevitable diminishment of historic character and integrity.

Since the historic building is largely intact and, although deteriorated, easily repaired, and since no drastic change in its use is proposed, preservation is the recommended approach to treatment of the building and its individual elements.

Requirements for Treatment & Use

One of the primary preservation issues with any historic structure is the use to which the structure is put. Most of Prud'homme's Store is slated for exhibit and interpretation as an historic building, which is certainly its highest and best use, given its extraordinary role in plantation and community life from about 1870 until well after World War II. Exhibits would presumably include some of the artifacts that have been preserved from the store, including all of the casework, post office boxes, kerosene and oil pumps, and other fixed equipment that remain in the building. The NPS-owned contents of the store, which are now in storage, have not been catalogued and inventoried; nor has there been any assessment of the condition and suitability of individual objects for display and interpretation. A well- researched recreation of the store's historic contents would be a valuable tool for interpretation of the great patterns of change in American society and culture during the century that the Prud'hommes operated their store at Oakland.

The park's GMP also designates Prud'homme's Store as "the site of a cooperating association sales outlet for books, postcards, and similar materials."[3] Conceptually, this approach continues some-

3. Cane River GMP, p. 45.

thing of the building's historic function, but it may underestimate the impact that *modern* retail use could have on the historic building. A continuously- staffed building will necessitate the installation of plumbing and a staff rest room (which the building has never had) and may require upgrades in lighting and interior climate control. In addition, modern retail use would require that space be rehabilitated for storage and for an office.

One of the long- range goals for the park is the development of "a conveniently- located visitor center that facilitates the orientation of visitors to the park and Cane River area through a diversity of exhibits, audiovisual programs, publications, *sales items*, and personal assistance" [emphasis added].[4] Given this goal and given the integrity of the store and its significance to overall interpretation of the plantation, it is particularly important that any adaptation of the building be carefully considered and be fully reversible should goals for the store's use change in the future.

Character- defining Spaces: While there is not yet a plan for interpretation of the building or for recreating its historic contents, there is a clear hierarchy of significance among the existing spaces in the historic building. Certainly, the main store room (002 and 001B) and the office (006) are the most significant. They were the only parts of the interior that most people ever saw and the only spaces (except 007) that were finished in any but the most rudimentary manner. In terms of interpreting the store's evolution and retail function, the north shed (003) is also a very significant space. Not only is it one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the store additions, the north shed, its kerosene pumps and mail drop box, and the adjacent cistern can all play a vital role in interpretation of the store's role in the community.

Although the south shed (001A), Uncle Buddy's rooms (004 and 005), the Prud'hommes' record room (007), and the tool room (008) form critical links in the evolutionary and functional history of the building, they are perhaps less significant as interpretive devices. Certainly Uncle Buddy's residential use of 004 and Grandpa Keator's later workshop in the same space provide some of the color and texture in the Prud'homme story as does the record room (007) and what must have been an amazing collection of books and other documents that were once kept there.[5] Although these spaces have features and finishes that should be preserved, their adaptive use need not significantly diminish the store's character and integrity.

Sales: Because of the integrity and significance of the main store room (002) and the office (006), conflicts with interpretation and the display of authentic interiors or museum exhibits would arise if Eastern National sales are based in either of these spaces. Significant alterations would also be required in lighting and, perhaps, heating and cooling (see below). In addition, because the store was not self- service, the historic counters and shelving do not lend them-

4. Cane River GMP, p. 23.

5. According to Kenneth Prud'homme, the collection included rare volumes such as an early edition of Diderot's *Encyclopedia*.

selves to modern merchandising and display without alteration.

The impact of this use on the historic building and its interpretation could be reduced if the sales outlet were located in the south shed (001A). This space was rarely, if ever, entered by the Prud'hommes' customers or workers and could be fully rehabilitated for a book store without a significant diminishment of the store's historic character or the loss of any features that are critical to interpretation of the site. The shed room was significantly altered when the ice house was removed by the Prud'hommes and, except for the flooring and the pecan bin, has no interior finishes that would be affected by rehabilitation. The addition of new finishes would dramatically alter the room's character but could also be fully reversible.

If an Eastern National sales outlet is located in Prud'homme's Store, it will also be necessary to make space for a small office and break area as well as for a staff rest room. Space must also be arranged for storage of merchandise and supplies. Because the two rooms (004 and 005) that comprised Uncle Buddy's living quarters are perhaps the least significant spaces in terms of the store's interpretation, they are also the spaces that are best suited to adaptive use for these purposes.

Staff Rest Room: The location of a staff rest room in 005 would have little impact on overall interpretation of the building. However, the nature of the construction of this space is such that its rehabilitation for a rest room would require total redesign and, essentially, reconstruction of the existing room. It would also require the installation of a plumbing vent stack through the roof, which would be visible on the exterior of the building. Nevertheless, 005 is the most appropriate location, since 008 is too small and 007 has too much potential usefulness as an interpreted space to compromise its integrity for a new rest room.

Office/Break Area: Use of 004 for a small office and break area is logical, given the placement of the rest room in 005. Rehabilitation need not impact the historic fabric of the room, although it would require removal of Grandpa Keator's work bench and replacement of his lighting and other workshop paraphernalia. Rehabilitation would effectively preclude interpretation of the space, including its use by Uncle Buddy Prud'homme and by Grandpa Mayo Keator.

Alternatively, the record room (007) could be adapted for this use with few if any changes necessary to the historic fabric of the space. This would allow retention of the historic features in 004 but would preclude recreation of the contents of the Prud'hommes' record room.

Storage: Storage of merchandise and other sales- related equipment and supplies for the Eastern National outlet will be required. As much as 100 lineal feet of free- standing shelving can be easily added around the southeast side of 004, which should provide ample space for storage while still leaving room for use of the space as an office/break area. If necessary, the area beneath the counters in the main store

(002) is convenient to the proposed store location (001A) and could also be utilized for temporary storage of larger boxes without altering the existing counters.

Treatment: Prud'homme's Store at Oakland has a fragile character that can be easily destroyed by insensitive treatment. As an historic building, this character is embodied not just in the vernacular form of the building but also in its structure and its component materials, including bricks and mortar, siding, flooring, paneling, windows, doors, shutters, nails, and hardware. The more these aspects of the building are compromised, especially through replacement or removal of the historic material or feature, the less useful the building becomes as an historical artifact.

The store was built with readily- available materials, including some sawn or hewn lumber that was salvaged from older structures. This reuse of material was in part a reflection of the reduced circumstances of the Prud'hommes after the Civil War.[6] While that was an important factor, it is a somewhat simplistic explanation, since the Prud'hommes were not poverty-stricken, at least when compared to the vast majority of Southerners. More important, perhaps, were the traditional conservative attitudes toward the construction and treatment of buildings that prevailed until the advent of the twentieth century's "throw- away," consumer-driven economy. Throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century, traditional values still recognized the tremendous amount of labor that went into producing materials and constructing a building. Rarely, if ever, were building materials simply discarded; even when changes in circumstances rendered the structure itself obsolete, the materials could be salvaged and reused. These attitudes were only reinforced in the Prud'hommes and many others by their experience of the Great Depression. For many of that generation, thrift remained a utilitarian virtue. As Vivian Prud'homme Dugan remarked in regard to her family's oft- noted "make do" treatment of Oakland, "It wasn't because we couldn't afford [to do more]. It just wasn't a necessity."[7] Certainly, the store exemplifies those attitudes.

In addition to preservation and maintenance of the finite materials that compose the building, it is also crucial that the site's architectonics- - - i.e., the "philosophy" underlying its design and construction- - - be maintained. The need- oriented decision- making process that Vivian Dugan recalled is reflected not only in the reuse of materials but also in the utilitarian nature of the store's construction. If the building's presentation is to be authentic, it is critical that the *ad hoc*, even poorly- conceived, construction of some parts of the building be preserved wherever possible, if that can be accomplished without creating conditions that are hazardous to visitors' health and safety.

Historic preservation is a primary component of the NPS mission for Cane River National Historical Park, particularly at Oakland, which

6. See Ann Patton Malone's "Draft Response to NPS Focus Questions Relating to the Oakland Oral History Project," p. 13.

7. Vivian Prud'homme Dugan in interview with Dr. Ann Malone, 22 April 1997.

the GMP has established as the focus for the park's interpretive efforts. The GMP establishes that "the physical treatment of the plantation's landscape, including structures, would generally reflect the continuum of history up to about 1960. This would result in few changes to the current configuration of plantation structures or general appearance of the landscape."[8] However, the Bermuda Post Office continued to operate in Prud'homme's Store until 1967 and, because of that, remained important to the local community. The store declined rapidly in importance after that time, although it remained in operation until 1982.

Legal mandates and policy directives circumscribe treatment of Prud'homme's Store. The NPS' Cultural Resources Management Guideline (DO- 28) requires planning for the protection of cultural resources "whether or not they relate to the specific authorizing legislation or interpretive programs of the parks in which they lie." Therefore, the store must be understood in its own cultural context and managed in light of its own values so that it may be preserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) also mandates that federal agencies, including the NPS, take into account the effects of their actions on National Register properties and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

8. Cane River GMP, p. 42.

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration should be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.

Modern building codes and accessibility issues will be a factor in designing repairs and will necessitate some changes to the building. This will include modifications to allow for handicapped accessibility to the store and to provide modern electrical, security, and fire detection systems in the building. However, it must be recognized that bringing the building into full compliance with these modern codes will effectively destroy a major part of the historic character of the building. The National Building Code, which the NPS generally follows, and other building codes, including those imposed by ADA, allow for a variety of compliance alternatives that can prevent an unacceptable level of loss in the building's integrity as a historic structure. Code compliance alternatives along with creativity in design should minimize material loss and visual changes to the historic store while satisfying the demand to provide a safe

and sound building for park visitors and staff.

To help guide compliance with the statutes and regulations noted above, the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* have been issued along with guidelines for applying those standards. Standards are included for each of the four separate but interrelated approaches to the treatment of historic buildings: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These approaches define a hierarchy that implies an increasing amount of intervention into the historic building. Rehabilitation, in particular, allows for a variety of alterations and even additions to accommodate modern use of the structure. However, a key principle embodied in the *Standards* is that changes be reversible, i.e., that alterations, additions, or other modifications be designed and constructed in such a way that they can be removed or reversed in the future without the loss of existing historic materials, features or characters.

Recommendations for Treatment & Use

Site: Although the Cultural Landscape Report now being developed for Oakland will include final recommendations for the surrounding site, restoration of the existing gasoline pumps and archaeological investigation of and repairs to the cistern should be incorporated into treatment recommendations for the store itself. The pumps and cistern are missing some parts and are badly deteriorated, but they can be repaired. There has been no archaeological investigation of the cistern, which may contain important clues to the building's evolution and use. Even if the cistern is not to be used, the constituent elements should be restored.

Attention should also be given to such details as recreating appropriate "dummy" (i.e., not in service) wiring on the outside of the store. Reinstatement of the propane gas tank off the southwest side of the store should be considered. The unpaved turn- out in front of the store should also be maintained.

- Conduct investigation of interior of cistern for archaeological remains and to determine stability of structure.
- Repair cistern walls and recreate appropriate cover.
- Restore cistern pump.
- Restore existing gasoline pumps, including wiring from store for lights.

- Recreate gutter from roof of north shed.

Foundation: Repairs to the foundation and to the building's floor framing will be facilitated if the crawl space beneath the building is cleaned of building materials and debris. At least one set of historic shutters is stored beneath the building, and it should be repaired and reinstalled on the building. All other items removed should be carefully sorted and preserved as appropriate.

Some of the masonry piers are badly deteriorated, due mostly to uncontrolled roof runoff, and two are missing entirely from under the outside sill of the back porch. Most failed piers are found around the perimeter of the building; most internal piers remain intact and can be repaired and repointed. Where replacement is necessary, the new piers may be constructed on below- grade concrete footings but should replicate the original design, materials, and configuration of brick- and- mortar piers surmounted by cypress blocks. The chimney within the attic is in unstable condition, but the remainder of the structure below the attic floor can be repaired and preserved.

- Clear crawlspace of all wooden materials and other debris; eliminate all wood- to- ground contact; rake clean.
- Repair existing brick piers, replacing only those piers that have failed.
- Replace two missing piers at back porch.
- Install termite shields between piers and sills at all locations.
- Dismantle chimney to attic floor and rebuild through original roof opening to match original design (see historic photographs).
- Repair exposed stucco and fire box in 006 as necessary, matching formulation and finish of original stucco.

