

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687812

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 15 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 29 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Santa Maria Plantation House

AND/OR COMMON Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *5 of Baton Rouge Ave*  
~~On Perkins Road (La. Hwy. 427) near the southern boundary of the Parish and .7 miles north of Bayou Manchac~~

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge *me*  VICINITY OF 6th - Henson Moore

STATE Louisiana CODE 22 COUNTY East Baton Rouge CODE 033

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Verdie Reece Perkins

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 6, Box 73-F

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge VICINITY OF Louisiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER St. Louis and Louisiana Streets

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge STATE Louisiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Sites Survey for Louisiana

DATE 1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge STATE Louisiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Santa Maria Plantation consists of a main house, a cistern, an overseer's house, a double quarters type pigeonier adjacent to the house which was reproduced from Ringrose Plantation. The immediate grounds are well planted with live oaks with open farm and pasture land beyond.

The thrust of the nomination is the architecture of the plantation house. So the boundaries of the nominated area were chosen to encompass the house and its setting which includes the barn, the wooden sheds, the pigeonier, the overseer's house, the double house and the cistern. The boundaries exclude lands not visible in the vicinity of the house at Perkins Road.

The main house is a raised gallery fronted, one-and-a-half story, four room plan plantation house, with a slightly off center entrance hall. The house dates from the 1870's, with several 20th century rear additions. The most important one was the filling in of the rear gallery between the kitchen and bathroom. It is probable that these two rooms are original to the house.

The house rests upon stuccoed brick piers with circular sawn beams, joists, and studs. Most of the clapboard exterior is original but the side walls appear to have been resheathed in the early 20th century.

The main feature of the house is the heavily proportioned Greek Revival gallery resting upon segmental arches which were probably inspired by the Renaissance Revival. Rural builder and architecture is indicated by:

1. The fact that the facade's five openings are out of kilter with the column placement on the gallery.
2. The inconsistent size of the arches below the gallery.
3. The crudeness and simplicity of the interior skirting boards, door frames and transoms.
4. The one remaining original mantel in the dining room with its simple Greek Revival styling.
5. Retardare nature of the house give the 1870's construction period.

Most of the floor boards, plaster and wall boards appear to be original. Many of the windows in the side walls have been replaced but in kind.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1870's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles Knowlton

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Santa Maria Plantation is one of only three extant Greek Revival Plantation houses in East Baton Rouge Parish. In addition, of these, Santa Maria has the most complete group of outbuildings. Its historical setting is therefore better conveyed than at Goodwood or Audubon where most of the outbuildings have been lost. Further, Santa Maria is the only Greek Revival raised plantation house in the parish. The house can be seen as an excellent example of the rural provincial Greek Revival plantation house. This is shown by its simple details, the way in which the gallery does not mesh well with the window pattern behind it, and the inconsistent size of the ground floor arches. In addition the fact that this apparently 1830's house was built in the late 1870's shows the strength of the Greek Revival raised plantation house tradition in rural Louisiana. It exemplifies, therefore, a part of the architectural history of the State.

On December 8, 1877, Mrs. Kate Andrews Knowlton, wife of Colonel Charles Knowlton, purchased the 570 acre tract of land which became Santa Maria Plantation.<sup>1</sup> According to the Knowltons' granddaughter, Mrs. Gladys Morrill, who often visited the place as a child, Colonel and Mrs. Knowlton came to Louisiana from California in the 1870's and bought the plantation. At that time there was already a small two-room house on the property. The Knowltons then built the main house, using the two rooms of the original house as a dining room and a kitchen, attaching them to the new building by a covered porch. The old part of the building, she said, was later demolished.<sup>2</sup>

There is not much readily-available information on the Knowltons. In the Civil War, Charles Knowlton was a captain in the Tenth Louisiana Infantry. He was captured and exchanged in 1862, and apparently later, was retired due to wounds. He was born in New York and was a clerk in New Orleans at the time of his enlistment. At that time he was not yet married to Kate Andrews.<sup>3</sup>

The 1880 census reveals a bit of information on the Knowltons and Santa Maria. Charles Knowlton listed his age as forty and his occupation as "Farmer." His wife, Kate, who according to the census "Keeps house", was thirty-two years old. They had a twelve-year-old son Charles and a ten-year-old daughter Inez. Also listed were two mulatto servants in their twenties, and their two young children.<sup>4</sup> The agricultural census listed the Knowltons as having 740 acres of land, of which 440 were improved and 300 were woodland.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Booth, Andrew P. (ed.). Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands, Vol. 3, part 1. New Orleans: 1920.

Bouchereau, Alcee. Louisiana Sugar Report: 1880-81.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.16

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	9	0	6	3	0	3	3	5	8	4	7	0
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B 

1	5	6	9	0	9	1	0	3	3	5	8	2	9	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

1	5	6	9	0	6	2	0	3	3	5	8	1	1	0
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D 

1	5	6	9	0	4	5	0	3	3	5	8	3	3	0
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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. and Mrs. Verdie Reece Perkins

ORGANIZATION

DATE

August 30, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Rt. 6, Box 73-F

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baton Rouge

Louisiana 70815

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*J. Bernard Carver*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11 Oct 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/29/78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12-29-78

