NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N A" for "not applicable," For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: The Hermitage_

Other names/site number: Old Kimball Place_ Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

City or town: Picayune	State:	MS	County: Pearl River
Not For Publication:	Vicinity:		

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \underline{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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

D

_______statewide _______X_local Applicable National Register Criteria:

A	XB	X C	
			_

21.2016 Signature of certifying official/Title: Preservation Hsteric State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

The Hermitage Name of Property	Pearl River County, Mississippi County and State
	_ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ 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:) ____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private: x Public – Local

i done "Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	X
District	

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The Hermitage

Name of Property	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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Number of Resources within Property

Do not include previously li Contributing	sted resources in the count) Noncontributing	
2		buildings
2		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
5	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>NA</u>

6. Function or Use Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, SLATE____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hermitage is a one-story house located in Picayune, Mississippi. Completed in three phases, The Hermitage occupies a site on a bluff overlooking the Hobolochitto Creek. The graceful house has a modified U-shape with clapboard siding and hipped roofs. A porch with square Tuscan columns extends across the west elevation and partially wraps around the north face. The house occupies 12 acres with an elaborate entrance gate. The property includes a swimming pool and pool house, a cemetery, gardens and flagstone paths.

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Narrative Description

The Hermitage is a 12 acre estate on the banks of the Hobolochitto Creek in Picayune, Pearl River County, Mississippi. Once part of a much larger property, the house is set at the end of a long narrow driveway entered through a pair of monumental gates. The main house is set on a bluff above the creek with a large lawn separating the two. The house achieved its current configuration in three phases. The oldest portion of the house was built by Leonard Kimball in 1858. The hipped roof block has a partial wrap-around undercut gallery and was probably triple-pile with a center hall. In 1917, Lamont Rowlands, a partner in the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company, acquired the house and added two wings to create a U-shape and informal courtyard on the east elevation that included octagonal rooms at the junction with the existing house and the addition. Rowlands may have enclosed parts of the porches on the north and south elevations. Robert H. Crosby, the son of Rowlands's partner in the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company, acquired the house in 1937 and completed a major renovation. Crosby completed a second renovation in 1952, employing New Orleans architects Koch & Wilson. The current floor plan and finishes date to the Crosby era of occupation. Crosby enclosed some porches on the north and south elevations of the 1858 block, altered the formal rooms of the of the 1858 wing and installed well-crafted highquality finishes throughout the house including marble mantels, parquet and inlaid wood floors, decorative molding and cabinetry with carved details. Crosby installed a swimming pool and expanded the formal landscape design.

Exterior

The west elevation of the house features a full-width undercut gallery supported by eight square wood posts with Tuscan capitals. [Photo 1]There is a wide unadorned cornice which wraps around all elevations. The slate roof is hipped with a brick chimney offset to the northeast. The walls are clapboard, believed to be cypress, which are found on all elevations. Five bays hold wood double-hung 6/9 windows with louvered shutters. The gallery floor, now at grade, is brick. The house has a brick foundation wall.

The gallery continues on the south elevation where it shelters a door and 6/9 window with shutters. The door is at the top of a set of masonry steps with decorative iron rails. The door is wood with six panels. The door sits in a classical surround recessed behind two fluted wood columns and has a fanlight. Beyond the gallery is another 6/9 window with shutters and a slight bay with three 6/6 double-hung sash windows. A large three-face bay, the exterior of one of the octagonal rooms, is capped by a conical slate roof with a finial. Each face holds an 18/18 double-hung sash window with no shutters. Four 6/6 windows with shutters complete the fenestration on the south elevation. [Photo 2]

The east elevation has a courtyard created by two perpendicular wings that extend to the east. There is a basement under both wings. A single-leaf glazed door, visually obscured by plantings, allows access into the south wing basement. The slate roof is hipped and the walls are clapboard.

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Two 6/6 double-hung wood windows are set in the east façade of each wing. The walls facing into the courtyard each have three double-hung 6/6 windows with shutters. The back wall is five bays with two 6/6 windows flanking a partial-width pedimented gallery supported by two round Tuscan columns reached by welcoming arms stairs. The six panel door has a fanlight and four-light sidelights. [Photo 3]

The north elevation has a six-panel door with a transom sheltered by a pedimented porch, added after 2009. Three 6/6 windows are spaced along the wall. A large projecting bay, with a conical slate roof has three faces with 6/6 windows. There is a set of three two-panel fixed windows and four eight-light fixed windows. The gallery partially extends along the north wall. A single-leaf six panel door with a transom opens off the west wall. [Photo 4]

Interior

Based on the quality of the materials and workmanship, and the consistency of the details in all portions of the house, it is believed that the interior decorative details and the current floorplan date to the Crosby renovations from the late 1930s and mid-1950s.

Although the house has two formal entries, the door in the south elevation is adjacent to the driveway and a paved circular drive and functions as a primary entrance. The first room encountered by the visitor is the Grand Foyer. The 12-foot ceiling and walls are plaster with ornate crown molding and paneled wainscot. Two double-hung windows are located in the west wall. The floors are hardwood with inlay borders. Double-leaf carved mahogany doors open to the north into the formal living room. [Photo 7]

The north room on the west side is a formal living room. It also has plaster walls and ceiling, crown molding, a ceiling medallion and paneled wainscot. The wood floors have decorative inlay borders. Three double-hung windows are set in the west wall. The dominant feature of the room is the white marble fireplace centered on the north wall. A panel features four angels representing the four seasons with two angels standing on carved pilasters. An arched cased opening in the east wall allows access to the center hall.[Photo 8]