Structure: The building's historic wood-framed structure remains intact and in mostly good condition. The major exceptions are the floor structures of both porches and the west additions (005 and 008) as well as the north wall of the north shed (003), which are in poor condition. Repairs are necessary at isolated locations on sills, joists, and rafter ends elsewhere.

Some of the store's framing is undersized by today's standards; but, in all cases, adjustments to the program of use for the building make it possible to preserve the existing structure of the building. If additional support is required, a beam set on posts can be easily added beneath the midpoint of joists in rooms where the floor needs to be strengthened. Use of the attic over the main store room (002) for storage of heavy materials or objects should be avoided.

- Replace outside joist/sill of back porch, replicating existing junctures with surrounding sills; repair center joist and rear nailer as necessary.
- Consolidate and repair sill at north side of north shed (003); repair connection of wall studs to sill.

- Repair floor and associated wall framing in 005 and 008 to restore the space to a sound condition.

Roofing: The building's historic metal roof covering remains intact, and leakage appears to be minimal. The metal is badly rusted over much of the exposed surfaces but has many years of useful life remaining if it is properly repaired, repainted, and maintained.

- Repair roof as necessary, removing and/or replacing existing material only in areas where necessary repairs to rafters and decking cannot be done from inside the attic.
- Maintain distinction between the two types of metal roofing on the building.
- Clean and repaint all metal, using silver paint.
- Install galvanized- steel, half- round gutters and round downspouts, sized to the existing wooden gutter brackets; brackets should be repaired and maintained wherever possible, reproducing missing brackets to match original.
- The cistern should not be used until it has been investigated for archaeological resources and examined for structural integrity. Insure rapid runoff of rainwater away from foundation piers.

Doors: All of the doors and/or their associated shutters are intact, although some repairs are necessary. Hardware should be restored to good working order throughout the building; in most cases treatment should be limited to disassembly, cleaning, and re- keying if the original keys cannot be located.

The door between 002 and 006 is old but is not a historic feature of the building, having been installed in the 1970s. The existing door should be removed, and the original solid wood door which remains in 002 should be reinstalled.

The back door is an outstanding artifact and should be repaired and preserved, along with the distinctive hardware and the unique multi-panes of glass that fill the lights. The apparent fragility of the door is exacerbated by the absence of putty in the glazing channels, which causes the door to rattle excessively when moved. Properly repaired (some disassembly might be required if joinery repair is necessary), painted, and maintained, the door can continue to serve its original purpose.

The board door to 008 should be preserved, with particular attention to retention of the pencilled graffiti. Repairs to the surrounding framing will correct at least some of the problems with this door.

To date, there is not enough documentation to support reconstruction of the ice house in 001A. According to park staff, two ice house doors are stored in other buildings and a third door is installed on the grist mill behind the Cottage. Additional investigation will be necessary to determine which, if any, of these doors was part of the icehouse at the Store. If the original door can be properly documented, it should be reinstated, although the proposed use of 001A as a book store would preclude reconstruction of the ice house itself.

- Restore all hardware to working order; replace missing rim locks and knobs as necessary.
- Replace existing door between 002 and 006 with original board door, now stored in 002.
- Make necessary repairs to preserve the back door and return it to useful service.

Windows: Window sash and louvered shutters, which by their nature are fragile constructs, have weathered less well than other elements of the exterior but can be repaired and preserved. Boards that have been nailed over louvers on some shutters should be removed. Shutters that have been removed from the window in 007 and placed under the building should be repaired and reinstalled at the opening. The double- louver shutters in the attic gables should be repaired and reinstated.

- Repair frame, sash, trim, and shutters at all openings; replace missing elements as necessary; return all lower sash and all shutters to working order.

Front Porch: The existing decking on the front porch was installed sometime in the early to mid- twentieth century. Some of it can be reinstalled after the floor framing is repaired. Replacements should match the existing boards. The existing posts are historic and should be repaired and preserved.

- Repair front porch floor framing as necessary; reinstall as much of existing flooring as possible; match replacements to existing boards.
- Repair front porch posts; replace missing trim at top of corner posts under front gable.

Back Porch: Most of the decking on the rear porch appears to be original, but its condition is such that only some of it can be preserved. Replacement should match the existing material, including the use of tongue- and- groove boards at the south end and plain boards elsewhere.

Only one of this porch's original four posts remains in place. Temporary posts now support most of the header for the back porch ceiling.

- Repair back porch framing and repair/ replace flooring, matching existing material.
- Reproduce and install three posts to match existing historic post at north end of back porch.

Exterior Finishes: The exterior of the building has not been repainted for at least fifty years; but because of the high- quality of most of the exterior woodwork and in spite of years of neglect, most elements remain in reasonably sound condition. Siding is in poor condition in some areas, and some replacement will probably be required. The flush siding under the front porch, the siding under the rear porch, and most of the siding above sill level can be renailed and repaired *in situ*.

Wood: In repairing the exterior woodwork,

use of epoxy consolidants and fillers will allow retention of much more of the existing historic material than might otherwise be the case. Since surfaces will be painted, the use of epoxies should not present problems with the appearance or durability of the repaired areas, which might be the case if the wood were to be left in its natural state.

Any replacement woodwork should be cypress or southern yellow pine, the two woods that were generally used in the store. Pine may be less expensive and, if it is old- growth or second- growth and not plantation- grown, should be durable since all of the woodwork will be painted. However, it is imperative that any replacement siding or trim material, whether pine or cypress, be quarter- sawn to insure maximum durability of the material and its painted finish.

Nails: Most of the exterior woodwork was installed with cut nails and common (not finish) wire nails, none of which were typically countersunk and puttied. Modern, galvanized wire nails, countersunk and puttied, should be used wherever repairs are made in order to maintain a distinction between original and replacement material and repairs.

Paint: Historically, the exterior of the store was routinely painted, with three main color schemes characterizing the building over time. Until after World War II, the exterior siding of the building was always whitewashed. Probably by the 1880s, trim was being painted red, a color scheme that was continued when the south additions were made in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Some time after that, perhaps during World War I or the 1920s, some of the trim was painted gray, and later green trim was used over most of the building. By the 1940s, an oil- based primer and paint had been applied to the exterior. In this final color scheme, windows, doors, and trim were painted white; the siding was also painted white but with the addition of a wide (30 inches high) band of color around the perimeter of the walls. Since the plantation is being presented as it evolved through the 1950s, this last color scheme is most appropriate.

Since much of the exterior woodwork is badly weathered, proper preparation for painting is critical. Surfaces must be washed to remove dirt, mildew, and molds. Existing paint should not be stripped except where it is loose and flaking. Since the paint does contain lead, the usual precautions should be taken in dealing with any painted surface. Some but not all of the weathered surfaces can be reduced by light sanding and/or consolidation. Special attention should be paid to filling holes and voids in the woodwork and to caulking around window and door openings and trim and at vertical joints in the siding in order to reduce moisture infiltration into the walls. Because whitewash lacks durability and the historic woodwork has weathered, oil- or alkyd- resin- based paints should be used on the exterior of the building.

- Repair exterior woodwork, utilizing epoxy consolidants and fillers so that the maximum amount of historic material is retained.

- Properly prepare and repaint all exterior woodwork, using oil- based or alkyd- resin- based paints and replicating the color scheme that existed by World War II (white with red banding and green shutters).

Interior Finishes: The historic interior of the store is almost completely intact, having undergone only slight modification since the 1960s. Because of the numerous artifacts and debris that remain in the building, however, a thorough examination of interior surfaces has not been possible. Before any work commences on the building, the interior should be cleared of all artifacts and debris. It can then be more thoroughly examined for additional clues to its evolution, and its condition can be more accurately assessed. All surfaces should be documented photographically at the same time and *before any work proceeds.*

Flooring: The historic flooring remains intact throughout the building except in 008, where it has been severely damaged by rot and termites. Like most nineteenth century buildings, it was built without a sub- floor and floored with one- inch- thick boards, which gives the floors in the store their characteristic "feel" underfoot. Elsewhere there are isolated areas of damage, especially in the shed rooms on the north and south sides of the building. Some floor boards are loose in the main room, and it may be necessary to install short nailers on some of the floor joists in order to re- secure these boards. None of the flooring should be finished with varnishes, paints, or other protective or decorative coatings. Runners which would protect the flooring from excessive wear should be installed in high- traffic areas.

Walls and Ceilings: Walls are boarded except in the sheds (001A and 003) and the tool room (008), where added stud walls were left unfinished. Except in the post office (001B) and record room (007), which are paneled, ceilings are formed by exposed attic floor joists and flooring or by exposed roof rafters and decking. In only three rooms (002, 004, and 006) were the walls and ceilings ever painted, and none have been repainted for at least fifty years. A few areas have been damaged by water penetration from a leaky roof, but the damage appears to be limited to cupping of boards and may not need correcting. Only minimal repairs will be necessary elsewhere.

Shelving and Counters: Nearly all of the historic shelving, counters, and racks remain in place throughout the building. In the main room (002), the counter top at the west end of the room has been badly damaged by termites but can be repaired. Alterations may be necessary in the counters to provide for handicapped accessibility (see below). All of the small drawers are missing from the hardware case on the north wall, and five of the nine drawers on the south side are also missing. Missing elements should be replicated and all drawers and cabinets restored to sound working order.

Surface Treatments: All of the interior surfaces- - floors, walls, ceilings, counters, and shelving- - are extremely soiled and stained. All surfaces should be cleaned using the gentlest means possible to remove dirt and grime without dis-

turbing historic finishes and graffiti. Because some of the finishes are water soluble, test cleaning in obscure locations using a variety of solutions, beginning with clear water, will be necessary to determine the appropriate treatment. After that is done, the appearance of the interior will be greatly improved, particularly in those areas that have not suffered water damage and have never been painted (001A, 001B, 003, 005, 007 and 008 as well as flooring throughout the building, and shelving, countertops, and some other features in 002 and 006). This is also true of the counter base cabinets which have been painted but not on a regular basis.

However, Rooms 002 and 006 were routinely whitewashed throughout the building's history and, even after cleaning, water stains and other damage to whitewashed surfaces will still be visible. It will be necessary then to seal water stains and reapply whitewash to the walls and ceiling in these rooms; doors and windows should be painted to match the findings of Yokum's paint study (see Appendix A). The counter bases should be conserved but not repainted.

- Remove all artifacts and debris from building.
- Examine surfaces for additional information on the building's evolution and existing condition, and document photographically.
- Clean all surfaces, using gentlest means possible to remove dirt and grime without disturbing historic finishes and graffiti.
- Repair deteriorated building components using epoxy consolidants, splices, or other means to insure retention of the maximum amount of historic material; replace only if the individual element is damaged beyond repair.
- Whitewash walls and ceilings in 002 and 006; paint windows and doors to match colors used during last repainting of interior in the 1940s.

Electrical: Electrical wiring is a historic feature in the building, having been installed in the late 1930s. The entire system is antiquated and, because of code- related issues, cannot be restored to working condition. Existing elements of the system should not be removed, however, but be preserved *in situ*. In addition, missing exterior features of the system (above- ground exterior wiring and meter on back porch) should be reinstated, although perhaps not as functional parts of a new electrical system.

New electrical service will be introduced into the building below grade from the transformer off the southwest side of the building. A new 200- amp breaker panel, which would allow for future expansion of the system if that is necessary, should be installed in 004.

New branch circuit wiring should be installed, distributed from the new panel box to feed the historic fixtures in the building. In order to preserve the appearance of the historic wiring, exterior lighting could be switched at the panel with the historic wall switches left in place only as dummies. Likewise, if code compliance does

not allow replication of the original wiring, power for the refrigerated box at the west end of 002 (which was a historic feature that should be returned to the room) might be supplied from below while leaving the historic ceiling-hung wiring in place only as a dummy.

Existing light fixtures in 002, 003, and 006 should be restored, matching the appearance of the original wiring if possible. It is critical that the historic lighting of the interpreted spaces be preserved. Even after rural electrification, natural daylight continued to illuminate the interior, with the bare bulbs in those rooms turned on for specific purposes and never for general illumination throughout the day. Whenever possible, visitors should experience these spaces illuminated in the same way. In order to save wear and tear on the fixtures and avoid hazards to visitors, the fixtures should be switched at the panel and controlled by sensors that would turn on the fixture in the north shed (003), for instance, when a visitor entered the space. Alternatively, switches could be concealed and operated by docents on guided tours.

