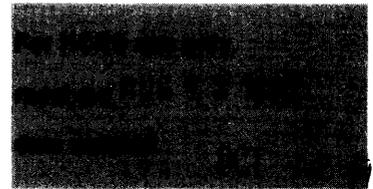


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Hypolite Bordelon House

and/or common

**2. Location**

LA 1

street & number La. Hwy. 1 in Marksville not for publication

city, town Marksville vicinity of congressional district 8th-Gillis Long

state La. code 22 county Avoyelles Parish code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum and tourist center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Town of Marksville

street & number 503 N. Main Street

city, town Marksville vicinity of state La. 71351

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Avoyelles Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Marksville state La

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state La

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date September 1978

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Hypolite Bordelon House was recently moved to a small park on the outskirts of Marksville. Although the house is near the four lane Louisiana Route 1, it still enjoys an essentially naturalistic setting due to the adjacent large oak trees. The move was necessary in order to save the house from decay and neglect. It was inaccessible in its original location and unoccupied. In a few more years it would have collapsed. It has been restored in its present location and now serves as a museum and tourist center.

The house plan consists of two large rooms with a central chimney, a front and rear gallery and one rear cabinet. The double pitched roof is unusual in Avoyelles Parish. The roof structure is straight forward, without elaborate truss work. The house has been immaculately restored.

The following features are replaced:

1. the central bousillage chimney
2. the cabinet walls
3. many of the cypress blocks on which the house is raised
4. 4 of the shutters
5. the present hardware
6. most of the sashes

The present crude mantel is a copy taken from a similar house in Ville Platte. The bousillage walls, the front and rear chamfered columns and the French doors are original.

Although the house was lived in in later years, it strongly resembles a plantation kitchen of the period. This is suggested by the enormous size of the chimney, the one time proximity of two large wells and the lack of ceiling boards in the original construction.

# 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**    circa 1825                      **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**    Criterion C

The Hypolite Bordelon House is significant in the area of architecture because it is a fine example of the small Creole house--something which was at one time plentiful and is now an unusual survival. The double pitched roof is highly unusual in Avoyelles Parish. It is therefore an important part of the parish's architectural history.

Also worthy of mention is the fact that the Bordelon family, who built the house, was one of the pioneer families of Avoyelles Parish.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Report on Bordelon House Prepared by Robert E. Smith, Restoration Architect

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A 

1	5	5	8	8	9	0	0	3	4	4	3	6	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat map.

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 Clyde M. Neck, Chairman

organization Hypolite Bordelon Restoration Committee date June 1980

street & number 418 DeBellevue Drive telephone 318-253-7367 home  
318-487-5353 office

city or town Marksville state La 71351

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

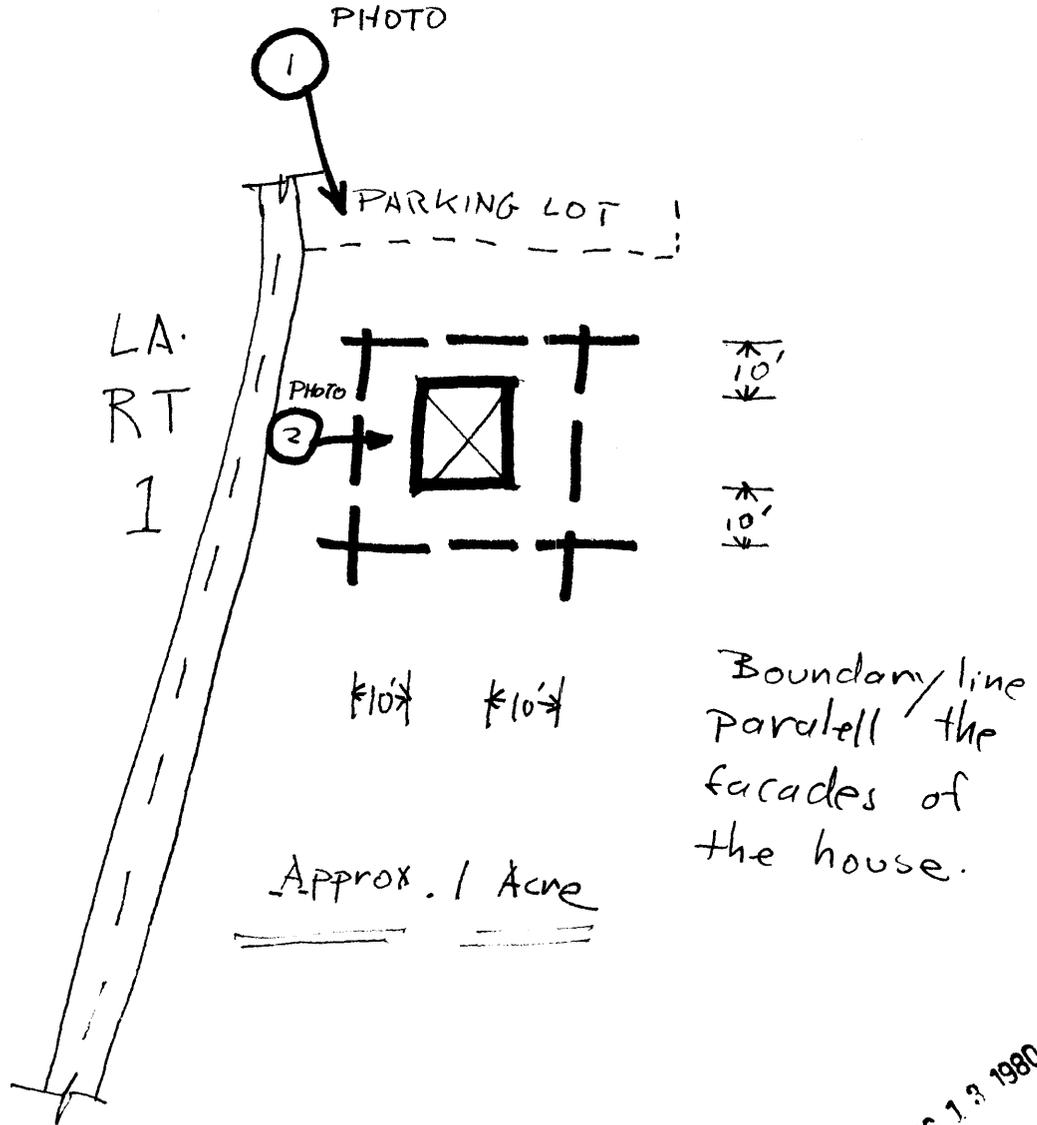
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer Robert B. DeBlieux date 8/6/80