The center hall has a vaulted ceiling with simple crown molding. There is a paneled wainscot. The floor is parquet hardwood. The wood doors opening to rooms on either side of the hall are six-panel. [Photo 9]

The bedrooms are designated by their compass location. All three bedrooms have plaster ceilings and walls with simple a crown molding. The floors are hardwood. The southwest bedroom has two windows in the south wall. There is a closet and fireplace in the north wall. A full bathroom, intact to the mid-20th century, opens to the east. [Photos 10, 11] The southeast bedroom has three windows in a small bay and a full bathroom, which opens to the west. The northwest bedroom on the other side of the hall has a full bath and a sitting room, probably an enclosed porch, which overlooks the creek. The sitting room can be closed off by 15-light pocket doors. A single leaf door opens on the west wall to access the front gallery. [Photo 12]

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The northwest room also has a half-bath but is not a bedroom. Robert Crosby, an avid reader, hired a cabinetmaker to install bookshelves on all four walls of the room. The walnut cabinets are 36' wide and have adjustable shelves. The book cases rest on cabinets. The woodwork extends to the ceiling with an ornate crown molding. The focus of the library is a carved shell unit.[Photo 13] A pocket door on the north wall separates the library from an office with built-in walnut china cabinets and a wood parquet floor.[Photo 14] A cased opening in the east office wall allows access to a small antechamber which opens to the Grand Foyer, also known as the Sunroom. The kitchen wing and octagonal dining room also open off the antechamber.

The Grand Foyer, also known as the Sunroom, which extends across the width of the main block's east side, can also be entered through an arched opening from the house's center hall. The room is 37' x 11'. The east wall contains a centered exterior entry with a six-panel door surrounded by a fanlight and four-light sidelights. The door is flanked by paired 6/9 double-hung windows. The ceiling and walls are plaster with crown molding and paneled wainscot. The wood floor is parquet. Arched openings on the north and south walls allow access to small antechambers, the octagonal rooms and the two perpendicular wings.[Photos 17, 18]

The octagonal dining room is set to the north with double-leaf six panel doors. The ceiling and walls are plaster with crown molding and a baseboard. A crystal chandelier hangs from a molded rosette. The floors are parquet. A fireplace with a marble mantel is set on the east wall. There are three windows. [Photos 15, 16].

The kitchen wing has a breakfast area divided from the working kitchen by a half wall. There are windows in both the north wall, which overlooks the yard and creek, and the south wall which overlooks the courtyard. The ceiling and walls of the kitchen wing are plaster with crown molding and a chair rail. The floor is pine, installed by the current owners, to replace asbestos tile. A utility room is set to the east. A winding stair in the northeast corner of the utility room goes down to the basement which contains a ¹/₂ bath, storage and mechanicals.

The arched opening on the south wall of the Grand Foyer opens to an antechamber. An octagonal sitting room opens to the south. It has crown molding and baseboards which match those found in the Dining Room. The floors are wood parquet. There is a mantel and four windows. [Photo 19]

The Master Bedroom wing opens off the antechamber to the east. A long hallway has windows on the courtyard side and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves on the south wall.[Photo 20] The ceilings and walls are plaster with crown molding and a baseboard. The wood floors are parquet. A master bath and dressing room are in the southwest corner. A fireplace with a marble mantel is on the south wall. A spiral stair with a simple balustrade rail is in the southeast corner of the room and goes down to the basement. The stair and basement finishes were added by the current owners. [Photo 21]

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Contributing Resources

The Founder's Cemetery consists of five marked graves located in a grove of trees on the southeast corner of the property. The earliest grave is that of Moses Cook, a soldier in Andrew Jackson's army, which passed through the area on their way to defend New Orleans in the War of 1812. Cook returned to the area and in 1815 purchased the property that would grow into The Hermitage. Cook, who died in 1855, and his wife Dolly, who died in 1861, are buried in the cemetery. Leonard Kimball, who constructed the earliest part of The Hermitage in 1858, and who died in 1884 is also buried in the cemetery. The cemetery is contributing. [Photo 23]

The Pool House, originally constructed in 1905 as a residence for a family member, was modified by Crosby in the 1930s. The pool house is one-story with a hip-on-gable slate roof. An undercut gallery supported by cast-iron piers overlooks the swimming pool. The Pool House is contributing. [Photo 24]

The Entrance Gate off River Road consists of two stone piers topped by urns. The piers support a cast iron fence with double-leaf cast iron gates. According to family lore, Robert H. Crosby imported the gates from England and they were installed in the 1950s, probably as a part of Crosby's landscape plans. The gate is contributing. [Photo 22]

Flagstone pathways circle the house and lead to a large patio with an iron balustrade that overlooks the creek. Paths follow the river and meander through a wooded area on the east edge of the property returning to a walled garden near the east entry of the house with a large round fountain. The paths, patio and garden were installed by Robert Crosby as part of a landscape design he undertook during his ownership beginning in the late 1930s. A rectangular fountain near the west elevation of the house was installed by a later owner and is not considered part of the contributing landscape. The pathways, patio, round fountain and garden hardscape are contributing resources.

