742

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Tureaud, A. P., Sr., House

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 3121 Pauger St. Not for publication: NA

City/Town: New Orleans Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Orleans Code: 071 Zip Code: 70119

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally:__ Statewide: X Locally:_

7/17/06

Signature of Certifying Official Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

X Entered in the National Register
___ Determined eligible for the National Register
___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
___ Removed from the National Register
___ Other (explain): _____

_____ 8/21/06
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	X	Building(s):	X
Public-Local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	___
Public-Federal:	___	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
2	0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current: vacant Sub:

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Bungalow

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: weatherboard; stucco
Roof: asphalt
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The home of Louisiana's preeminent civil rights attorney, A. P. Tureaud, is located in an early twentieth century neighborhood of the Seventh Ward of New Orleans. It is a type of two-story house known locally as a "basement" house (see below) - in this case in the Craftsman, or Bungalow, style. The main body of the house is of wood frame construction sheathed in weatherboards. The porch is mainly covered in textured stucco. Built in the 1920s, 3121 Pauger was Tureaud's home from 1947 until his death in 1972. The house received some damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005) and is now vacant, awaiting repairs.

Basement houses, as they are known locally, are two story houses with the upper floor being the principal living space and the lower floor typically given over to secondary spaces and storage. The upper story is generally reached via a prominent flight of steps on the façade. Basement houses are found by the thousands in New Orleans in a variety of styles. 3121 Pauger's facade features Craftsmen details. The porch has multiple posts atop stucco-over-brick piers. Brackets define the gable front roof. The prominent front staircase, of stucco-over-brick, ascends to the porch in two flights. Two tall piers are at its base. A diamond pattern is found on the porch piers, with a larger version on the staircase. The staircase takes up one-half of the lower façade. A garage door occupies the other half. The upper façade has one door and a set of paired windows. A hipped roof section extends from the back of the house. On one side is a shed-roofed section that may have originally been a sleeping porch. (It is now enclosed.)

The house is very simply detailed on the interior. The plan (first floor) is two rooms wide and three deep, without any hallways. The front door opens directly into the living room. The living room has the home's only interior decorative element - a fireplace with bungalow-style brackets. Door and window frames are of plain wood. Doors are of varnished wood.

The house has changed very little since A. P. Tureaud's death in 1972. While the iron railings on the porch and staircase are not original, they were most likely there during Tureaud's lifetime. The house suffered roof damage during Hurricane Katrina, and the lower floor took on about five feet of water. (The owner, Janet Tureaud, A. P.'s daughter, lived there until Katrina. She hopes to repair the house and return to live there. Presently she resides elsewhere in the city.)

A small, hipped roof, one-story cottage sits just a few inches to the rear of the house. It gives every indication of being contemporaneous with the main house and was certainly there during A. P. Tureaud's period of significance. Therefore, it is being counted as a contributing element.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B_X_ C__ D_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G_X_

Areas of Significance: ethnic heritage; law; social history

Period(s) of Significance: 1947-1969

Significant Dates: same

Significant Person(s): Tureaud, A. P., Sr.

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary:

The house at 3121 Pauger Street is of statewide significance as the home of Louisiana's preeminent civil rights attorney, A. P. Tureaud. As legal counsel for the NAACP for more than three decades, Tureaud pursued his firm belief in the primacy of the legal process in the fight against discrimination. Louisiana civil rights historian Adam Fairclough writes of Tureaud: "The dean of civil rights lawyers in Louisiana . . . , his name appeared on virtually every suit filed by the NAACP; working with Thurgood Marshall, he integrated schools, universities, buses, parks, and public buildings; he won voting rights suits; he equalized the salaries of black teachers." "A. P. Tureaud's career as a lawyer and activist," believes Fairclough, "formed the most important strand of the complex fabric that made up the civil rights movement in Louisiana." The well over 100 cases he argued, or helped to argue, concludes Barbara Worthy, "essentially compromise the totality of significant litigation involving the struggle for civil rights in Louisiana."

Tureaud lived at 3121 Pauger, with his family, from 1947 until his death in 1972 - during the height of his civil rights career - when virtually all his important cases were pursued. The period of significance begins in 1947, when he moved into the house, and ends in 1969, the date of his last civil rights litigation. Tureaud was particularly busy in the mid-1960s, filing 38 cases in a four year period (1963-1966). He filed 19 cases in 1965 alone. Five cases were filed between 1967 and 1969. The case for "exceptional importance" (National Register Criteria Consideration G, in this instance, for events that occurred less than 50 years ago) is addressed at the end of Part 8.