**For HCERS use only**  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Forrest W. Ray Lucie date 10/16/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Sandra Flint McClelland date 10.14.80  
Chief of Registration



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## HYPOLITE BORDELON HOME

The Hypolite Bordelon Home, circa 1790-1820, is located on Tunica Drive (Louisiana Highway #1) in Marksville, La. This home has traditionally been known by this name, but most recent research has shown that the home was most probably built by Valerie Bordelon, Hypolite's father. Valerie Bordelon was the grandson of the first Bordelon in Louisiana, Laurent Bordelon, who came to Louisiana before 1730 as an employee of the French trading company, the Company of the Indies. Laurent was a native of LeHavre, in the Normandy province of France. One of Laurent Bordelon's sons, Antoine, who was the father of Valerie, was Assistant Regimental Adjutant, of the militia at the Pointe Coupee Post in New Roads, La. He commanded the militia group in Galvez's expedition against the British at Fort Bute in Baton Rouge during the American Revolution. Seven of Antoine's twelve children moved to the vicinity of the Avoyelles Post between the years 1796-1805, and became the ancestors of most of the Bordelons in Avoyelles Parish.

The Hypolite Bordelon Home is thirty-two (32) feet wide and thirty-six (36) feet long, and is typical of early French construction in Louisiana. That is, it contains two basic rooms centered by a large double, cooking and heating fireplace. In addition, there is a small back "cabinèt" room used as a bedroom. There were two additional cabinèt rooms added on the front gallery in the period 1830-1845. These were not re-built in the restoration, as our purpose was to restore the home to its original plan.

The house is built of virgin cypress and pine and sits on cypress piers. The structure of hand-dressed "poteaux" (posts) is pegged and mortised. Rafters are hand hewn. All of the primary framework is original, and in its original position. Original and existing hardware consists of hand-forged iron strap

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hinges and door hooks with twists. Needed replacements were faithfully and meticulously copied from these originals. The window and door shutters on the front gallery are also original and all others were copied from these.

The walls of the home are "bousillage" that is, mud and moss, and are original to the house. Interior and front and rear exterior walls have been re-plastered, however, there are interior walls where the original plaster has been kept intact for historical and architectural purposes.

The planking of the ceilings is hand split and dressed oak. Ceiling joists are cypress and beaded. All are original. The building has examples of both hand-made (pre 1830) and machine made (post-1830) nails.

The roof line exhibits a unique architectural style not found in Avoyelles Parish but common to Pointe Coupee Parish. This is due to the Bordelons' Pointe Coupee heritage.

In 1977, Mrs. Virginia Bordelon McLelland, owner of the home, offered to donate the home to a group that would preserve and restore it. It had been unoccupied since the 1930's and was located approximately three miles south of Marksville near Red River. The home had been badly vandalized, and had been blown off of its piers by Hurricane Audrey in 1959. It was in danger of demolition by neglect. In early 1978, La Commission des Avoyelles, our parish historical society, the Marksville Jaycee Jaynes and the Town of Marksville banded together to work on the project. Following the donation, in June, 1978, of the house to the Town, plans were made to move the house to Marksville. This was considered necessary for a number of reasons. First of all, it was impossible to protect the house at its original location. It was located at an abandoned home site in the middle of farmland. The site was in no way historically significant. Secondly, it was early decided upon that the house was valuable primarily for its architectural and cultural

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significance, and would serve excellently as a tourist information center, small museum and teaching device. This could be better accomplished by moving it to Marksville on Louisiana Highway #1, a major North-South thoroughfare. This would make the house easily accessible to the public. The house was moved in September, 1978 and is located across from the Avoyelles Parish School Board office and adjacent to Marksville elementary and high schools. Students are able to visit the home during their study of Louisiana history and culture.

We feel that the Hypolite Bordelon Home is worthy of nomination and placement on the National Register, primarily because of its architectural value. It is one of less than five homes of its type left in Avoyelles Parish. It typifies the kind and type of abode that Avoyelles pioneer families lived in and that many of our older population remembers fondly. It is historically and genealogically tied to the Bordelon family, one of the eight pioneer families in Avoyelles Parish. Valerie Bordelon served on the Police Jury. His son, Hypolite was active in legal affairs, and his name appears quite often in records in the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse. Three of his sons served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

This home, presently open to the public, is serving its purposes as tourist information center, museum and teaching device and doing it well. There is some work remaining on the house. We are in the process of reconstructing the mud-moss chimney in its original location. Also planned is a surrounding fence of hand split pickets. Old pickets have been purchased for this project, and we plan to erect the fence this summer.

The architect for the project was Robert E. Smith of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. Mr. Smith specializes in the restoration of early Louisiana dwellings.

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