[Photos 5, 6]

Noncontributing Resources

The original 80' x 40' swimming pool was built in the late 1930s by Robert Crosby. The heated pool was considered one of the largest private pools in Mississippi. The current owners filled in a portion of the pool to create a much smaller footprint. The swimming pool is noncontributing. At the same time, the owners installed a hipped roof frame garden house. The garden house is noncontributing. [Photos 25, 26] The current owners constructed a one-story, frame garage with a gable roof on the site of an earlier and severely deteriorated garage/shed located east of the house. The garage is noncontributing.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Х

Х

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- C. A birthplace or grave

B. Removed from its original location

- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>COMMERCE</u> <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>

Period of Significance

<u>1917-1937</u> 1937-1966

Significant Dates
1937_____
1953_____

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) Lamont Rowlands

Robert H. Crosby

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Koch & Wilson_____

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hermitage, located in Picayune, Pearl River County, Mississippi, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for association with Lamont Rowlands and Robert H. Crosby, noted businessmen and philanthropists. The house is eligible under Criterion C for association with Architecture as a local example of Colonial Revival style architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The site of The Hermitage, 1 River Road, Picayune, Mississippi, Pearl River County, is a bluff above the Hobolochitto River, a tributary of the Pearl River. A wide flood plain characterizes the lower acreage. The area was home to the Choctaw who later ceded large tracts of land to the United States in a series of treaties. The territory that was to become modern day Pearl River County became American territory after the War of 1812.

In 1811, prior to the war, Stephen Jarrell acquired 640 acres along the Hobolochitto Creek from a Choctaw chief named Muchihira.¹ Jarrell established a trading post. When Andrew Jackson moved his troops toward New Orleans during the War of 1812, his quartermaster, Moses Cook, visited the trading post for supplies.² Because of its strategic location, traders and hunters began to penetrate and settle near the trading post. Hence, the town of Hobolochitto began to develop in proximity to supplies.

In 1819 Moses Cook, an aspiring entrepreneur, bought the trading post, and constructed a bridge across the Hobolochitto in 1828 and exercised a monopoly on river access. This bridge was the only link to the trail, named Gainesville to Columbia Road. Cook prospered, offering travelers lodging, collecting bridge tolls, advancing water transportation and cotton

¹ Picayune Main Street History Cards, "Stephen Jarrell, Moses Cook, Leonard Kimball, Eliza Jane Poitevent, Lamont Rowlands." Cards number 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, "Post Office Box 1656, 200 Hwy 11 South, Picayune, Mississippi 39466.

² Picayune Main Street History Cards, "Moses Cook," Card #2.

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Cook hired Leonard Kimball as his plantation manager, and when Cook died in 1855, Kimball inherited the 640 acre tract and the enslaved people who worked the land. Over time, Kimball enlarged the estate to 7000 acres and cotton became the major crop. Kimball shipped the cotton on the Pearl River through Pearlington. His growing fortune prompted his desire for a plantation home. In 1858, Kimball began construction on what is now the oldest section of The Hermitage.⁴

Kimball died in 1884 and the property passed to his adopted daughter, Eliza Jane Poitevant. She lived in the house until 1886 when she became the literary editor for the New Orleans *Times Picayune*. Pointevant continued to manage the property as an absentee landlord until her death in 1896.⁵

In 1903 Thomas Philemon Terrrell, a turpentine distiller and dealer, bought the property. Terrell and hiswife had eight children. In need of additional space, Terrell converted the trading post to bedrooms for his sons. Terrell also built a house on the grounds for his father-in-law. This house would later become the Pool House⁶.

Elvira Terrell sold the Hermitage in 1919 to the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company owned by Lamont Rowlands and L.O. Crosby. Rowlands and Crosby formed the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company in 1917 which developed interests in timber, land and chemicals. Rowlands earned a national reputation for developing the tung oil business. He wanted to use the property for business purposes as well as a residence. Rowlands enlarged the footprint of The Hermitage by 4,200 square feet and was responsible for the U-shaped addition and octagonal rooms that are found today. He converted Terrell's in-law residence to a country club for Goodyear Yellow Pine Company employees, adding a tennis court and a nine-hole golf course.⁷

Rowlands sold The Hermitage to Robert Howell Crosby in 1937. Crosby changed the character of the estate when he converted the 90 acre site to a private park. He replaced the tennis courts with a swimming pool and converted the country club building to a pool house. Crosby undertook a large-scale revision of the landscape of the property including a large azalea garden. The landscape work also included brick and flagstone hardscape which can still be found on the property.⁸

¹ Picayune Main Street History Cards. "Leonard Kimball," Card # 3.

⁴ Picayune Main Street History Cards. "Leonard Kimball," Card #3.

⁵ Picayune Main Street History Cards. "Eliza Jane Poitevent," Card #4.

⁶ Mark Clinton Davis, "The Terrells of the Hermitage," <u>Historical Reporter of</u> Pearl River County, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2007, p. 1.

⁷ Picayune Main Street History Cards. "Lamont Rowlands," Card #9.

⁸ Joseph E. Pylon, ed. "The Crosby Gardens at Picayune," American Camellia Yearbook, 1960, p. 15.

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While the general footprint and floorplan of the house was established when Crosby purchased The Hermitage in 1937, it appears that there was a significant remodeling after he acquired the house. The architectural details found throughout the house including crown molding, wainscoting, door and window surrounds and parquet floors date from this period. The finish work is composed of high quality materials and detailed workmanship which reflects a financial commitment to the house that only a man of Crosby's wealth could have afforded.

In 1953, Crosby hired the New Orleans architecture firm of Koch and Wilson to complete the final renovations to The Hermitage during the period of significance. The current library and study were completed during this renovation. Crosby visited Europe while The Hermitage was undergoing remodeling and returned with large wrought-iron gates from England to denote the entrance to the estate.

Significance: Criterion B

The Hermitage is significant under Criterion B for association with Lamont Crosby and Robert H. Crosby who were important business leaders and philanthropists. Lamont Rowlands lived in The Hermitage from 1919 to 1937. Crosby lived there from 1937 to 1973.