Additional lighting should not be added until an interpretive plan and collections are established for the store. Low lighting levels were an important aspect of the store's character but may not allow visitors enough light to appreciate specific objects that might be displayed. In addition, a dimly- lit interior may be difficult for visually- impaired visitors to negotiate. Some additional lighting will be necessary to provide a second level of lighting that will address both issues as the need arises. Low- voltage or fiber- optic fixtures could be concealed in the shelving or elsewhere in interpreted spaces so that, if properly lamped, they would mimic daylight and provide this additional illumination. Like the historic electric lights, these lights should be used only when needed and might also be controlled by sensors that would bring them on only after visitors have experienced the authentic lighting of the space.[9]

Additional new wiring for lighting and convenience receptacles will be necessary in 001A, 004, 005, and 007. These should be kept to an absolute minimum. Conduit should be run exposed except where it can be conveniently hidden without disturbing existing finishes. New conduit should be run above or below 002 and 006 so as not to disturb the integrity of these spaces.

The building should have a complete fire- detection and security system. Smoke and fire detectors should be installed in every space throughout the building, including the attic. Since the window and door openings are shuttered and should be closed and locked when the building is unoccupied, the security system can probably be limited to motion detectors.

- Install new electrical service to the building.

9. In 1998, the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) published their "Guidelines for Light and Lighting in Historic Buildings that House Collections"; see APT Bulletin Vol. XXXI, #1, 2000, a special issue devoted to lighting historic buildings.

- Install new branch circuit wiring to re-feed historic outlets and to feed new outlets in 001A, 004, 005, and 007.
- Restore historic lighting to working order.
- Install complete fire detection and security system.

Plumbing: The building has never had plumbing, and rehabilitation of 005 as a rest room will require substantial intervention into the fabric of that space in order to provide a frost- free space for the plumbing. The north and west walls can be insulated and new drywall installed (historically, neither wall was finished on the interior). The interior of the south wall is finished with paneling, but the exterior has no finishes. Because the exposed studs of this wall are a significant feature of the exterior, a new wall should be installed across the south end of this room. This would allow space for a four-inch vent stack and waste line for the toilet and provide for an insulated wall. The ceiling should also be insulated and finished with drywall.

Water will be supplied through new lines rising near the northwest corner of the building and distributed through the walls to a toilet at the south end of 005 and to a utility sink at the northwest corner of 004.

Installation of a septic tank and drain field on the north side of the building has been proposed, but a location on the south side might impact fewer historic landscape features. In addition, the ground on the south side of the building is much better drained than that on the north side, where significant amounts of water tend to collect during rainy weather. In either case, the installation's impact on archaeological resources must be addressed.

A new dry- pipe fire sprinkler system should also be installed in the building. The main valve can be located in 008. Like 005, that room will need some restructuring and new interior finishes in order to provide a frost- free environment for the valve. Piping for the sprinkler can be run through the attic with branches to individual sprinkler heads inserted through the ceilings in 002 and 006 and through the side walls into the flanking rooms.

Installation of water supply pipes and waste lines should be designed to be reversible without loss to the historic fabric of the building. Framing and finishes should not be cut or cored unless absolutely necessary, even if that means running exposed pipes on the interior or the exterior of the building.

- Install handicapped staff rest room in 005, rebuilding interior of room as necessary to accommodate new use.
- Install free- standing utility sink in 004.
- Install dry- pipe fire sprinkler system.

New Book Store: As stated earlier, there are serious concerns about use of the building as a sales outlet, but these can be minimized if the sales outlet is located in 001A, which is one of the less- significant spaces in the store. Use of this space for that purpose will require substantial alterations to the existing room, how-

ever, including the addition of interior finishes, modern wiring and lighting, and a means to heat and cool the space. This space was historically used as a simple, unfinished storage area not normally seen by anyone but the store's operators, and in order not to confuse the site's interpretation, changes should reflect the modern use and not attempt to mimic the character of other more- finished spaces in the building. For interpretation, the historic character of the space can be easily conveyed by photographs of the space prior to rehabilitation.

The boards that make up the "pecan bin" in the northwest corner of the room, the work bench, and the shelving on the south side of the room, and the light fixture in the center of the room will have to be removed to facilitate rehab of this room. In order that rehabilitation of the space be fully reversible, these items should be accessioned as individual objects into the park's permanent collection.

Because 001A is essentially an unfinished space, new interior finishes will be necessary on the walls and ceilings if the room is to provide a clean, secure environment for retail sales. Drywall is recommended since, besides being cost- effective, it is a readily- recognizable modern material that visitors will not confuse with a historic finish (which would not be the case if the walls were paneled with boards like most of the other rooms in the building). Exterior walls and the ceiling can be insulated prior to installation of drywall finishes.

Some improvements are necessary to the existing flooring of the room if it is to be weather- tight and provide adequate support for the modern fixtures and heavier- than-normal visitor traffic that the room will bear. Two improvements are necessary. First, a "shake sill" should be installed perpendicular to and at the center of the span of the existing floor joists to provide adequate support for any fixtures or equipment that might be necessary for sales. Second, a ¾" plywood deck should be installed over the existing flooring to provide additional support and to protect the historic flooring. For reversibility, attachment of the plywood deck to the historic floor should be done without adhesives and using plain (not spiral) wire nails.

Substantial improvements in lighting, including modern fixtures, and the addition of convenience receptacles will be required. In order that these changes be reversible, all wiring should be installed in conduit that is not drilled through framing members.

- Rehabilitate 001A for sales outlet, finishing interior of existing room to meet demands of new use.

Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling: The installation of a central HVAC system has become an expected part of treatment of most historic commercial and residential buildings, especially in the South where air- conditioning is considered a necessity for living through the long, hot, Southern summers. Certainly that is the case in the humid climate of Natchitoches Parish where the average high temperature in July and August is 93°.

The sensitive installation of modern HVAC or climate control systems is one of the most difficult challenges in historic preservation. Equipment alone can take up as much as 10% of a building's space; and the installation of ductwork and other equipment necessitates alteration to, destruction, and/or replacement of historic materials and features, much of which is irreversible for all practical purposes. Even the most sensitively designed and installed systems inevitably compromise the historic structure with the various system components, which usually include compressors in the yard, air- handlers in the attic or basement, and a labyrinth of ductwork filling the spaces in between. Moreover, these systems introduce electric motors, electrical connections, and even gas flames into confined spaces within the historic building, which can be a recipe for disaster if equipment is defective or poorly maintained.

In addition, a successful HVAC system requires a tight building envelope that will retain conditioned air and, at the same time, control the migration and condensation of water vapor. To create such a tight building envelope in a historic building, especially in a wood- framed building, requires extreme intervention, including removal and/or modification of interior and/or exterior finishes to install insulation and vapor barriers. If the vapor barriers are installed incorrectly, allowing moisture to condense on the inside wall cavities, severe damage can occur, including rusting of nails and other fasteners and, in extreme cases, rotting of internal framework.

While compromises that will allow installation of modern HVAC systems are routine in rehabilitation of most historic buildings, they become problematic in museum buildings, like Prud'homme's Store, where preservation and interpretation of the historic building is of paramount importance. The impact of few other aspects of life in the South was more pervasive than climate, and until the 1960s, people adjusted their lifestyles to the long, hot Southern summers and designed and constructed buildings in ways that adjusted to that climate.[10] To introduce artificially cool air in the summer or comfortably warm rooms in the winter would seriously diminish the interpretive power of the historic building and its ability to stimulate the visitors' imagination through their experience of authentic spaces.[11]

Although modern HVAC and climate control systems carry the potential for significant physical damage to the structure and for significant compromises in the authentic presentation of the historic building, collection management standards have generally mandated some sort of climate control wherever significant museum objects are being displayed. In recent years, however, it has been recognized that those standards are often overly-rigid in their application, to the detriment of many historic buildings.[12] Concern for the coexistence of historic structures and the artifacts

10. Raymond Arsenault, "The End of the Long Hot Summer: The Air Conditioner and Southern Culture," *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. L, #4, November 1984.
11. Wade Lawrence, "Preserving the Visitor Experience," *Historic Preservation Forum*, Vol. 12, #4, Summer 1998.

housed within them led the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) to develop the New Orleans Charter, which formally acknowledged, among other things, that historic structures and their contents "deserve equal consideration in planning for their care."[13]

An interpretive plan for the store has not been completed, nor is there any collection list of objects to be displayed in the store; thus, it is impossible to know precisely what might be required for object conservation. In addition, because the store is in disrepair and has not been opened and occupied, there has been no real opportunity to evaluate the building's internal climate and assess its ability to maintain its own comfortable internal environment.

Repairs: Addressing the issues surrounding the internal environment of the store should begin with repairs that will restore the structure's inherent energy- saving qualities. Most old buildings, including the store, were built with a well- developed sense of physical comfort and with a variety of features that maximized the natural sources of heating, lighting and ventilation. Operable windows and doors, of course, provide natural light but also natural ventilation, while operable shutters (which were louvered on the side and rear elevations), can prevent heat gain while still allowing natural ventilation. In addition, the Prud'hommes installed a pair of large roof ventilators on the store and, with the open stairwell at the front of the store, these ventilators helped reduce heat gain in the attic and made the interior of the building more comfortable as a result. If operated properly, these passive features can provide energy- efficient fresh air and reduce the need for mechanical devices in the building.

Repair of interior and exterior finishes can help reduce drafts in the building during cold weather. Weather- stripping of windows and doors could also help reduce air- infiltration, but the construction of the additions to the building is such that a draft- free environment is an unrealistic expectation for parts of the building.

Insulation: Attic insulation is by far the most common energy- saving retrofit in historic buildings, being relatively easy to install with little or no damage to historic fabric and making the building easier to heat in winter while reducing heat gain in the summer. Because there is no finished ceiling through most of the store, insulation should be installed between the roof rafters. Newer reflective insulating materials specifically designed to reduce radiated heat gain through the roof would be especially beneficial. Insulation of the floors would be of some benefit in keeping the store more comfortable in cold weather by reducing drafts. Retrofitting historic wood- framed walls with insulation is generally not recommended in

12. J. P. Brown and William B. Rose, "Humidity and Moisture in Historic Buildings: The Origins of Building and Object Conservation," *APT Bulletin*, Vol. XXVII, #3.
13. See http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/ethics/neworlea.html for a copy of this Charter and APT *Bulletin* Vol. XXVII, #3, "Special Issue: Museums in Historic Buildings."

historic buildings, due to the relatively small percentage of heat loss/gain that occurs through the walls and the severe damage that is necessary for installation. Vapor barriers should not be used.[14]

Heating and Cooling: The winters are relatively mild in Natchitoches Parish with average highs of 56° and lows of 34° in January. Some artificial heating will still be necessary in cold weather, especially in the office (006), which was historically the only part of the store that was routinely heated in cold weather, and in the sales (001A) and staff (004 and 005) areas of the building. The least intrusive heating system would be electric, since that would not require installation of ductwork and would be easily reversible. If necessary during cold weather, a temporary covering could be placed over the loft opening to help retain heat, although the loft should remain open during most of the year.

With attic insulation and use of the building's natural ventilation system, the building should stay relatively comfortable in the summer. In most buildings that are not air- conditioned, the day's heating does not penetrate and build up in the building until late in the day and, overnight, is replaced by cooler air. Because it may not be possible to leave windows open, even with the shutters closed, this overnight recycling of air and cooling of the building may need to be augmented by the use of a ventilating fan in the attic. Placed at the western end of the space and equipped with a timer and/or thermostat, it could insure that the building is well ventilated at all times.

If necessary for employee comfort in extremely hot weather, window- mounted air-conditioning units could be installed in the sales and staff areas of the building (001A and 004). Window- mounted air- conditioners were used by the Prud'hommes, although not during the historic period prior to the 1960s. Rather than irreversibly compromise the building by installing a central system that may or may not suit the long- term needs of the park, use of window- mounted units could provide immediate relief with very little intrusion on the historic fabric of the building. If air- conditioners are installed, the conditioned spaces and adjacent areas should be carefully monitored for evidence of condensation that could be damaging to the structure. The use of vapor barriers in historic buildings is problematic since they require a high level of intrusion and even experts disagree on their use in historic buildings.[15]

Climate Study and Collections: Once the building is repaired and selectively insulated and once the natural ventilation system is being operated to maximum advantage, a year-long climate study should be conducted to establish a baseline of data on temperature and relative humidity. At the same time, the park should develop a full interpretive plan for the

14. Baird Smith, "Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings," *Preservation Brief #3*, NPS.

15. See Preservation Briefs #3 and #39, "Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings" and "Controlling Moisture in Historic Buildings."

store along with a list of objects suitable for display in the building. This list should be developed with the understanding that the internal climate of the building may never be suitable for display of objects that require careful control of temperature and relative humidity.[16]

- Install insulation between rafters in attic and under floors.
- Restore all windows, doors, shutters, and ventilators to good working order.
- Install electric heaters in 001A, 006, 004, 005.
- If necessary, utilize window- mounted air- conditioning units to cool sales and staff areas (001A and 004).
- Establish program for monitoring of internal temperature and relative humidity over a cycle of all four seasons.
- Develop interpretive plan and collections list with limitations of building in mind.

