

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Huey P. Long House (c.1905) is a modest single story frame Queen Anne Revival cottage with Colonial Revival columns. It is set on a fairly large corner lot in an older residential section of western Shreveport. Although there has been some deterioration and a few changes since the period of significance, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility.

The pyramidal roof house consists of a square entrance hall, three moderate sized rooms, and a rear kitchen. The entrance hall is encompassed on two sides by a Colonial Revival porch. Both the principal front room and the principal side room are accented on the exterior with unornamented gables. There is also a single central chimney which no longer has fireplaces connected to it. Openings feature plain surrounds with single pane sash windows.

Huey Long moved into the house in late 1918 and, according to his family, made various additions in 1924. These include a large sleeping porch on the side, a side bathroom extension, and a sleeping porch on the rear. The rear sleeping porch was not a room in its own right; rather, it extended an existing bedroom. Evidently Long also replaced some of the interior and exterior doors.

Since the period of significance all fireplaces and mantels have been lost. In addition, there has been some structural rot and other deterioration, and some of the openings have been covered with plywood. However, the house remains largely as Long left it in 1926, and there is no doubt that he would recognize it today.

To the rear of the house is a frame single garage and a somewhat smaller playhouse. These existed in Long's time and are listed as contributing elements.

Note Regarding Photography: There are no interior views because the house is vacant and there is no electricity. Nor is there sufficient natural light to permit photography.

Significant dates	1918-1926
Architect/Builder	Unknown
Criterion B	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The house at 2403 Laurel is of state significance in the area of politics-government because of its close association with Huey P. Long, who as governor and then senator, was probably the most powerful and controversial political figure Louisiana has ever produced. After enacting wide-ranging populist reforms as governor of Louisiana, Long led a nationwide "Share the Wealth" campaign which, many have asserted, was a real challenge to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Indeed, many believe that the more radical, so-called Second New Deal was the result of threats from the left such as Long.

Long occupied the house from November, 1918, when he moved to Shreveport, until late in 1926, when he moved into a larger home. 2403 Laurel represents the early years of Long's political career--a time when he was building a statewide reputation as a champion of labor and the poor against the interests of "big business." Long moved to Shreveport in 1918 when he took his seat on the Railroad Commission (later renamed the Public Service Commission), an elected board which regulates all utilities and carriers in the state. Long served as chairman of the Commission from 1921 until 1928. One of his first accomplishments was to secure the Commission's endorsement that pipelines were public carriers and subject to the Commission's regulation. Standard Oil fought the move and attempted to oust Long from the Commission, and the ensuing battle brought him statewide recognition. Later, Long succeeded in reversing some telephone rate increases, and thus the Cumberland Telegraph and Telephone Company had to refund almost half a million dollars to telephone users in the state. Long was also instrumental in lowering streetcar fares in Shreveport and in reducing natural gas prices for Louisiana consumers.

During these years, Long also conducted an active legal practice specializing in compensation of injured workers and in land titles and legal rights. These suits added to his

reputation as a friend of the "little guy. " Buoyed by his growing popularity, Long ran for governor in 1924. Upon losing, he immediately began preparations for what turned out to be his successful gubernatorial campaign of 1928. 2403 Laurel was Long's official residence during the '24 campaign, and for about half of the time he was conducting his '28 campaign. There is no doubt that the house has a compelling link with Long's early career.

#### Other Properties Associated With Long:

Other properties in Louisiana having close associations with Long represent different significant phases or aspects of his career. There are three Long houses in the state: the house at 2403 Laurel; the above mentioned second house in Shreveport, and a house in New Orleans that he purchased in 1932, three years before his assassination (National Register). The Heidelberg Hotel, Long's base of operation in the capital city, is listed on the Register because of its association with him. Finally, the State Capitol's NHL's status is based on its close association with Long (as well as its architecture). While other properties, almost to a man, represent Long at the height of his power, the house at 2403 Laurel represents his early, formative years as a politician.

Note: State significance is being claimed for this property because Long's chief significance was within the context of Louisiana (wide-ranging Populist reforms on the positive side and a negative legacy of corruption).

#### Major Bibliographical References

Williams, T. Harry. Huey Long. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1970.

Conveyance & Tax Records, Caddo Parish.

Shreveport City Directories.