Lamont Rowlands was born in Tecumseh, Michigan on August 9, 1877. He and Lucius O. Crosby purchased the Rosa Lumber Company in 1917. They opened a sawmill in Picayune, Mississippi.⁹ The two men joined with Miles Goodyear to form the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company in 1917 and opened a second mill near Picayune. The Goodyear mill had a capacity of 300,000 board feet. Both men were conscious that the timber cutting practices of the day threatened the land and sought ways to make the barren pine land productive. One scheme called for planting and harvesting satsuma, a citrus plant.¹⁰ Rowlands investigated the creation of a tung oil industry. Speaking to the Second Dearborn Conference of Agriculture, Industry and Science in 1936, Rowlands stated

I have always felt that when a man came in and took the trees or anything from the soil, that it was his duty to leave that country in as good condition as he found it...We sought for many years to find something we could recommend planting in the South that would be an article of commerce, and so we happily found the tung tree.¹¹

Tung oil was used in varnish, paints, printer's ink, and for waterproofing cloth and pressed wood board. Most of the tung oil was imported from China. Rowlands estimated that the

⁹ Picayune Main Street History Cards. "Lucius Olen Crosby, " Card # 8.

¹⁰ Jeffrey B. Robb and Paul D. Travis. "The Rise and Fall of the Gulf Coast Tung Oil Industry." Forest History Today, Spring/Fall 203, p. 15-16.

¹¹ Proceedings of the Second Dearborn Conference of Agriculture, Industry and Science, Dearborn, Michigan May 12, 13 and 14, 1936.

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potential market for domestically produced tung oil approached \$75,000,000. In 1936, Rowlands had 10,000 acres of tung trees and suggested that a well-planted and maintained tung plantation could generate a return of fifty cents per tree. The Second World War interrupted the tung oil trade with China and domestic production was almost exclusively consumed by the defense industries. After the war, the development of synthetic products and cheaper natural oils caused domestic production to decline. The final blow came in 1969, when Hurricane Camille damaged the tung trees and the federal government paid farmers to clear the tung orchards and convert the land to cattle grazing.¹² However, Lamont Rowlands was an early proponent of the tung oil industry in Mississippi.

During his ownership of The Hermitage, Rowlands built a nine-hole golf course and tennis courts on the property. He converted the guest house into a country club that was open to employees of the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company.

Rowlands was a member of the Christian Science church and promoted the faith. He constructed the Christian Science Reading Room on Goodyear Boulevard in Picayune. He married Josephine Goodyear in 1903. Rowland served in the United States Navy. He died on July 9, 1958, and is buried the New Palestine Cemetery in Picayune.

Robert H. Crosby was the oldest son of Lucius O. Crosby. Crosby moved to Picayune with his parents, L.O. and Margaret Reed Crosby, in 1916. Robert was 19 years old but was already affected by the success of his father, who owned 30 to 40 small sawmills and was associated with International Harvester Company. The elder Crosby bought 42,316 acres of virgin yellow pine in Pearl River County with the backing of International Harvester to produce roller squares and wagon tongues for use in farm implements. Robert and his brothers were required to work in the various businesses and industries owned by their father. According to L.O. Crosby, Jr., "the boys had worked at a variety of jobs in the lumber business doing manual labor in the planing mill, stacking lumber or grading it, checking invoices and payroll accounts."13 During the 1920's, the boom period for the southern pine lumber company, the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company had as many as five mills operating in southern Mississippi.¹⁴ Robert Crosby served as treasurer of the formed Goodyear Yellow Pine company. World War I spurred additional orders for wood products. During the Depression when the demand for loblolly and pine lumber was low, the Crosby family diversified and instituted programs to rehabilitate the cut over timber lands by planting peach, grapes, lemon, Satsuma, pecan trees, mixed vegetables, soybeans, sugar cane and strawberries to supply company workers with aid and subsistence programs. With the label Pearl River-Crosby's Certified Products, the Crosby family shipped produce to communities throughout the nation. Lamont Rowlands, a partner of L.O. Crosby in the

¹² Robb and Travis, p.20.

¹³ L.O. Crosby, Jr., "Crosby: A Story of Men and Trees," an address at Jackson, Mississippi, for the American Newcomen, New York: The Newcomen Society in North America, 1960, p. 13.

¹⁴ Goodyear Yellow Pine Company Photographs. The University of Southern Mississippi McCain Archives. www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/ml34text.hem.

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Goodyear Yellow Pine Company, advanced the planting of tung nut trees over cut timber lands with the future prospect of extracting oil from the seeds and refurbishing the stripped forests. Cattle were introduced to eat the grasses between the Tung oil trees. An estimated 100,000 acres were planted. A dairy program was established at Hillcrest Farms at Anchor Lake (later a prisoner of war camp) to produce milk products and sell cream to local residents. It was a cooperative venture between farmers, ranchers and Tung oil production. L.O. Crosby built company housing, brought a doctor to the area, and built a hospital offering free medical care for his workers.