Handicapped Accessibility: Providing handicapped access to the historic building presents significant challenges. Three major characteristics of the existing Store prevent independent barrier- free access: the elevation of the building above grade, size and configuration of some door openings, and the configuration of the historic interior of the store. In addition, historic lighting levels, changes in interior floor levels, and a variety of other interior features also may make the building difficult to negotiate for visually- impaired persons. Rigid application of A.D.A. standards and code requirements would require significant changes to these character- defining features, but a variety of compliance alternatives may be negotiated with the appropriate officials to prevent an unacceptable level of loss in the building's integrity as a historic structure while still accommodating persons with disabilities.

The store can be entered through the front or the rear doors; but, historically, nearly everyone who entered the building did so through the main front doors. Most modern visitors will approach the store from the yard of the Big House or from the west along the farm lane in front of the Mule Barn, however, since interpretation of Oakland Plantation is intended to focus visitors' attention on the plantation's operation and the workers' experience of the site. Tours of the store will begin with the plantation office in Room 006 at the rear of the building; but, although visitors may enter through the rear of the Store, most will want to experience the front of the building, and that should be maintained as the building's primary entrance.

The building's elevation above grade is relatively low (less than 24 inches) and can be dealt with by a ramp to either of the porches, although a ramp at either location will be an intrusive feature on the historic landscape. A ramp to the rear porch might be least intrusive, especially if it is L- shaped to parallel the fence and the rear of the building.

16. Jean Trudel, "Housing Museums in Historic Buildings: A Wise Solution for the Long Term?," *APT Bulletin* VOl. XXVII, #3. This entire issue of *APT Bulletin* is devoted to issues of collection care in historic buildings.

All of the exterior door openings are adequately sized (ranging from 3'- 0" to 4'- 8") to be fully accessible; but the historic door knobs do not meet requirements for full accessibility and all of the front openings have double doors that also preclude full accessibility. A new handicapped- accessible entrance could be created from the window opening on the south side of 001A, but such a change would be irreversible and would still not provide access to the main store room (002). Redesign of the front doors is also not an option since they are a major character- defining element of the store. The back door (into 006) could be retrofitted with automatic door openers operated by push buttons, mats, or electronic eyes which could make it fully accessible. It may not be possible to find a mechanism that can be concealed without significant alterations to the door itself and the surrounding framing, but an exposed device would represent an unacceptable visual intrusion on the historic interior of the store. Alternatively, since the building will be staffed, a buzzer could be installed at the base of the ramp or other suitable location that would alert staff if assistance were needed in negotiating the historic doors.

Although providing a fully- accessible route through the building will not be possible without major alterations to important features of the interior, some relatively minor changes can provide an accessible route that, while not meeting the letter of the law, meets its spirit and could be negotiated without assistance albeit with some inconvenience to the visitor. Stops and hinging at the door openings between 001A and 001B (D- 5) and between 006 and 007 (D- 7), both of which are 32- inch openings, make those doors only marginally accessible (31? inches is the absolute maximum) if the doors are open fully. The swing of D- 5 can be reversed to allow it to swing completely clear of the opening. Because Room 007 will not be entered by visitors, the door will not require alteration.

The doors to and from 004 (D- 8 and D- 10) are not wide enough to be accessible; but neither is slated for use by the public. Possible issues of access by handicapped staff would be difficult to address because of the eight- inch change in floor level between 004 and 006 and because widening of D- 8 would represent a significant alteration to the character of 006, which is one of the spaces central to site interpretation. Other accommodations should be sought for handicapped staff so that significant and irreversible alterations to the historic interior can be avoided.

The historic configuration of the counters at the west end of 002 also preclude a fully- accessible route through the store. The enclosure formed by these counters is an extremely important feature of the historic interior, and options that would provide handicapped accessibility while preserving the character of that enclosure are limited.

If no alterations were made to the counters, there are two options that would provide access to all interpreted spaces. A ramp could be added to the rear porch and the back door modified for accessibility, allowing access to

006. To provide access to 001A, alterations to its double doors from the front porch would be necessary. Since these doors swing outward, they would need to remain open or a new door that would open inward might be necessary. Neither of these is a good alternative because of the alterations that would be required.

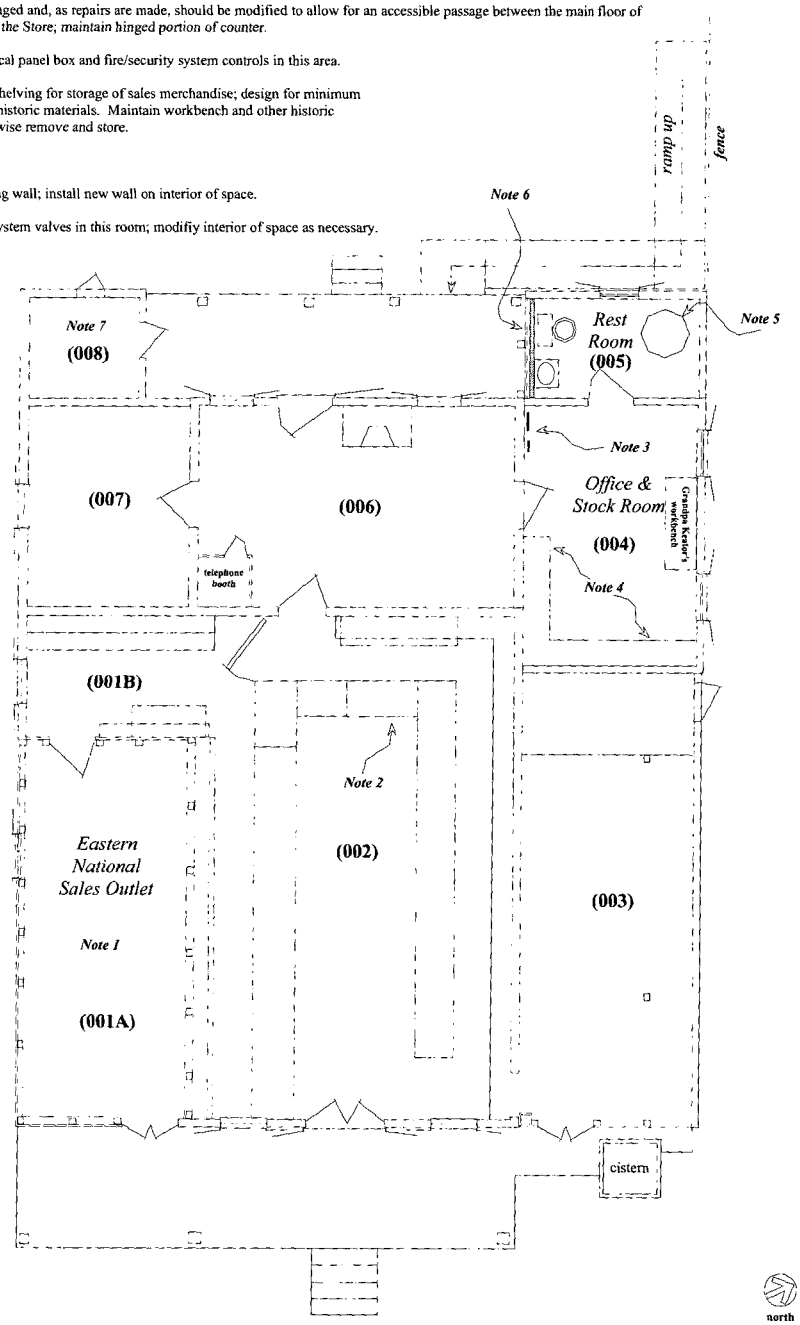
Minimal alterations to the existing short counter at the west end of 002 could improve interior access while preserving the historic character of the space. The top of that counter has been badly damaged by termites and will require major repairs in any case. In making those repairs, the top could be replaced and shortened by about four inches without significant alteration to the framing or the front of the cabinet. If this were done, minimum clearance of 32 inches could be gained, allowing handicapped access from the main floor of 002 to the office (006) and to the sales area in 001A. These alterations would preserve the historic configuration of the counters, including the gate into 001B and the hinged countertop that was historically used to bar access from the main floor of 002 to the rear of the store. Even with these changes, the route would still not meet the letter of ADA regulations, but it would allow for more independent access without compromising the historic building.

There are a number of barriers for persons with visual impairments and others, including the historic lighting (see above) and protruding shelves and other features. In addition, an authentic recreation of the store's contents would include barrels and other items on the floors or hanging from the ceilings. Because of this, alternative interpretive programs could help make the building and its history accessible.

- Install handicapped- accessible ramp to north end of back porch.
- Install appropriate signage and buzzer to alert staff to assistance needed in entering the building. If necessary, install handicapped- accessible automatic door opener at back door.
- In making repairs to the short counter at west end of 002, modify counter to allow accessible 32- inch passage to rear of store.
- Develop special programs to interpret the store for the visually- impaired.

Changes or modifications to the historic building that are necessary to accommodate modern use:

1. The interior of this room will be rehabilitated and finished for a sales outlet, including modern shelving, counters, and lighting.
2. This counter is badly damaged and, as repairs are made, should be modified to allow for an accessible passage between the main floor of 002 and the rear rooms of the Store; maintain hinged portion of counter.
3. Surface-mount new electrical panel box and fire/security system controls in this area.
4. Add new floor-to-ceiling shelving for storage of sales merchandise; design for minimum number of attachments to historic materials. Maintain workbench and other historic features, if possible; otherwise remove and store.
5. Preserve water tank *in situ.*
6. Repair and preserve existing wall; install new wall on interior of space.
7. Install dry-pipe sprinkler system valves in this room; modifiy interior of space as necessary.



United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service** **Southeast Region** Cultural Resources Stewardship Division

Drawn by F. Jones May 2001

Oakland Plantation
Prudhomme's Store
Proposed Modifications

REFERENCE & APPENDICES

Sources of Information

Primary Sources

Association of Natchitoches Women for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. *Natchitoches.* Natchitoches *Times*, 1958. Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

Ballos, T. Completion Report - Oakland Plantation Emergency Stabilization, Cane river National Historical Park, Natchitoches, Louisiana. North East System Support Off ice, North East Cultural Resources Center, Building Conservation Branch, and Denver Service Center, NPS, 1997.

Breedlove, Carolyn. "Bermuda/Oakland Plantation, 1830- 1880." Unpublished masters thesis, Northwestern State University, 1999.

Hunter, Henry. Mss collection 1- A- 1 (accession # 598).

Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Watson Memorial Library, Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

Lawliss, L., C. Goetcheus, and D. Hasty. *The Cultural Landscape Inventory and Assessment, Cane River Creole National Heritage Area Natchitoches, Louisiana.* Southeast Support Off ice, Atlanta, Georgia, 1997.

List of Classified Structures Team. *Historic Resources Documentation, Cane River National Historical Park,* Southeast Support Office, NPS, Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.

Malone, Ann Patton. "A Draft Response to NPS Focus Questions Relating to the Oakland Oral History Project." 1997.

Malone, Ann Patton. "Oakland Plantation, It's People's Testimony." Draft of report from oral history project, 1998.

Miri, A. A. *Historic Structure Assessment Report: overseer's House, Store and Post Office, South Slave Cabin, North Slave Cabin, Oakland Plantation, Cane River National Historical Park, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.* Southeast Support Office, NPS, Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.

National Park Service. *Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.* 2000.

"Prud'homme Collection #613," Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

Southern Publishing Company. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.* Tuscaloosa, AL: Mills Historical Press, 1985 reprint of original 1890 edition.

Technical Information Center. *Special Resource Study Environmental Assessment - Cane River, Louisiana.* Denver Service Center, NPS, Denver, Colorado, 1993.

United States Postal Service. *History of the U. S. Postal Service, 1775- 1993.* http:// www.usps.gov/history.

"U. S. Post Office Locations." Federal Archives & Records Center, East Point, GA. Microfilm 1126, Roll 244.

Yocum, B. A. *Oakland Plantation: Overseer's House, Store and Post Office, and Main House Materials Analysis and Physical Investigation, Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area, Natchitoches, Louisiana.* Building Conservation Branch, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, Northeast Field Area, NPS, Lowell, MA, 1998.

Oral Interviews

Ann Patton Malone interviews conducted as part of oral history project 1996- 1997:

Vivian Prud'homme Flores. Transcripts of 1996 and 1997 interview.

Kenneth & Sally Prud'homme. Transcript of 1997 interview.

Kenneth Prud'homme. Transcript of 1997 interview.