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The value of the farm, including land, fences, and buildings was given as \$3000. They owned \$150 worth of implements and machinery and \$800 worth of livestock. The Knowltons paid \$750 in wages for farm labor during 1879, and they had employed each laborer for forty-four weeks out of that year. The estimated value of all farm production for 1879 was \$2,100. Twelve acres planted in sugar cane in 1879 had yielded 17 hogsheads and 1200 gallons of molasses. Twenty acres planted in corn had yielded 750 bushels.<sup>5</sup> The Louisiana Sugar Report for 1880-1881 listed the sugar crop of "Col. Charles Knollton" for that year as twenty hogsheads.<sup>6</sup> Other available sugar reports frequently listed his name but gave no production figures. According to Mrs. Morrill. Colonel Knowlton converted Santa Maria to a cotton plantation in the 1890's, making the sugar house into a cotton gin. He did well, she said, until the coming of the boll weevil around 1900.<sup>7</sup>

In 1901 Colonel Knowlton, now a widower sold Santa Maria, and it passed through the hands of several owners until 1926, when it was purchased by Andrew Bradford Hagen and Mary Carrie Elder, who later sold her share to Hagen, who operated the Santa Maria Dairy there for many years. In the late 1950's, Mr. and Mrs. Verdie Reece Perkins purchased the property.<sup>8</sup>

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Copy of record of sale in National Register nomination file for Santa Maria, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from Mrs. Gladys Morrill to "Rosalie," 28 February 1964, copy in National Register nomination file for Santa Maria, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; hereinafter cited as Gladys Morrill letter.

<sup>3</sup>Andrew P. Booth (ed.), Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands, Vol. 3, part 1 (New Orleans, 1920), 589.

<sup>4</sup>Census of 1880: Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, Population Schedule, p. 68.

<sup>5</sup>Census of 1880: Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, Agriculture Census, p. 15.

<sup>6</sup>Alcee Bouchereau, Louisiana Sugar Report: 1880-81, p. 51.

<sup>7</sup>Gladys Morrill letter.

<sup>8</sup>Gladys Morrill letter; Dottye Varnado, "Santa Maria Plantation House to Be Opened for Tour March 14 and 15," Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, 16 February 1964.

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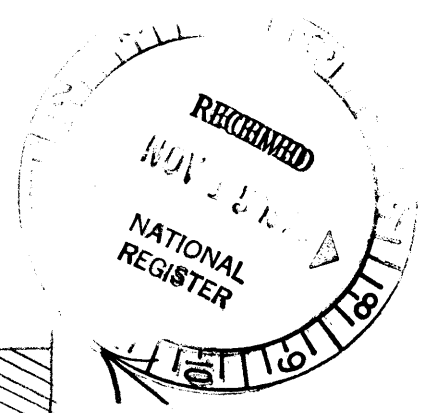
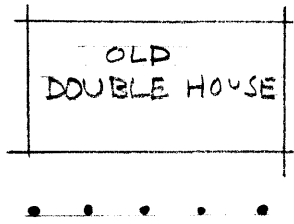
Census of 1880: Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, Agriculture Census.

Census of 1880: Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, Population Schedule.

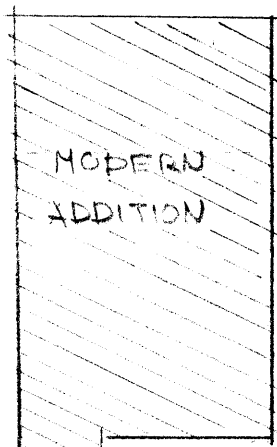
Copy of letter from Mrs. Gladys Morrill to "Rosalie," 28 February 1964.

Copy of record of sale of land by Alvin Rochereau to Mrs. Kate Andrews,  
8 December 1877.

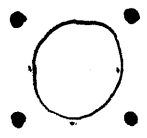
Varnado, Dottye. "Santa Maria Plantation House to be Opened for Tour March  
14 and 15 " Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, 16 February 1964.



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CISTERN

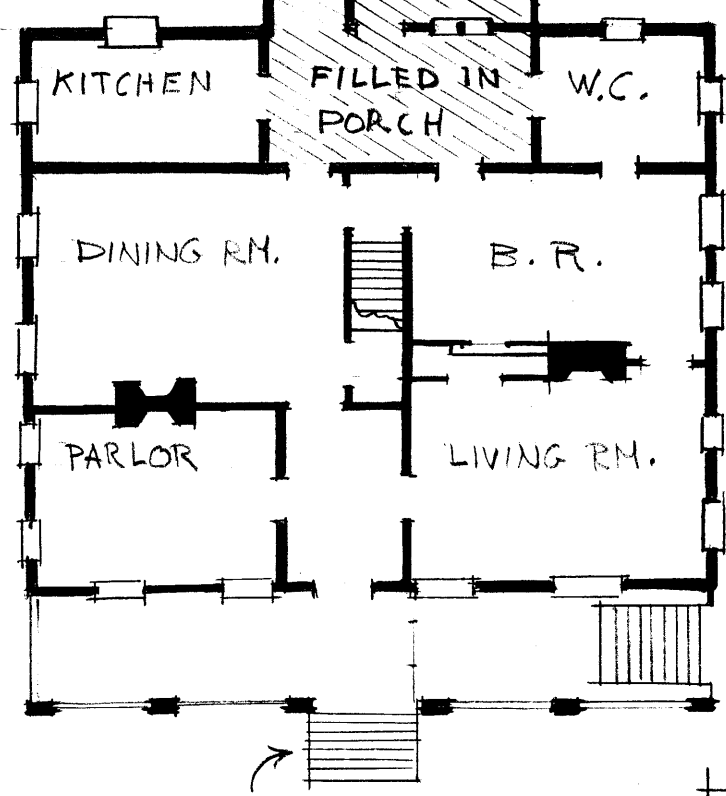


SANTA MARIA  
PLANTATION  
(MAIN HOUSE & NEAR BY  
STRUCTURES)

SIDES RESHEATHED



SIDES  
RESHEATHED



FRONT STEPS REPLACED