In 1937 the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company built a plant in Picayune, Mississippi, to process pine stump that remained after the trees were cut. Pine stumps were used to manufacture resins and chemicals. Thus, the Crosby Naval Store business emerged and L. O. Crosby's three sons, Robert Howell Crosby, Sr., Hollis Hobson Crosby and Lucius Osmond Crosby, became stockholders in the family business and served as company officers. R.H. Crosby became chief executive officer and general manager as well as treasurer of the Naval Stores with offices in the C and R Store. R.H. was already secretary/treasurer of the Pearl River Valley Railroad Co. (founded and organized by the Crosbys) since 1923. The railroad built tracks and expanded transportation routes for chemical products. In 1927 the railroad relocated offices to Picayune. By 1938, the Crosby Naval Store was one of the three largest producers of naval stores products in the United States.¹⁵

During World War II the Goodyear Yellow Pine Company and the tung oil operations prospered. In 1941 the first 10,000-gallon rail car of tung oil was shipped from the mill of L.O. Crosby and Sons at Picayune, Mississippi, to a Chicago buyer.¹⁶ Because of the increased demand for naval products, another plant site was selected at DeRidder, Louisiana. Led by Robert and his son, Robert H. Crosby, Jr., the Crosby Naval Stores grew into a successful organization, employing 500 to 600 people in plant operations and from 1,000 to 1,200 in stump operations.¹⁷ In 1941 during World War II the Goodyear Mill entered into a contract with International Harvester to make ammunition boxes, crates for artillery shells, tank blocks, prefabricated huts and other materials for war use. A wirebound plant was operational in 1945 and would eventually supply lumber siding for school buses. Pine seedlings were being planted after the stumps of the yellow pine were removed. These seedlings would become a valuable asset to the Crosby family in the future.

In 1946 the name of the Crosby Naval Stores was changed to Crosby Chemicals, Inc., and produced products sold worldwide. The Company produced 100 varieties of rosin and terpene products, all grades of wood rosin, resins, paper size, turpentine, pinene,

¹⁵ http://www.crosbylandresources.com/our-history.html, p. 3

¹⁶ Ray. L. Bellande, "Tung Oil": Biloxi Historical Society,

http://biloxihistoricalsociety.org/node/209,8/17/2004, p. 2.

¹⁷ http://www.crosbylandresources.com/our-history.html, p. 2.

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depentene, terpene solvents and several grades of pine oil and related products.¹⁸ These products were basic materials used in painting, coating, ink, adhesive and the paper business. To package these products, the company operated both a canning and bottling facility. Crosby Chemicals employed approximately 350 employees. A fleet of rail cars was acquired to transport the chemicals. Robert H. Crosby built his own plant with offices and railroad spurs on Birch Street.

Robert Howell Crosby and his brothers divided the company in 1955. R.H. Crosby, Sr. and his family gained ownership of Crosby Chemicals, Inc. Under R.H. as chairman, the company converted to Tall Oil Plans which allowed the company to produce versions of the same products. Tall oil resins are used as a component of adhesives, rubber, and inks. Crosby purchased tall oil from paper mills and sold refined products to companies such as 3M. Robert Howell Crosby died March 27, 1973.

Like his father, Robert H. Crosby was a philanthropist. As the father of five children, Crosby became a benefactor for the public schools in Picayune. In 1927, Crosby and his father donated land for a football field. They created a fund to pay for uniforms, and when the community would not support a tax increase Robert Crosby donated the funds to build a 4000seat football stadium for the white high school. In 1950, Crosby donated \$51,000 toward the construction of George Washington Carver School, built for African American students.

For the public welfare Robert Howell Crosby and family donated land and \$800,000 matching \$200,000 state money for a 54-bed hospital on Goodyear Boulevard named the Crosby Memorial Hospital.¹⁹ Since Robert Howell was a contributor and member of Ochsner Hospital Board of Governors, he would have the advantage of selecting qualified medical personnel. This hospital replaced the old Martin Sanatorium established by L.O. Crosby for his employees. The new hospital was built on the land donated to the high school after the new stadium was built. In honor their mother R.H. and L.O. Crosby, Jr., donated money to build the Margaret Reed Memorial Library and Cultural Center on Goodyear Boulevard. Dedicated in 1963, Dr. Alton Ochsner of New Orleans was the principal speaker.²⁰ Robert Howell helped to design and build Picayune's first YMCA and served as its president for many years. He was past president and one of the men who founded the Picayune Rotary Club. In New Orleans

Robert H. Crosby died on March 27, 1973. His wife continued to live in The Hermitage until 1991.

Significance: Criterion C

¹⁸ http://crosbylandresources.com/our-history.html, p. 4.

¹⁹ John Hawkins Napier. Lower Pearl River's Piney Woods: Its Land and People. (Oxford, MS: The University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture, 1985), p. 182.
²⁰ Napier, p. 182.

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The oldest portions of The Hermitage date to 1858, when Leonard Kimball built the house. Subsequent owners have modified and renovated the house over the years. The most significant addition came in the 1920s, when Lamont Rowlands added the large U-shaped addition. However, the house did not achieve its current appearance until Robert H. Crosby acquired the property in 1937. Crosby's renovation required minimal changes to the exterior of the house but the interior changes were more significant. Exterior porches on the north and south elevations were enclosed, resulting in more space for the bedrooms. Interior finishes throughout the house including wainscots, moldings, parquet and hardwood flooring were installed. Crosby made further alterations in the early 1950s, when he retained New Orleans architects Koch & Wilson. The library and study date from this era.

The overall design of the exterior and interior details in The Hermitage reflects the widespread popularity of the Colonial Revival style. As the nation celebrated its centennial in 1876, presbyopic nostalgia for all things colonial swept the country. Architects

typically combined elements of colonial traditions, including the first New England houses with their lean-to additions, the Classical houses derived from Gibbs and Adams, and the Dutch colonial houses with their distinctive gambrel roofs.²¹

Drawing on Georgian and Federal precedents, the elements of colonial design are generally seen on the entrances, cornices and windows. Doors commonly have pedimented surrounds supported by pilasters or slender columns. Overhead fanlights and sidelights are common elements.²² The Hermitage features two Colonial Revival entrances. The door on the south elevation that opens to the oldest portion of the house is set in a surround with two fluted columns with a fanlight. The entrance in the east elevation, set between the two legs that compose the U-shape of that wing, has a pedimented porch supported by two columns with Tuscan capitals. The single-leaf door is set into a surround with square pilasters. There are sidelights and an elliptical fanlight.