Kathy Prud'homme Guen. Transcript of 1997 interview.

Mayo Prud'homme. Transcripts of 1996 and 1997 interviews.

Lucille Keator Prud'homme. Transcript of 1997 interview.

Tommy H. Jones interviews with Kenneth Prud'homme, 3 April and 9 May 2001, concerning the Oakland store.

Secondary Sources

Aiken, Charles S. *The Cotton Plantation South Since the Civil War*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Ayers, Edward L. *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Johnson, Laurence A., and Marcia Ray. *Over the Counter and On the Shelf: Country Storekeeping in America, 1620- 1920*. Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1961.

Royce, Edward. *The Origins of Southern Sharecropping*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1993.

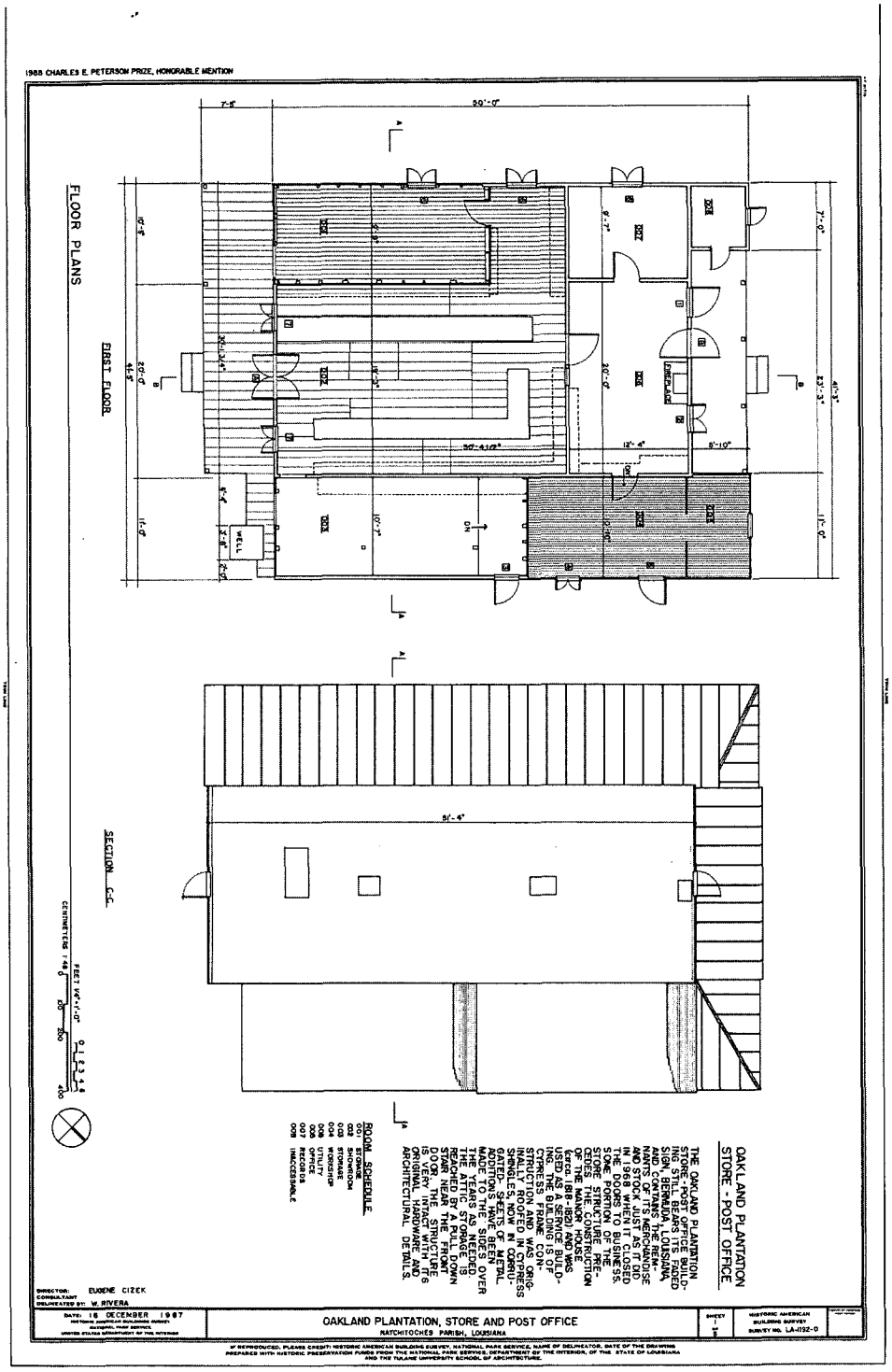
Schlereth, Thomas J. *Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876- 1915*. Harper- Collins, 1991.

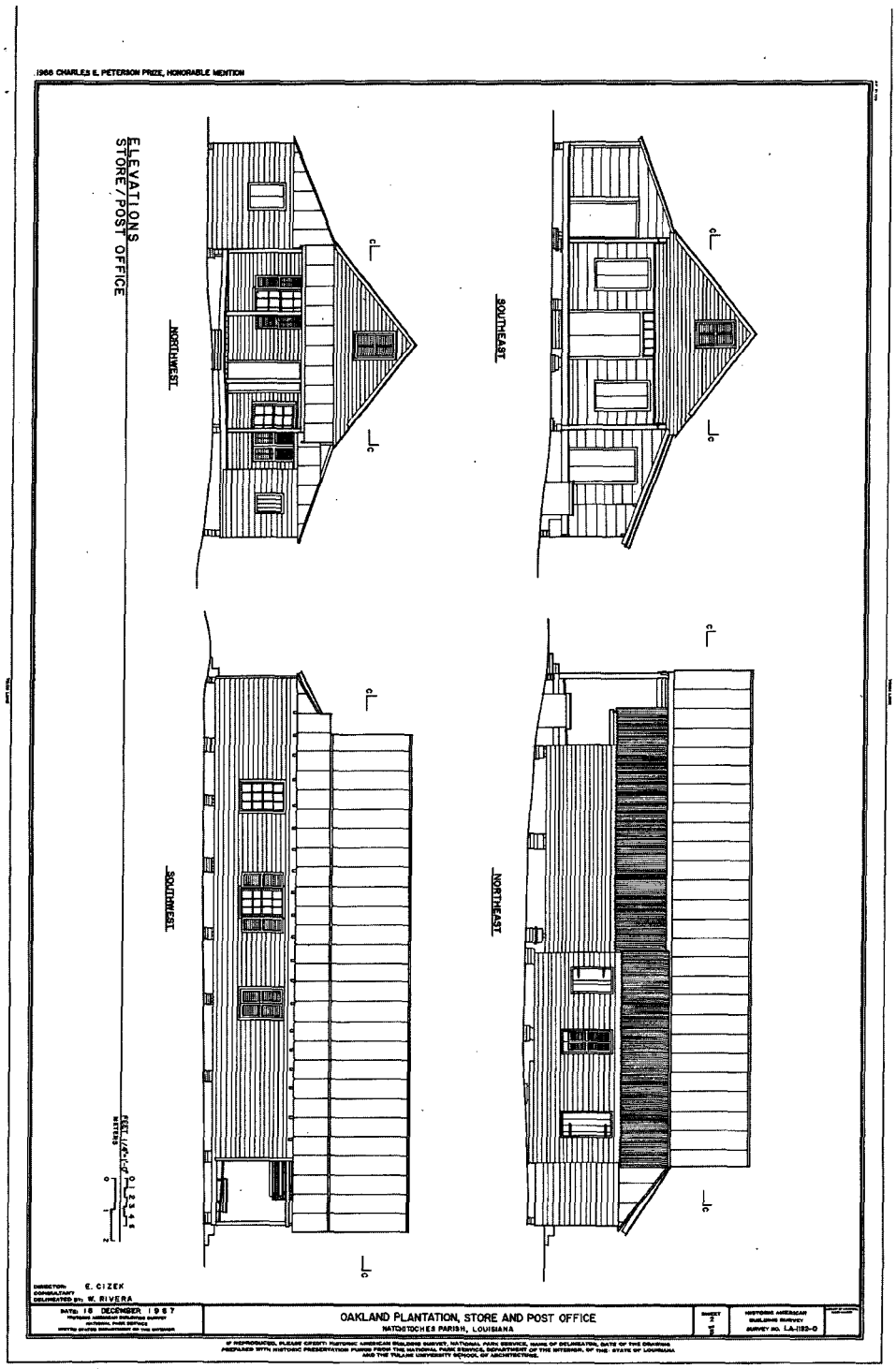
Wall, Bennet H. *Louisiana: A History*. Arlington Heights, IL: Forum Press, Inc., 1990 (2nd Edition).

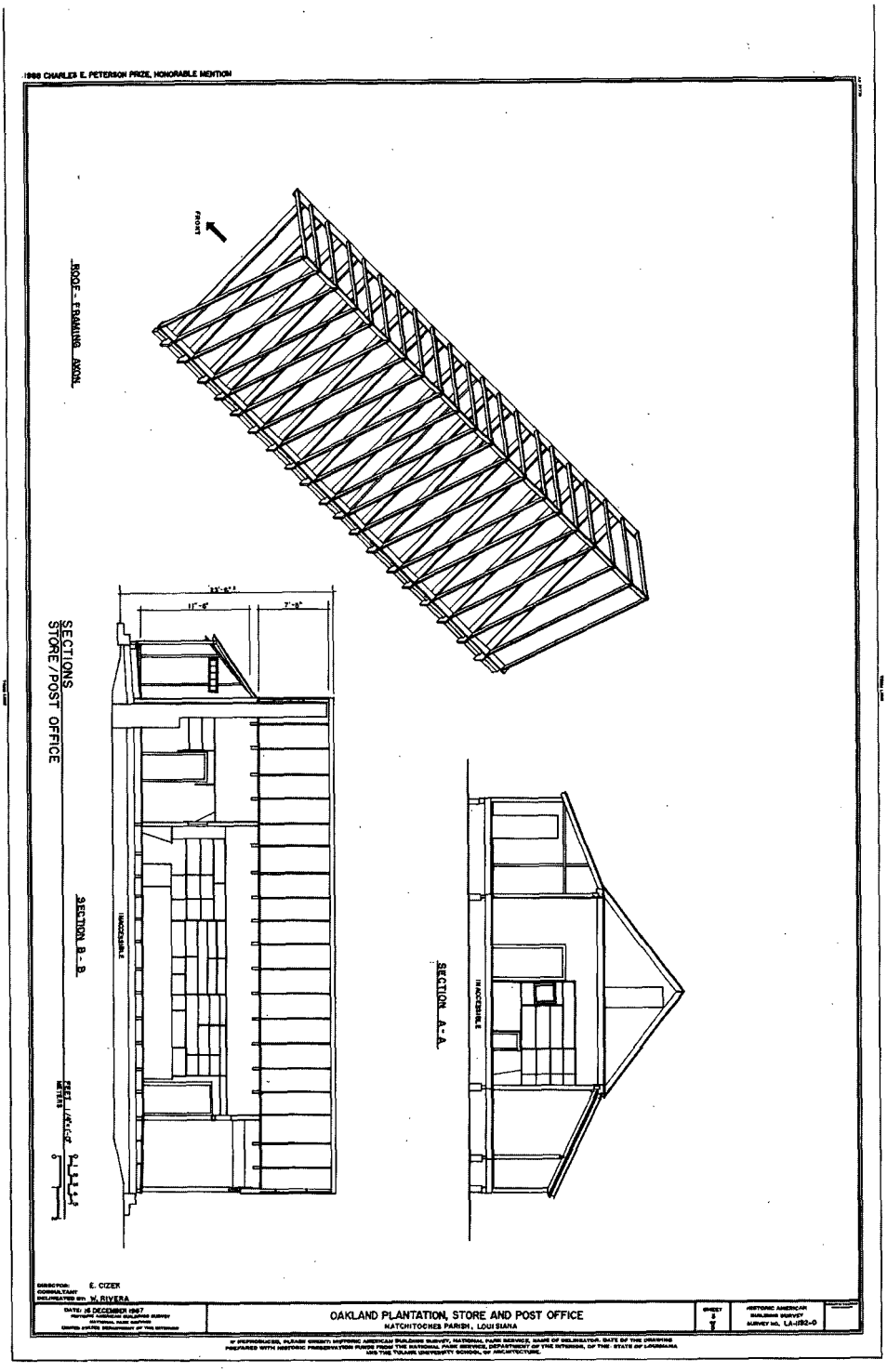
Woodward, C. Vann. *Origins of the New South*. Louisiana State University Press, 1951.