Biographical Highlights:

The following will provide a biographical overview of A. P. Tureaud. Highlights of his legal career are provided in the section following.

Alexander Pierre Tureaud (or A. P. as he styled himself) was born in New Orleans on February 26, 1899 to Louis and Eugenie Tureaud. Louis was a self-employed carpenter. A. P. Tureaud's maternal grandfather was a free person of color born in Louisiana, and his maternal grandmother was of "mixed Indian heritage" (the term Tureaud used in later comments about his ancestry). He did not know either of his paternal grandparents. A. P.'s early years were spent at 907 Kerlerec Street, in the Seventh Ward, the heart of the city's Creole community. (Here the term Creole refers to a person of mixed ancestry.) Like other Creoles, he attended St. Augustine Catholic Church. Tureaud completed eight grades of schooling in New Orleans. (There was no education available to blacks beyond the eighth grade until 1917, by which time Tureaud had left the city.)

In 1916, at age 17, Tureaud traveled to Chicago, where he worked a few months. Then he relocated to New York to join relatives already living there. (His parents separated when he was about thirteen. His father moved to New York.) After about a year, A. P. moved to Washington D. C., where he completed his high school education. He entered the Howard University Law School in 1922, receiving a bachelor of law degree with honors in June 1925.

Tureaud returned to New Orleans soon thereafter, taking a job at the Custom House and pursuing a limited private law practice on the side. (He would remain at the Custom House until 1941.) When admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1927, Tureaud was one of only five black attorneys in the state. (At times he would

be the only black attorney practicing regularly in Louisiana.)

In 1931 Tureaud married Lucille Dejoie, from one of the city's established black Creole families. She had recently received a degree in pharmacy from Howard University. The couple's first home was at 1975 N. Rocheblave, also in the Seventh Ward. They bought the candidate in 1947. Tureaud's earliest civil rights cases date from the early-1940s. The vast majority date from his residency at the candidate.

Tureaud began his forty-five year association with the New Orleans branch of the NAACP in 1927, becoming a member of the Board of Directors. In 1931 he resigned from the chapter's executive committee in a disagreement over the use of white attorneys rather than African-Americans. The national office rejected his request to charter a rival branch. Tureaud went back into the fold. Then, in 1939-1940, he was among the "Young Turks" (or "The Group," as they called themselves) who sought to gain control of the local chapter's executive committee. They did not win. Believing that the existing black press was too conservative, "The Group" launched a short-lived paper called the *New Orleans Sentinel*. Tureaud contributed copy, including occasional editorials. Historian Adam Fairclough labels the *Sentinel* "left of center and pro-labor."

Tureaud's "Young Turk" phase in the New Orleans NAACP might well be surprising to a younger generation of New Orleans civil rights activists who at times considered their mentor to be too conservative. The A. P. Tureaud of 1950s and '60s civil rights litigation was no firebrand. He was an unobtrusive, low-key man who believed that change would come through the law. "As long as he [Tureaud] could do so without compromising his principles," writes Fairclough, "he would bend over backward to appear reasonable and moderate. . . . Tureaud's palpable fairness, and his unfailing courtesy, won him universal respect."

Tureaud did not agree with the new strategies of non-violent direct action such as sit-ins and Freedom Rides. Judge Revius Ortique, a former Louisiana Supreme Court justice, was one of the younger 1960s activists interviewed in "Journey to Justice," a Louisiana Public Broadcasting documentary on Tureaud's career (Rachel Emanuel, producer). Ortique relates Tureaud's scolding after he, Ortique, protested Jim Crow segregation by refusing to use a restroom designated for blacks. "If you lose your license to practice law," chided Tureaud, "you will not be able to help anyone." On another occasion, Tureaud observed, "I've never had to put on one single demonstration and I've gotten all these things." Tureaud son, A. P., Jr., remembers many a spirited discussion with his father over tactics.