Cornices were considered a defining element on Georgian and Federal houses. It was generally boxed with little overhang. Colonial Revival designers often copied those features, but it was not universally found on the revival houses.²³ The Hermitage has a broad unadorned cornice on the 1858 wing as well as the 1920s U-shaped addition.

In both the colonial precedents and the later revival houses, windows are generally rectangular, double-hung and have six, eight, nine or twelve panes. The windows are usually stand-alone and are not grouped.²⁴ The Hermitage fenestration meets this standard with 6/9 windows in the 1858

²¹ Mark Gelernter. A History of American Architecture, Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context. (Hanover and London: University Press of New Hampshire, 1999), p. 180.

²² Virginia Savage McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture. Rev. Ed. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013, p. 409.

²³ McAlester, p. 412.

²⁴ McAlester, p. 412.

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wing, 6/6 windows in the U-shaped addition and 15/15 windows in the octagonal dining room and sitting room.

The Hermitage's interior, which dates to Robert Crosby's ownership, provides an excellent example of high-quality, finely executed Colonial Revival design as it had evolved by the mid-20th century. The two public rooms in the 1858 wing are the most elaborately detailed. Plaster crown molding and decorative medallions are seen in both rooms. The wainscot and door and window surrounds are wood and the double-leaf wood doors separating the rooms feature carved decoration. The wainscot, crown molding and door surrounds in the hallway and the bedrooms are a more simple design. In the formal rooms of the U-shaped addition, the crown molding, door surrounds, mantels and baseboards are more robust, but still less ornate than seen in the two public rooms in the 1858 wing. When Crosby hired Koch & Wilson in 1953, one of the projects that was completed was the conversion of a bedroom to a library. Crosby hireda skilled German from Manheim Galleries in New Orleans to hand carve his library and adjacent porch area. This area is characterized by walnut paneling, shells carved into recessed niches, glassfronted china cabinets enhanced by a shell motif, pull-out drawers for linens, and heavily decorated doors. The most imposing decoration is the shell semi-circular shelving in the center of the library wall. The library is one of the most intricately designed rooms in the house. It is significant for its floor, paneling and intricate carvings.

Virginia McAlester notes that Colonial Revival was "*the* dominant style for domestic buildings throughout the country during the first half of the twentieth century" and "continued to be built, albeit in less elaborate forms, into the 1950s and early 1960s."²⁵ This was certainly true in Mississippi with notable examples found throughout the state. One of the earliest houses built in the Colonial Revival style is the John Dicks House in Natchez, Mississippi (NR, 1982). Built in 1888-89, the house was designed by Sydney V. Stratton, of the firm of McKim, Mead and White, whose founders are credited as early advocates of the style.

Pearl River County, Mississippi, is a largely rural county. The major population center is Picayune. Although no intensive architectural survey of Picayune has been complete, the MDAH survey file includes three Colonial Revival houses in the community. All are associated with the Crosby family. The Hermitage was the home of Robert H. Crosby. The L.O. Crosby House is located near the intersection of River Road and 3rd Street, not far from The Hermitage. Completed in 1930, the L.O. Crosby house is two-story with a hipped roof and full-width undercut gallery supported by five Tuscan columns. While the overall façade is symmetrical, the entry offset to the west deviates slightly from the Colonial Revival canon. The continued vitality of the Colonial Revival style is seen in the Crosby house located on Grey Oak Drive built in 1950. Not far from the other two Crosby houses, the Grey Oak Drive house is two-stories with a side-gable roof. It is brick with a full-width gallery supported by six Tuscan columns. The centered entry has a singleleaf door with an elliptical fan light and sidelights. The windows on both floors have rounded lights with cast-stone keystones. Both of these houses are considered eligible for the National Register for both association with significant people and architecture.

²⁵ McAlester, p. 414.

The Hermitage

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bellande, Ray. L. "Tung Oil": Biloxi Historical Society, http://biloxihistoricalsociety.org/node/209,8/17/2004, p. 2.

Crosby, Edward Howell. <u>The Hermitage</u>. Submitted to Metairie Park Country Day School to La Wanda Stewart, February 28, 1977. In the archives of the *Hermitage* in Picayune.

Crosby Land & Resources. http://www.crosbylandandresources.com..

- Crosby, L.O. Jr., "Crosby: A Story of Men and Trees," an address at Jackson, Mississippi, for the American Newcomen, New York: The Newcomen Society in North America, 1960.
- Davis, Mark. "The Terrells of the Hermitage." <u>Historical Reporter of Pearl River County</u>, Vol. I, March 2008.

. Davis, Mark. "Tung" <u>The Picayune Item</u>, taken from the <u>Historical Reporter of Pearl River</u> <u>County</u>, Vol. II, No.1.

- Gelernter, Mark. A History of American Architecture, Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context. Hanover and London: University Press of New Hampshire, 1999.
- Goodyear Yellow Pine Company Photographs. The University of Southern Mississippi McCain Archives. www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m134text.hem.
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture. Rev. Ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.
- Napier, John Hawkins. Lower Pearl River's Piney Woods: Its Land and People. Oxford, MS: The University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture, 1985,

Picayune Main Street History Cards. Picayune Main Street Association.