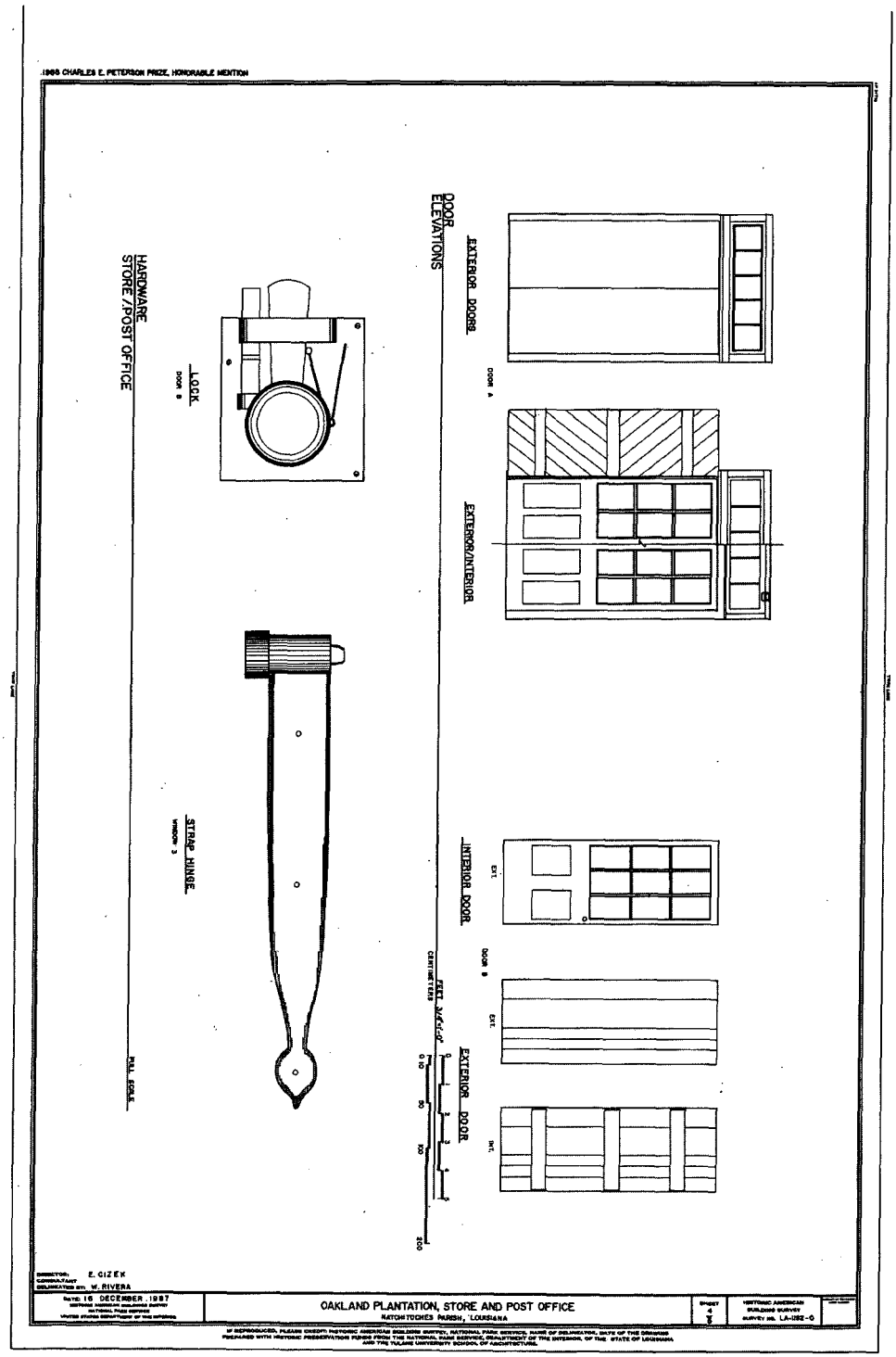
APPENDIX A

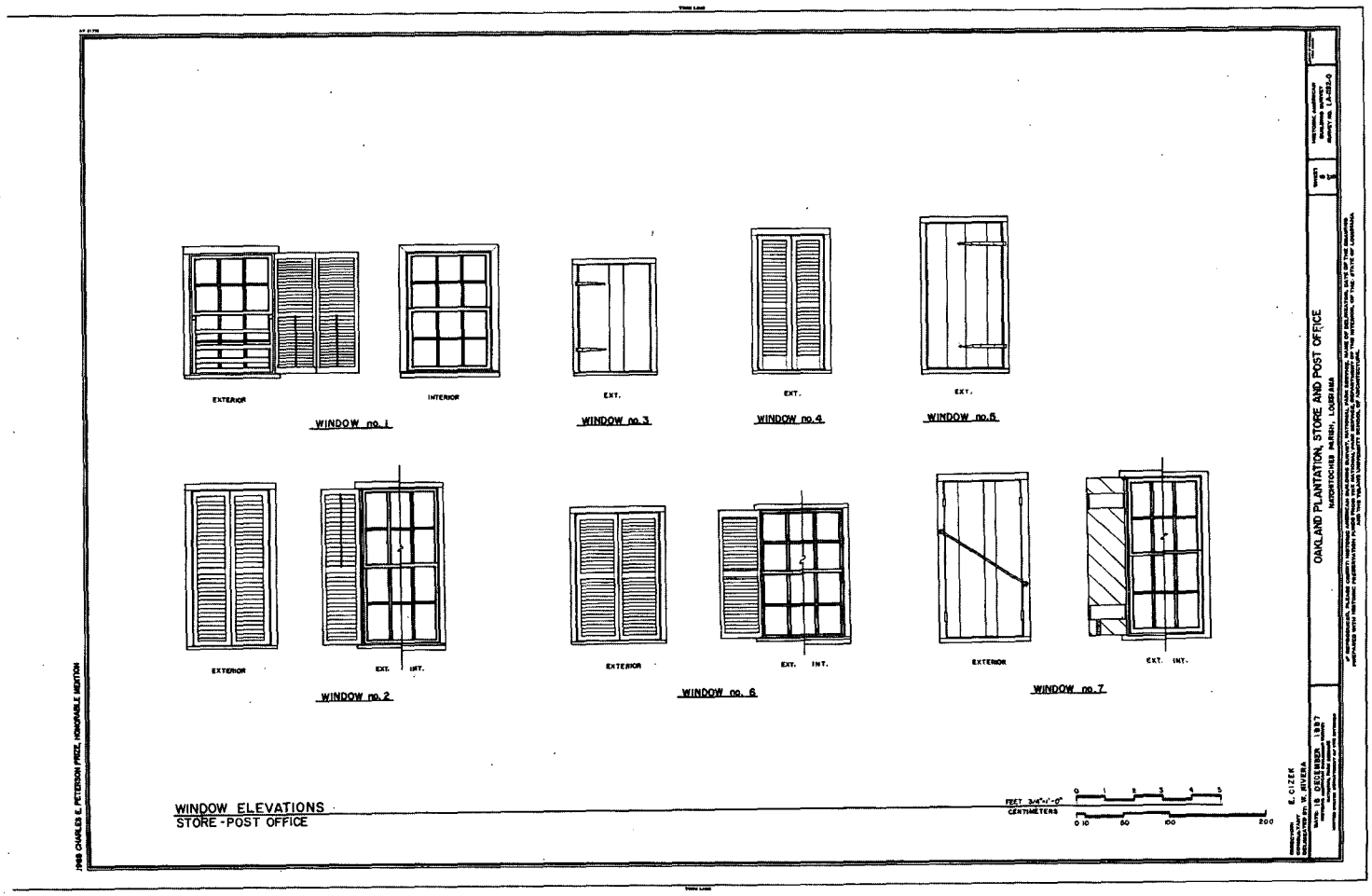
HABS Drawings


1988 CHARLES E. PETERSON PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION
FLOOR PLANS
FIRST FLOOR
SECTION C-C
OAKLAND PLANTATION
STORE - POST OFFICE
THE OAKLAND PLANTATION STORE-POST OFFICE BUILDING STILL BEARS ITS FADED SIGN, BERMUDA, LOUISIANA, AND CONTAINS THE REMNANTS OF ITS MERCHANDISE AND STOCK JUST AS IT DID IN 1968 WHEN IT CLOSED THE DOORS TO BUSINESS. SOME PORTION OF THE STORE STRUCTURE PRECEDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MANOR HOUSE (circa 1818-1821) AND WAS USED AS A SERVICE BUILDING. THE BUILDING IS OF CYPRESS FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND WAS ORIGINALLY ROOFED IN CYPRESS SHINGLES, NOW IN CORRUGATED SHEETS OF METAL. ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE SIDES OVER THE YEARS AS NEEDED. THE ATTIC STORAGE IS REACHED BY A PULL DOWN STAIR NEAR THE FRONT DOOR. THE STRUCTURE IS VERY INTACT WITH ITS ORIGINAL HARDWARE AND ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS.
ROOM SCHEDULE
001 STORAGE
002 SHOWROOM
003 STORAGE
004 WORKSHOP
005 UTILITY
006 OFFICE
007 RECORDS
008 INACCESSIBLE
DIRECTOR: EUGENE CIZEK
CONSULTANT
DELINEATED BY: W. RIVERA
DATE: 16 DECEMBER 1987
OAKLAND PLANTATION, STORE AND POST OFFICE
NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA
SHEET 1 OF 16
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
SURVEY NO. LA-1192-D
IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF THE DRAWING
PREPARED WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
AND THE TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.


1966 CHARLES E. PETERSON PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION
ELEVATIONS
STORE/POST OFFICE
NORTHWEST
SOUTHEAST
SOUTHWEST
NORTHEAST
E. CIZEK
W. RIVERA
DECEMBER 1967
OAKLAND PLANTATION, STORE AND POST OFFICE
NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
LA-1193-D


1988 CHARLES E. PETERSON PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION
ROOF - FRAMING AXON
SECTIONS
STORE/POST OFFICE
SECTION B - B
SECTION A - A
INACCESSIBLE
DIRECTOR: E. CIZEK
CONSULTANT
DELINEATED BY: M. RIVERA
DATE: 15 DECEMBER 1987
OAKLAND PLANTATION, STORE AND POST OFFICE
NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
SURVEY NO. LA-1182-D


1985 CHARLES E. PETERSON PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION
HARDWARE
STORE / POST OFFICE
LOCK
DOOR B
STRAP HINGE
WINDOW 3
FULL SCALE
DOOR ELEVATIONS
EXTERIOR DOORS
DOOR A
EXTERIOR/INTERIOR
INTERIOR DOOR
EXT.
DOOR B
EXT.
EXTERIOR DOOR
INT.
CENTIMETERS
FEET
E. GIZEK
W. RIVERA
DATED: 16 DECEMBER, 1987
OAKLAND PLANTATION, STORE AND POST OFFICE
NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA
SHEET 4 OF 5
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SURVEY NO. LA-1052-0


EXTERIOR
INTERIOR
WINDOW no. 1
EXT.
WINDOW no. 3
EXT.
WINDOW no. 4
EXT.
WINDOW no. 5
EXTERIOR
EXT. INT.
WINDOW no. 2
EXTERIOR
EXT. INT.
WINDOW no. 6
EXTERIOR
EXT. INT.
WINDOW no. 7
WINDOW ELEVATIONS
STORE-POST OFFICE
FEET 3/4"=1'-0"
CENTIMETERS
0 1 2 3 4 5
0 10 50 100 200
OAKLAND PLANTATION, STORE AND POST OFFICE
NATCHITOCHES PARISH, LOUISIANA
E. CIZEK
W. RIVERA
DATE: 18 DECEMBER 1987
1988 CHARLES E. PETERSON PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION

APPENDIX B

Materials Analysis

CARI 11 STORE AND POST OFFICE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

No archival documentation has yet been found on the original construction of the building known today as the Store And Post Office at Oakland Plantation. This is thought to have occurred sometime after 1867, since there is no mention of building a store in the plantation journal for that year.[8] A date of 1868 has been suggested, based on the fact that this is when sharecrop farming commenced at Oakland.[9] This coincided with the recent ownership of Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme, who inherited this portion of the plantation (including the Main House) about this time. The store appears to have existed by Feb. 15, 1874, based on a ledger item of that date. Finally, the earliest-known photograph of the store is a tin type dated 1878.