In fact, what may have seemed like conservatism to early '60s demonstrators most definitely was not. Within the context of the times, it was indeed radical to take on the system in any manner (as Judge Constance Baker Motley so astutely noted in "Journey to Justice"). Being "Mr. NAACP" in Louisiana took tremendous courage and dedication. Tureaud's life was in danger as he traveled the state investigating discrimination and violence for the NAACP and then taking appropriate legal action.

After a career of civil rights litigation that lasted until the late-1960s, Tureaud retired in 1971. In addition to his work as an attorney, he had to his credit a lifetime of activism in many phases of the NAACP's work. In 1948 he and several like-minded individuals came together to establish the Orleans Parish Progressive Voters' League. He raised funds for the NAACP, spoke at branch meetings, served four years as president of the statewide organization (the Louisiana State Conference of NAACP Branches), and championed the NAACP to black Catholics. He participated in voter registration drives and helped to organize the black vote. In 1958, he ran unsuccessfully for Congress.

Cancer claimed A. P. Tureaud on January 22, 1972. Delivering a eulogy at the funeral mass was long-time associate and United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. "In this age of civil rights," observed Justice Marshall, "we got where we are today by the efforts and dedication of men like A. P. Tureaud, who made himself a leader." "That man's courage was unbelievable." In honor of his contributions, the City of New Orleans renamed London Avenue (in the Seventh Ward) to A. P. Tureaud Avenue and created a small triangular memorial park where A. P. Tureaud and St. Bernard avenues intersect. A life-size bronze statue of Tureaud is shown opening the gates of opportunity. A school has also been renamed in his honor.

A. P. and Lucille Tureaud raised six children in the candidate. Mrs. Tureaud lived there until her death in the early 1990s. As explained in Part 7, their daughter Janet occupied the house until Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005).

Civil Rights Legal Career (Highlights)

While A. P. Tureaud made contributions in various fields of civil rights litigation, his main work was in education. His earliest education work involved teacher salary equalization suits. With Thurgood Marshall from the national offices of NAACP as his mentor, Tureaud filed suit against the Orleans Parish School Board in June 1941 to equalize salaries. When the school board proposed equalization over a three year period, the more experienced Marshall advised Tureaud against accepting what he considered a ploy. Tureaud took Marshall's advice and rejected the three-year plan. He won an agreement to equalize salaries by September 1943. Encouraged by this success, Tureaud, as local attorney for the NAACP and the Louisiana Colored Teacher's Association, sought teachers in other parishes who were willing to file suit against their employers (no easy task given the threats of retaliation). Other equalization cases Tureaud argued, in 1942 and 1943 with mixed results, were in East Baton Rouge, Iberville and Jefferson parishes.

Following the strategy of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, Tureaud used the courts to attack segregation in educational facilities by first targeting graduate and professional programs in colleges and universities. He lost his first two suits, filed in 1946 against the law and medical schools at Louisiana State University. Then he scored three victories in the early 1950s, opening LSU's law, medical and graduate schools to blacks. (In these and other cases, Tureaud was not the sole attorney. His and Thurgood Marshall's names are typically found on suits, with Tureaud as the local attorney and Marshall representing the national offices of the Legal Defense Fund.)

The next "target" was the undergraduate school at LSU. In 1953 Tureaud filed suit to admit his son, A. P. Tureaud, Jr., as a freshman. Presumably because of A. P. Sr.'s personal involvement, the case was handled by attorneys from the NAACP's national office, with Antoine M. Trudeau, Jr. serving as local attorney. The ensuing complex legal wrangling was not finally settled until 1956, to Tureaud's favor. (Tureaud, Jr. actually attended LSU only a short while in the fall of 1953. He was told to leave when the original order was vacated. By the time the attorneys for the plaintiff won "round two" of several more rounds, A. P. Jr. had enrolled at Xavier University, a black Catholic school in New Orleans.) With the legal way paved in the 1956 court case, African-Americans began attending the undergraduate division of LSU in 1960.

Soon after the United States Supreme Court's momentous *Brown* ruling of May 17, 1954, federal courts decided for the plaintiffs in three other higher education suits filed by Tureaud, ordering the desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette; McNeese State College, Lake Charles; and Southeastern Louisiana College in Hammond.