Proceedings of the Second Dearborn Conference of Agriculture, Industry and Science, Dearborn, Michigan May 12, 13 and 14, 1936.

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Robb, Jeffrey B. and Paul D. Travis. "The Rise and Fall of the Gulf Coast Tung Oil Industry." Forest History Today, Spring/Fall 2003.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 #_____
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- X Local government
- X University
- ____ Other

Name of repository: Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library, Picayune, Mississippi. The University of Southern Mississippi McCain Archives_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 102-PCN-0002_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places) 1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude:

Longitude:

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Name o	f Property		
3.	Latitude:		
4.	Latitude:		

Longitude:

Longitude:

See Continuation Sheet

Or UTM References Datum (indicated on US

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the *Hermitage* are described clearly in the Deed of Trust dated 10-23- 2009.

...the following described property lying and being situate in Pearl River County, Mississippi, to wit:

Commencing at point being 2368.83 feet North and 762.14 feet East of the common comer of Section 9, 10, 15 and 16, Tov,mship 6 South, Range 17 West in Pearl River County, Mississippi;thenceSouth64degrees15minutes00secondsEast6.00feettoafence corner on the East margin of an old road formerly known as the Gainesville and Columbia Road; thence along a fence line North 15 degrees 56 minutes 20 seconds East 632.69 feet; thence along a fence line North 17 degrees 53 minutes 45 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence along a fence line North 21 degrees 51 minutes 28 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence along a fence line North 26 degrees 03 minutes 46 seconds East 50.00 feet; ; thence along a fence line North 26 degrees 03 minutes 59 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence along a fence line North 26 degrees 67 minutes 59 seconds East 33.31 feet to a fence comer for the Place of Beginning; thence South 33 degrees 36 minutes 56 seconds West 11.07 feet along a fence line; thence North 56 degrees 55 minutes West 99.38 feet; thence, North 37 degrees 15 minutes East 431.00 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes East 105.80 feet; thence North 04 degrees West 304.20 feet, more or less, to the

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The Hermitage

Name of Property

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center of Hobolochitto Creek: thence Easterly along the centerline of Hobolochitto Creek to the confluence of West Hobolochitto Creek and East Hobolochitto Creek: thence Easterly along the center line of East Hobolochitto Creek to the Northwest corner of River Oaks, a Planned Unit Development; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, South 34 degrees 49 minutes 43 seconds West 820.00 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, North 40 degrees 33 minutes 48 seconds 'West 55.63 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, North 79 degrees 14 minutes 50 seconds West 99.36 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, North 30 degrees 25 minutes 12 seconds West 30.42 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, North 81 degrees 01 minutes 56 seconds West 42.31 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, South 25 degrees 19 minutes 15 seconds West 174.2 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, North 81 degrees 03 minutes 02 seconds West 332.35 feet: thence along the West boundary of id River Oaks. South 33 degrees 55 minutes 13 seconds West 173.64 feet to an iron pipe; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, South 39 degrees 30 minutes 22 seconds West 67.07 feet; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, South 47 degrees 20 minutes 22 seconds East 19.96 feet; thence along the W/Est boundary of said River Oaks. South 33 degrees 08 minutes 46 seconds Wet11.14feet; thence along the west boundary of said River Oaks, and along a fence line South 33 degrees 08 minutes 46 seconds West 36.07 feetto a fence comer; thence along the West boundary of said River Oaks, and along a fence line North 58 degrees 50 minutes 56 seconds West 14.31 feet; thence along the West boundary of said RiverOds South 87 degrees 15 minutes 17 seconds West 15.78 feet. more or iess returning to the Place of Beginning; being situated in the "West one-half of Section 10, Township 6 South, Range 17 Wests, Pearl River County, Mississippi, also generally referred to as being situated in the Stephen Jarrell Claim No. 40, Township 6 South, Range 17 West, Pearl River County, Mississippi. Such property together with all improvement and appurtenances now or hereafter erected on the property of any and every description now or hereafter.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the house commonly known as The Hermitage and the surrounding property associated with the house during the occupancy of Lamont Rowlands and Robert H. Crosby.

11. Form Prepared By		
name/title: Mrs. Lynn Hall Burger organization:		
street & number: 1 River Road		
city or town: Picayune e-mail	state: MS	zip code: 39466
	Sections 9-end page 22	

The Hermitage

Pearl River County, Mississippi County and State

Name of Property

telephone:_____ date: June 15,2016

Additional text by William M. Gatlin, MDAH Architectural Historian

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

The Hermitage

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The	Herm	itage
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Name of Property

Pearl River County, Mississippi County and State

City or Vicinity:	Picayune

County: Pearl River State: Mississippi

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian (Photos 1-21) Justin Heskew, MDAH Architectural Historian (Photos 22-26)

Date Photographed: March 25, 2009, Photo 4 December, 17 2015, Photos 1-3, 5-21 June 7, 2016, Photos 22-26

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 26. Exterior. West Elevation. Camera facing southeast. 2 of 26. Exterior. South elevation. Camera facing northeast.

3 of 26. Exterior. East elevation. Camera facing northwest.

4 of 26. Exterior. North elevation. Camera facing south.

5 of 26. Landscape. Camera facing southeast.

6 of 26. Landscape. Camera facing southeast.

7 of 26 Interior. Grand Foyer. Camera facing northeast.

8 of 26. Interior. Living room. Camera facing northeast.

9 of 26. Interior. Center hall. Camera facing southeast.

10 of 26. Interior. Southwest bedroom. Camera facing southwest.

11 of 26. Interior. Southwest bedroom. Camera facing north.