The 1878 photograph (figure 14) shows the front elevation of the store as a much smaller building than exists today. It was then a simple wood-frame building oriented gable-end to the road, with a shed roof at the front porch supported by four plain columns. A wide stairway with three steps ascended to the raised porch floor. A main entrance doorway (with no transom) was centered in the front facade, and flanked on either side by one window. Each window was outfitted with six-over-six sashes and board shutters. No shed additions were attached to the north or south sides of the building. Physical examination of the building found that circular-sawn lumber was used in the construction of the store, along with machine-cut nails with shear points. Both of these materials were also observed in the original (1861) construction of the Overseer's House. Unlike the Overseer's House, however, no bousillage was daubed in the walls of the store.

The store did not retain this appearance for long, being enlarged in several stages to meet the demands for additional space. Interestingly, these alterations were all made while under the ownership of the original owner and builder of the store, Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme.[10] While no written or photographic documentation is known of this work, examination of the building itself suggests the following evolution. The earliest additions lengthened the main building to the rear, extended the pedimented roof on the front side (replacing the existing porch roof), and provided a small shed addition on the north side. This was followed by a widening of the north shed, and its subsequent lengthening at some later date. All of this work was of frame construction using machine-cut nails, suggesting a construction date sometime before 1900. The last major addition to the store was made circa 1900 and covered the entire south elevation; wire nails were used in its construction. All phases of construction are described in more detail in the following section on "Construction Techniques And Materials."

---

[8] Few journals are said to be available for the years after 1867.

[9] "Workshop Document" by Dr. Ann Malone, 1997, p. 28.

[10] Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme acquired his portion of the plantation in 1867; it was passed on to his son, Pierre Phanor Prud'homme, in 1919.

The enlarged store as it exists today is documented in two photographs dated "circa 1940" (figures 15 and 16). Long shed additions on the north and south sides widen the store, and a light painted finish with dark banding along the base provides a uniform appearance. Standing-seam metal roofing covered the roof by this time, and two metal ventilators aerated the attic. The owner was then "P. Phanor Prudhomme," whose name was painted in dark letters on the front of the store. Below this is a smaller sign reading "Bermuda P.O.," referring to the post office of which Pierre Phanor Prud'homme was postmaster for almost 40 years (circa 1930-67).[11]

The store was again photographed in 1986, then showing conditions little changed from today.[12] An accompanying description appears to be mostly inaccurate, alleging that the store was built in the 1830s, and served originally as a carpenter's shop.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS

Original Construction: Circa 1868

General Description. The original (circa-1868) portion of the store survives mostly intact today, corresponding in footprint to the main room labeled as "Room 002." It is a one-story, wood-frame structure with gable roof, measuring approximately 30' 4" long by 20' wide. A spacious, floored attic was accessible only through a small hatch in the ceiling. This building was presumably constructed as a store or commissary, which use it retained for more than 100 years.

Brick Piers. The original building is raised off the ground by brick piers, similar to the construction of the Overseer's House in 1861.

Framing And Boards. Wood framing members and board stock are circular sawn. Wall studs are of various dimensions. The south-wall studs are exposed to view today in Room 001A, where the exterior siding has been removed.

Nails. Nails used in the construction of the store are a machine-cut type with shear points, typical of nails manufactured between 1836 and 1885. They are similar to the nails used in the construction of the Overseer's House in 1861.

Roofing. The roof is sheathed with wide, circular-sawn boards with 1" spaces between the boards. These were probably covered with cypress shingles circa 1868; no shingles remain today.

Exterior Siding. Original exterior siding survives in two locations today: on the front (east) facade, and on the north elevation. The siding on the front facade, below the level of the porch roof, is a flush tongue-and-groove weatherboarding. The siding on the side elevation, now covered

[11] A note on the box office "box" states that the last date for postal service was July 14, 1967.

[12] "Historic Structures Inventory," Division of Historic Preservation, Louisiana, May 26, 1986.

by Room 003, is a lapped weatherboarding with an exposure of 5 1/2". Both siding types are nailed directly to the wall studs. Although no longer extant today, similar lapped weatherboarding no doubt covered the south and rear elevations originally. The siding at the south elevation is completely missing today, while that at the rear elevation may have been reinstalled in a flush configuration, based on the physical evidence of unused cut-nail holes and paint shadows.[13]

Lapped weatherboards also appear to have sided the original east gable end of the store, based on the photograph of 1878. Both original gable ends are missing today, having been removed when the attic was enlarged sometime after 1878.

Doorways And Windows. One wide doorway is known from the 1878 photograph to have been centered in the front facade of the store. This was equipped with a pair of board-and-batten doors, which survive today. Note that the existing transom and interior glazed doors are later additions that were installed at the front doorway circa 1900. Two windows flanked the front doorway. These were equipped with six-over-six sashes and board-and-batten shutters, which are documented in the 1878 photograph and survive today. Both the doorway and window openings are trimmed with plain boards.

Additional physical investigation is required to determine the locations and numbers of additional original openings in the north, west, and south walls of the store. Joints noted in the exterior siding and corresponding interior wall sheathing may be evidence of a previous opening.

Flooring. The interior flooring of the main room and attic consists of wide tongue-and-groove boards. Both floors are blind nailed.

Interior Wall Paneling. The interior walls are sheathed with wide, circular-sawn, tongue-and-groove paneling installed horizontally.

Ceiling. The ceiling is about 14' high and consists of exposed floor joists and the undersides of the attic floorboards.

Interior Trim. Plain-board trim surrounds the original front doorway and flanking windows at the east wall of the main room.

Counter And Shelves. Additional research is required to determine the antiquity of the existing counter and shelves.

[13] Note: there is also a possibility that this siding was reused from another building, such as one of the Slave Cabins, according to Historical Architect Ali Miri.

Painted Finishes. Both the exterior and interior of the store were finished with whitewash circa 1868, according to the findings of the paint analysis. Left unpainted at this time were the doors, exterior shutters, doorway and window trim (both outside and inside), and interior window sashes.

Early Additions: Circa 1880

The earliest additions to the store are believed to have included the lengthening of the entire building to the rear, the extension of the attic over the front porch, and the building of a small shed-roof addition on the north side. It is not known for certain that these alterations all occurred at the same time, nor is the date "circa 1880" absolute--it is rather a best guess based on the available evidence. All three additions utilized circular-sawn lumber and machine-cut nails with shear points, similar to the materials used in the original construction of the store circa 1868. The work must have been done after Feb. 1878, based on the photograph of that date showing the store with no additions. It also most likely occurred before 1900, when wire nails came into common use.

Rear Extension. The lengthening of the store to the rear added 12' 4" to the building, which included a new back room (Room 006) with a brick fireplace and chimney, and an enlarged attic. The original end wall in the attic was removed at this time except for selected wall studs, which retain the nailing patterns of the original siding today. The original lapped weatherboard siding also appears to have been removed from the lower west wall and reinstalled as interior wall paneling in the new back room, based on unused nail holes and paint shadows on the boards.

There are many similarities between the construction materials and design of the wood-framed rear addition and the original store. These include the brick foundation piers that elevate the addition off the ground; lapped weather-board siding that survives on the back (west) elevation with an exposure of 5 1/2"; a back door of board-and-batten design similar to the front doors; two rear windows with six-over-six sashes; plain-board trim around the doorways and windows; and whitewashed finishes applied both outside and inside. A single doorway connected the front of the store with the new back room, that was probably used as an office.

Front Attic Extension. The lengthening of the store's front pediment to serve as the new porch roof may have occurred at the same time as the construction of the rear extension. An existing shed roof was removed at this time, and the attic extended approximately 7 1/2' to the east. The purpose of this addition may have been to increase the storage space in the attic. Construction techniques and materials were similar to those used for both the original store and its rear addition.

North Shed. A narrow shed addition measuring approximately 7' wide by 22' long provided easily accessible storage space for the store. While considerably enlarged over the years, the original core of this addition can be ascertained today. Original surviving elements include the front (east) wall and the shed roof. The location of the original (now missing) north wall is defined by a seam in the east elevation that corresponds to the location of two posts (former wall studs) in Room 003. The now-missing west wall was located where a drop in the floor occurs today, also in Room 003. The north wall, and later the west wall, were removed during later renovations to the shed.

The north shed is a wood-frame structure built on brick foundation piers. Construction materials were similar to those used in the original store and rear addition, including circular-sawn lumber and machine-cut nails with shear points. Exterior flush-board siding on the front facade duplicated that of the original store, as did the pair of board-and-batten doors at the front doorway. An interior doorway at the east end of the south wall connected the new shed with the main store, and was equipped with a single board-and-batten door. The roof was sheathed with widely spaced lath boards and covered with wooden shingles, which are preserved beneath the later metal roofing today.

The shed was a utilitarian structure with no special interior finishes. The south interior wall of the new room was the whitewashed exterior siding of the original store that was left in place, while the new walls with their exposed studs were simply left unpainted.

North-Shed Widening: Circa 1885

The north shed described above has been enlarged twice, based on the physical evidence. The first renovation widened the structure to the north by approximately 4' on brick piers. The original north wall was removed at this time, leaving only two wall studs. The length remained unchanged, as evidenced by a seam in the siding of the north elevation that corresponds to a change in floor height at the west wall. An effort was made to match existing exterior materials, such as the flush-board siding installed on the front facade, and lapped weatherboard siding with an exposure of 5" to 5 1/2" installed at the north elevation. The roof rafters were extended and wood shingles were installed. Similar building materials were also used, such as circular-sawn stock and machine-cut nails.

North-Shed Lengthening: Circa 1890

A more extensive enlargement of the north shed occurred sometime after it had been widened circa 1885. A date of "circa 1890" has been assigned to this renovation, based on the use of machine-cut nails in its construction.[14] This work lengthened the north shed by approximately 17 1/2', covering the north wall of the earlier rear addition to the main store. The existing west wall of the existing storage shed was removed at this time and relocated about 5' to the west, providing additional storage space in Room 003. Also installed at this time was a new finished room (Room 004) on the opposite (west) side of the new partition wall.

As with previous construction, the lengthened shed was a wood-framed structure built on brick piers. Lapped weatherboard siding with a wider exposure than previously used (6 1/2") covered the exterior walls, while the new shed roof mimicked the slope of the existing shed roof. Inside, many of the building materials employed appear to have been salvaged and reused. The new west partition wall of the newly enlarged storage room (Room 003), for example, was paneled with

[14] Note that while wire nails were manufactured as early as 1885, machine-cut nails continued to be commonly used until circa 1900. (Edwards and Wells, *Historic Louisiana Nails*, p. 59).

exterior siding that had probably been removed from the former exterior west wall. Clues as to its previous use include a whitewashed finish and areas of unpainted wood where the siding had formerly overlapped. The reused siding was not repainted, thereby preserving the paint evidence of its previous exterior use.

More elaborately appointed was the new room at the west end of the shed--Room 004. Here, three of the walls were sheathed with reused hand-planed paneling. On the north and west walls, wide hand-planed boards were installed horizontally, while the east wall was finished with more elaborate woodwork featuring unmolded, recessed panels. The east-wall paneling had been painted with several layers of lead-based paints in its previous use, according to the paint analysis (see Appendix B). All of the paneling was repainted circa 1890 with a non-lead, light-brown color paint. A single doorway connected the new room with the existing store (Room 006), and was outfitted with a hand-planed, board-and-batten door with a large, old-fashioned rim lock. Two windows with plain-board trim in the north wall had different (probably reused) sashes--six over-six in one window, and nine-over-nine in the other.

South Addition: Circa 1900

The largest addition to the store was constructed circa 1900 and covered the entire length of the store's south elevation. This was a shed-roof structure that mirrored the existing north-shed addition in both size and design. The new addition was wood framed and built on brick piers, similar to all previous store construction. The exterior siding replicated the existing siding, being flush boards on the front facade, and lapped weather boards on the south and west elevations. The addition differed from earlier store construction by using wire nails exclusively--a nail type that was manufactured as early as 1885 and was generally available by 1900. Used extensively for the interior finishes at this time was narrow, beaded-board paneling. All of the interior floors were installed with narrow, tongue-and-groove floorboards measuring 5" wide. Windows were equipped with six-over-six sashes.

In addition to the use of wire nails, a date of "circa 1900" is supported by penciled graffiti dated 1904-18, indicating that the structure existed by 1904. A patented rim lock on one of the doors, dated 1908, may have been a later improvement. These are described in more detail below.

Three new rooms were created within the south addition. The largest, at the east end, was a large, unfinished storage area (Room 001A) with a wide doorway in the front facade opening directly onto the front porch. Similar to the earlier storeroom on the north side, the doorway exterior was equipped with a pair of board-and-batten doors. This utilitarian room was mostly unfinished, with exposed wall studs and roof rafters. The store's original siding had been removed from the north wall, and may have been reinstalled on the new exterior walls. An interior doorway in the west wall today has a four-panel door with a "Russell & Erwin" rim lock embossed with the patent date "June Oct., 08." Pencilled graffiti on the door is dated "2/19/15" and "4/6/17."