Easily Tureaud's longest legal battle was to desegregate New Orleans public schools. *Bush v. the Orleans Parish School Board* was in litigation for an entire decade, from 1952 to 1962. All in all, it involved forty-one separate judicial decisions, including six instances of the U. S. Supreme Court affirming the federal court. Like those that were joined in *Brown*, the *Bush* case attacked segregation head-on, calling for the repudiation of the separate-but-equal doctrine. Tureaud filed the case September 5, 1952. (He and Thurgood Marshall were the attorneys for the plaintiffs.) By mutual agreement with the national office, the local NAACP branch agreed to not press *Bush* until the United States Supreme Court had ruled on the five cases joined in *Brown*. Immediately after the second *Brown* decision (1955), Tureaud reactivated *Bush*. The first ruling came in February 1956, when a three-judge U. S. District Court ruled that segregation in public school was invalid under *Brown*.

What ensued was one of the nation's major battles in court-ordered desegregation. Easily the subject of a book, the New Orleans school crisis of 1960-61 will be briefly summarized for the purpose of this document. Some four years after the 1956 decision, the New Orleans School Board still had not developed a desegregation plan. On May 16, 1960, after the board failed to meet its latest deadline, Judge Skelly Wright ordered the public schools of New Orleans to desegregate under a plan of his choosing. A complicated battle between the federal courts and the State of Louisiana raged in the summer of 1960. As fast as the state legislature passed a law or Governor Jimmie Davis issued an executive order aimed to stall desegregation, the courts struck it down. Token desegregation came on November 14, 1960, when four female first-graders entered two schools in the city, with federal marshals to protect them from the abusive crowds.

During this extremely tense period, the FBI maintained a presence outside 3121 Pauger to protect Tureaud and his family from retaliation. He and family members later related the hate mail and threatening phone calls they received at the candidate. When racists called during the night, A. P. typically dropped the receiver on the floor. His children recall blowing a whistle into the phone. His daughters, whose bedrooms were in the front of the house, were particularly jumpy because of bomb threats. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. relates one occasion when his sisters were terrified when something smashed through the window with a loud noise. Instead of a bomb, it was an innocent baseball.

Tureaud was particularly busy in the mid-1960s with public school desegregation cases filed against various parish school boards. He filed 5 such cases in 1963, 4 in 1964, 17 in 1965, and 4 in 1966. Perhaps appropriately, the last case he filed, in 1969, was in public education.

While his caseload was not large, Tureaud's work in desegregation of public accommodations was notable. Like case after case across the nation, Tureaud's litigation was aimed at making *Brown* and its implications a reality. On February 1, 1957 he filed a class action suit in federal district court to end segregation on the buses and streetcars of New Orleans. He won this and similar suits filed to desegregate public transportation in Baton Rouge, Lake Charles and Shreveport. Although opposed philosophically to the direct action sit-in movement, he defended Southern University students arrested after sit-ins in Baton Rouge in late March 1960. (To quote one historian, he was against them breaking the law, but "once they did he did not hesitate to defend them.") The Baton Rouge sit-in cases eventually went to the U. S. Supreme Court under one name, *Garner v. Louisiana*. In a decision handed down December 11, 1961, the court unanimously reversed the conviction of all sixteen petitioners. (*Garner v. Louisiana*, handled by Tureaud, Baton Rouge attorney Johnnie A. Jones, and staff from the New York NAACP office, was the first sit-in case to reach the U. S. Supreme Court.)

In 1963 Tureaud filed, and won, three public accommodations suits in New Orleans: hotels; the

Municipal Auditorium; and public parks, playgrounds, and the like. His last public accommodations suit came in 1967, when he filed suit against the segregation of the races in places where alcohol was sold or consumed.

A.P. Tureaud, Mentor

The older Tureaud served as a mentor to a rising generation of black leaders, most notably Revius Ortique and Ernest Morial. Ortique went on to become the first African-American justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court (1992), and Ernest Morial, New Orleans' first African-American mayor.

Ortique was mentored by Tureaud as a young lawyer. He recalled: "A number of us, every Saturday, went over to Mr. Tureaud's office, and just talked about the practice of law. A. P. Tureaud's office was always available. He had the best law library amongst any of the black lawyers and we would go over there and pick up a sandwich and a soft drink and just *talk*. And this went on for several years. Just talk, and I got a sense of the civil rights movement then."