12 of 26. Interior. Northwest bedroom. Camera facing northeast.

13 of 26. Interior. Library. Camera facing southeast.

14 of 26. Interior. Office. Camera facing southwest.

15 of 26. Interior. Dining room. Camera facing west.

16 of 26. Interior. Dining room. Camera facing south.

17 of 26. Interior. Sunroom (Foyer). Camera facing southwest.

18 of 26. Interior. Sunroom (Foyer). Camera facing northeast.

19 of 26. Interior. Gentlemen's Parlor. Camera facing southeast.

20 of 26. Interior. Master bedroom. Camera facing southeast.

21 of 26. Interior. Master bedroom. Camera facing south.

22 of 26. Gates. Camera facing northwest.

23 of 26. Founders' Cemetery. Camera facing northwest.

24. of 26. Pool House. Camera facing southwest.

25 of 26. Pool. Camera facing southeast.

26 of 26. Garden House. Camera facing northeast.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Inter	ior
National Park Service	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Hermitage	
Name of Property	1
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County and State	
N/A	
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>1</u>

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

WG 84

Datum:

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form.* For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

1. Latitude: 30.543181 Longitude: -89.693531 2. Latitude: 30.543470 Longitude: -89.692464 3. Latitude: 30.543184 Longitude: -89.691839 4. Latitude: 30.541894 Longitude: -89.692681 5. Latitude: 30.541915 Longitude: -89.692802 6. Latitude: 30.541678 Longitude: -89.693937 7. Latitude: 30.881111 Longitude: -89.694226 8. Latitude: 30.541339 Longitude: -89.604303 9. Latitude: 30.541.399 Longitude: -89.693742 10. Latitude: 30.542219 Longitude: -89.693742 NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

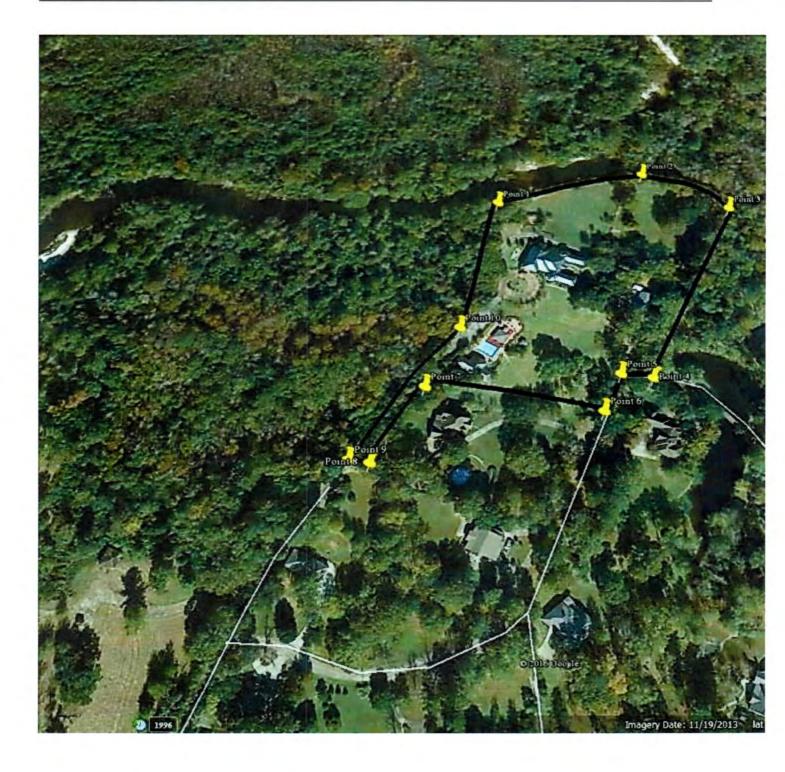
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

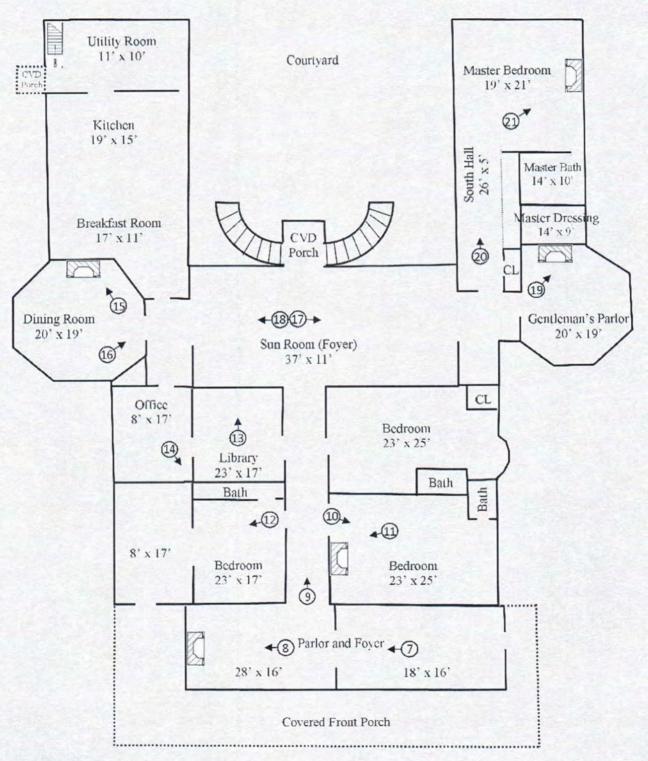
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State	
N/A	
Name of multiple listing	g (if applicable)

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The Hermitage Picayune, Pearl River County



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The Hermitage Picayune, Pearl River County