A smaller room (Room 001B) is situated in the center of the south addition, to the west of the storage room. This room served as an anteroom (and later the post office) of the main store, the

connection for which was created by removing a section of the original store's exterior south wall. The room's walls and ceilings were completely finished with tongue-and-groove paneling, some wide and some the narrow-beaded type. Graffiti found written on the east-wall paneling is dated "7/31/04," "12/27/4," and "9 27/09."

The west end room (Room 007) of the south addition was connected by a single doorway with the back room (Room 006). Like the new anteroom, the walls and ceiling of this room were completely finished with wide and beaded-board paneling. Graffiti penciled on this paneling is dated "12/21/12" and "4/27/18." A doorway in the north wall has a four-panel door, written on the interior side of which is the name "Reginal Prudhomme" at a height of about 3'.

The exterior of the store, including the new south addition, was painted circa 1900. As in previous years, whitewash was applied to the exterior siding, and for the first time in the history of the store, a pigmented paint was used on the exterior doors, shutters, and trim around the doorways and windows. This was a brick-red color that was used not only outside, also inside on the doors and trim of main store and its back room--Rooms 002 and 006. The new south rooms were not painted at this time, nor have they ever been painted.

Another improvement may have been made in the main store at this time (based on the paint evidence) included the installation of a transom above the front doorway.

Southwest And Northwest Additions, And Rear Porch: Circa 1900?

There is some question about the date(s) of construction of two corner rooms on the back (west) side of the store. The smaller of the two, Room 008, is appended to the west end of the circa-1900 south addition. The larger, Room 005, is attached to the west end of the enlarged (circa-1890) north addition. Both are wood-frame construction, built on brick foundation piers. While it was at first assumed that the rooms were of contemporary construction, given their symmetrical placement and similar appearance, it is also possible that they were built at different times. This is discussed in more detail below.

The southwest addition, Room 008, is a small appendage with an unfinished interior measuring approximately 6' by 7'. It is thought likely to have been built at the same time as the south addition (circa 1900) based on the following information. First, the lapped weatherboard siding on its south elevation is continuous with that of the south addition. Second, the east interior wall of Room 008 is covered with similar siding which has never been painted, as if the siding had never been exposed to the exterior.

The northwest addition, Room 005, is slightly larger, measuring approximately 6 1/2' by 11'. There is little doubt that it was constructed after the circa-1890 north-shed extension based on a joint in the exterior north-elevation siding. Narrow beaded-board paneling, similar to that used in the circa-1900 south addition, finishes the interior south wall. The floorboards are narrower than those used in the south addition, however, measuring only 3" wide versus 5" wide. It is possible that the addition was constructed sometime after 1900 when Room 004 was adapted as a apartment for

"Uncle Buddy" Prudhomme.[15] The room currently houses a water pump said to have brought water to the store from the river when Uncle Buddy lived there.[16]

A porch with shed roof on the back side of the store visually connects the two corner additions. Additional research is required, however, to determine its date of construction.

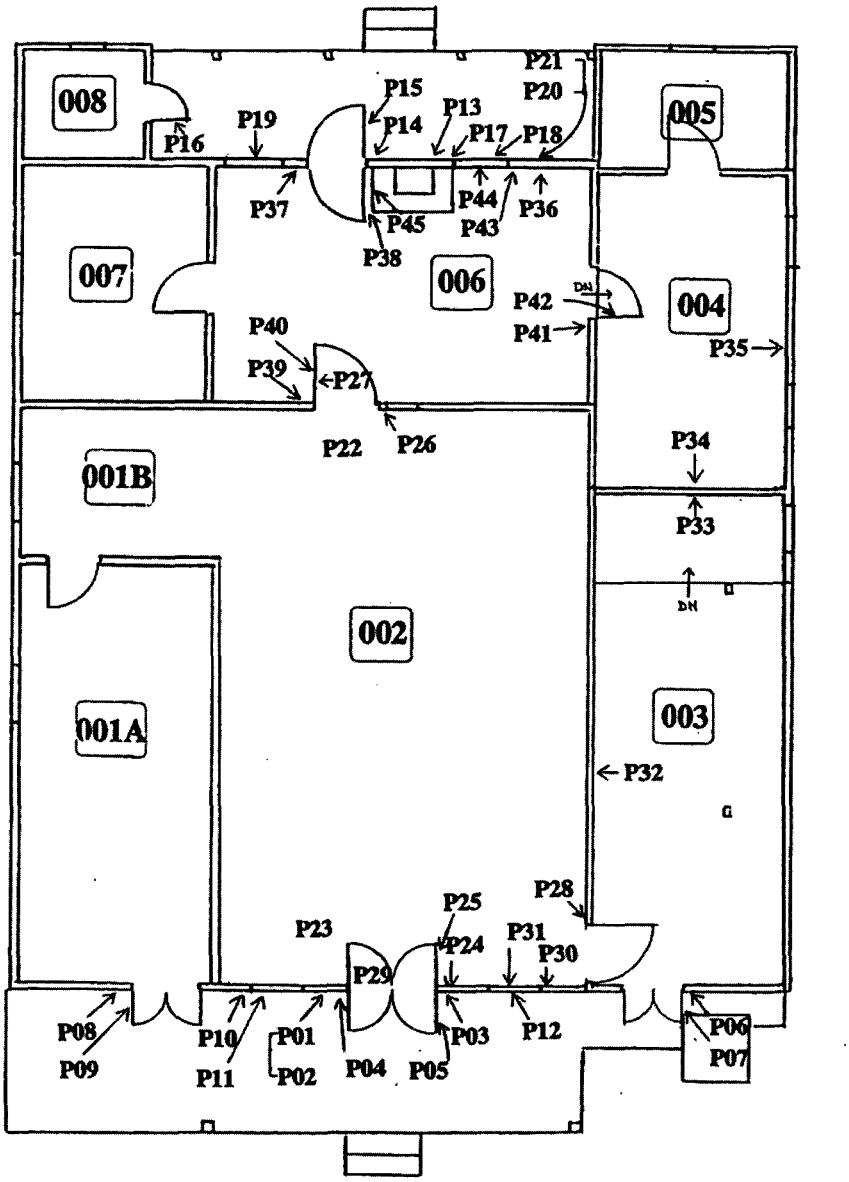
Metal Roof And Ventilators: Circa 1900-40

The roofs of the main store and its many additions are covered today with standing-seam metal roofing. Only one section, at the west end of the north shed addition, has corrugated metal, which is probably a later repair. This metal roofing may be as early as circa 1900, when the last significant addition was constructed on the south side. It definitely existed by circa 1940, based on the photographic documentation (figure 15).

Two metal ventilators mounted to the ridge of the main roof are most likely contemporary with the metal roof, circa 1900-40.

[15] Dr. Ann Malone, Workshop Document, p. 23. Additional research is required to more precisely pin down this date.

[16] Vivian Flores to Barbara Yocum, March 1998.



Store And Post Office: Paint Sample Locations

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (1 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P01	CARI 11 P02	CARI 11 P03	CARI 11 P04	CARI 11 P05
Location	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Siding (Upper)	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Siding (Lower)	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Doorway Trim (Upper)	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Doorway Trim (Lower)	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Board-And-Batten Doors
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868	White**				
	White**				
1890	White**	White**			
	White**	White**			
	White**	White**			
1900	White**	White**	Red	Red	Red
	White**	White**			
	White**	White**	Gray	Gray	Gray
	White**	White**			
	White**	White**	Green	Green	Green
	White**				
	White**	White**			
1940s	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White Red	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) Red	Aluminum (Primer) White

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (2 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P06	CARI 11 P07	CARI 11 P08	CARI 11 P09	CARI 11 P10
Location	Exterior: Front Facade Of North Addition, Doorway Trim	Exterior: Front Facade Of North Addition, Board-And-Batten Door	Exterior: Front Facade Of South Addition, Doorway Trim	Exterior: Front Facade Of South Addition, Board-And-Batten Door	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Window Trim
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890					
	White**		White**		
1900	Red	Red	Red (Traces)	Red (Traces)	Red
	Gray	Gray (Traces)			Gray (Traces)
	White				White
	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1940s	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (3 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P11	CARI 11 P12	CARI 11 P13	CARI 11 P14	CARI 11 P15
Location	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Window Shutter (Closed--Exterior Side)	Exterior: Front Facade Of Original Store, Window Shutter (Closed--Interior Side)	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, Siding	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, Doorway Trim	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, Board-And-Batten Door
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890					
			White**		
			White**		
1900	Red	Red	White**	Red	Red
			White**		
	Gray		White**	Gray	Gray
			White**	White	
	Green	Green	White**	Green	Green
			White**		
1940s	Aluminum (Primer) White	Aluminum (Primer) White			

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (4 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P16	CARI 11 P17	CARI 11 P18	CARI 11 P19	CARI 11 P20
Location	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of South Addition, Board-And Batten Door	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, North Window Trim	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, North Window Sashes (6/6)	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, South Window Sashes (6/6)	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, North Window Shutter (Exposed Side)
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890					
1900					
		Gray	White•	White• (Traces)	Gray
		White			
		Green	White•		Green
	White**				
1940s					

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (5 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P21	CARI 11 P22	CARI 11 P23	CARI 11 P24	CARI 11 P25
Location	Exterior: Rear Elevation Of Center Addition, North Window Shutter (Back Side)	Room 002: Wall Sheathing Above West Doorway (Beneath Notices Dated 1946-1953)	Room 002: Ceiling Joists At East Wall	Room 002: East Doorway Trim	Room 002: Glazed Doors At East Doorway
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868		Cream-White**	Cream-White**		
		White**			
1890					
1900		White**		Red	
	Gray				
	Green			White	White
1945		White**	White**	White**	White**

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (6 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P26	CARI 11 P27	CARI 11 P28	CARI 11 P29	CARI 11 P30
Location	Room 002: West Doorway Trim	Room 002: West Doorway, Glazed Door	Room 002: North Doorway Trim	Room 002: Transom Sash Above East Doorway	Room 002: Window Trim, East Window North Side
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890		*[Reused]*			
		Cream•			
1900	Red	*Blue-Green•*	Red	White•	Red
	Gray-Blue	*Mustard Yellow•*		White	Gray-Blue
1945	Dark Gray	*Pink-Red•*	Dark Gray	White•	

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (7 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P31	CARI 11 P32	CARI 11 P33	CARI 11 P34(a)	CARI 11 P34(b)
Location	Room 002: Window Sashes (6/6), East Window North Side	Room 003: Weather Boarding Of Original Store, South Wall	Room 003: Wall Sheathing (Reused Weather Boarding), West Wall	Room 004: Wall Paneling, East Wall (Reused?)	Room 004: Wall Paneling, East Wall (Reused?)
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:				*[Reused]*	*[Reused]*
1868		White**	White**	*Cream*•	*Light Yellow*•
		White**	White**	*Light Yellow*•	*Light Yellow*•
			White**	*Light Brown*	*Blue*•
1890				*Light Brown*	*Light Brown*
1900	White•				
	White				
1945	White•				

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (8 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P35	CARI 11 P36	CARI 11 P37	CARI 11 P38	CARI 11 P39
Location	Room 004: Wall Sheathing, North Wall (Hand-planed)	Room 006: Wall Sheathing, East Wall	Room 006: West Doorway Trim	Room 006: West Glazed Door	Room 006: East Doorway Trim
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
		White**			
1890	Light Brown				
					White• (Trace)
1900			Red		Red
1945			Dark Gray	White	Dark Gray

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (9 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P40(a)	CARI 11 P40(b)	CARI 11 P41	CARI 11 P42	CARI 11 P43
Location	Room 006: East Doorway, Paneled Door, Stiles & Rails	Room 006: East Doorway, Paneled Door, Panels	Room 006: North Doorway Trim	Room 006: North Doorway, Board-And-Batten Door	Room 006: Window Trim, West Window North Side
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890					
	[Reused]	*[Reused]*			
1900	*Cream•*	*Cream•*	Red	Red	
	Light-Gray•	*Light Gray•*	Gray-Blue		Gray-Blue
1945	*Brown-Gray•*	*Pink•*	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Gray

PAINT SAMPLE LOCATIONS AND CHROMOCHRONOLOGIES

Store And Post Office: (10 of 10)

Sample Number	CARI 11 P44	CARI 11 P45			
Location	Room 006: Window Sashes (6/6), West Window North Side	Room 006: Chimney Breast At Fireplace, West Wall			
Substrate	Wood	Plaster			
Circa Date:					
1868					
1890					
1900					
	Cream-Yellow•	[No Paint]			
1945	White•				

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.