Tureaud had a particularly close relationship with Ernest Morial, whom he befriended while Morial attended the recently desegregated LSU Law School. According to Morial, Tureaud hoped "to get more black lawyers" regularly practicing in Louisiana, and so tried to find "young lawyers to mentor, and who could succeed him." Morial practiced law in Tureaud's office, working on some of the state's most important civil rights litigation. He served two terms as mayor of New Orleans (1978-1986).

Buildings Associated with A. P. Tureaud

The buildings where Tureaud had law offices have been demolished. His childhood home survives as does the home in lived in during his early career, until he bought 3121 Pauger in 1947. Of these, 3121 Pauger is where Tureaud lived during the vast majority of his productive career as the state's preeminent civil rights attorney. As noted above, it was at 3121 Pauger that the FBI posted agents during the 1960-61 New Orleans School Crisis. It was here, over a period of 20 years, that Tureaud and his family received all manner of threatening letters and phone calls. As Tureaud himself said in an interview, "It was almost a daily and nightly experience for me to get threats at home." Indeed, the modest residence at 3121 Pauger has a powerful connection with the civil rights movement in Louisiana.

Exceptional Importance:

The National Register requires that properties be of "exceptional importance" if their significance occurred less than 50 years ago. Some of the modern Civil Rights Movement is now fifty years old and some is not - likewise for Tureaud's long career of civil rights litigation. It would be arbitrary to define some of his career historic and some not. Where would you draw the line? It all helps tell the same story. (Per National Register Bulletin 22, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years," the 50 year threshold was not designed "to be mechanically applied on a year by year basis. Generally, our understanding of history does not advance a year at a time, but rather in periods of time which can logically be examined together.") And of critical importance is the fact that enough time has passed for scholarly studies to be published on the civil rights movement in Louisiana and A. P. Tureaud's role in it.

Perhaps the best argument for "exceptional importance" rests on the historical force represented in

this nomination: the modern Civil Rights movement. No one would dispute that this extraordinary movement is of "exceptional importance" in American history. African-Americans, aided by the courts and pivotal legislation, re-gained the fundamental rights secured some one hundred years ago during Reconstruction. Surely, the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War are the two most important historical phenomena of the second half of the twentieth century. As the home of Louisiana's foremost civil rights attorney, a man whose name appears everywhere on litigation for decades, the house at 3121 Pauger, at the state level, meets the "exceptional importance" litmus test.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emanuel, Rachel L. "Journey to Justice: The A. P. Tureaud Story." Louisiana Public Broadcasting, 1996.

Fairclough, Adam. *Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915-1972.* University of Georgia Press, 1995.

Rogers, Kim Lacy. *Righteous Lives: Narratives of the New Orleans Civil Rights Movement.* New York University Press, 1993.

New Orleans City Directories, various years.

Worthy, Barbara Ann. "The Travail and Triumph of a Southern Black Civil Rights Lawyer: The Legal Career of Alexander Pierre Tureaud, 1899-1972." Ph. D. dissertation, Tulane University, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

__ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ Previously Listed in the National Register.
__ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
__ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
__ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
__ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State Agency
__ Federal Agency
__ Local Government
__ University
__ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: less than acre

UTM References:

Zone	Easting	Northing
15	783540	3320420

Verbal Boundary Description:

Legal Property Description: A certain lot of ground together with all the buildings and improvements and all the rights, privileges, servitudes and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way pertaining, situated in the Third District of the City of New Orleans, in Square 1330, bounded by Bourbon (now Pauger Street), Touro, North Dorgenois and North Rocheblave, designated as Lot V. Said lot commences at a distance of 128 feet from the corner of North Dorgenois and Bourbon (now Pauger), and measures 32 feet front on Bourbon (now Pauger) Street, by a depth of 128 feet between equal and parallel lines. Said property bears the municipal address of 3121 Pauger St.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow property lines of the lot historically associated with the candidate.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register Staff, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Address: P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Telephone: 225-342-8160

Date: May 2006

Current Owner:

Janet Tureaud
1119 Odeon
New Orleans, LA 70114

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NE
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Tureaud, A.P., Sr. House
Orleans Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA SHPO
May 2006
Photo 1 of 4
East

Tureaud, A. P., Sr. House
Orleans Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA SHPO
May 2006
Photo 2 of 4
West

Tureaud, A. P., Sr. House
Orleans Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA SHPO
May 2006
Photo 3 of 4
Interior

Tureaud, A. P., Sr. House
Orleans Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA SHPO
May 2006
Photo 4 of 4
Interior