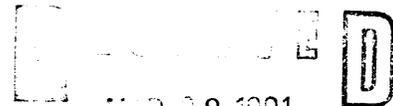


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



MAR 08 1991

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fannie Riche House
other names/site number Schexnayder House

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 420 near intersection with LA 10
city, town New Roads
state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70760

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Date: March 4, 1991

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
Entered in the National Register (checked)
Entered in the National Register (checked)
Date of Action: 4/22/91
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asbestos

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fannie Riche House (c.1825-1835) is a one-story frame French Creole plantation house with bousillage walls. Located in rural Pointe Coupee Parish near the intersection of Louisiana Highways 10 and 420, the home faces north toward the nearby Mississippi River. Although it has received various alterations over the years, including the removal of its brick lower story, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The Fannie Riche House began as a Creole raised plantation house with a frame second story above a brick ground story. As is the case with all raised Creole houses, the upper floor was used as the main living space. Fannie Riche's brick lower story was documented in HABS drawings done in 1936 and appears to have contained dining, kitchen, and storage areas. It was removed sometime after the documentation was completed. The house now stands only three feet above the ground.

French Creole building techniques incorporated within the building include a cypress post frame, bousillage walls, mortise and tenon joinery, a modified Norman truss supporting a Class III hipped umbrella roof (see attached), and wooden pegs locking the roof members in place. Many of the wooden members are numbered with Roman numerals in the fashion of seventeenth century French carpentry.

The home's Creole floorplan is still clearly recognizable despite some changes to internal walls. Still extant at the front of the house are two almost square, equal sized rooms (the salle and chambre) anchored by a chimney with back-to-back fireplaces. A wide gallery extends across the facade and down the sides of this core. Cabinet rooms (slightly larger than the originals) are located at the rear corners. A bath and dining room are located between these cabinets (behind the two-room core).

Significant Creole design features also distinguish the home. On the exterior, these include four sets of French doors opening onto the front gallery. Each leaf contains ten rectangular lights in the classic seventeenth century Northern French chateau fashion. Each set of French doors is set off by Federal style paneled pilasters. Separate lozenge panels standing atop the pilasters flank the transoms above the doors. (Lozenges were a favorite Creole decorative motif.) Solid four-panel single leaf doors open onto the side galleries. Another highlight of the exterior woodwork is a rare dado with raised paneling which extends around the gallery wall on three sides.

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fannie Riche House, New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The interior also displays important decorative woodwork. In the salle a dado and chair rail repeat the design found on the exterior. Reeded Federal pilasters framing the openings extend almost to the ceiling. These pilasters are capped by a small scale entablature with a reeded frieze encompassing the entire room. A French wraparound mantel with Federal detailing is the interior's most outstanding feature. It is highlighted by colonnettes, narrow bands of reeding, and raised panels with bas relief star and crescent motifs. The accompanying overmantel resembles an arcade with a large middle arch flanked by two smaller arches enscribed within reeded panels.

Assessment of Integrity

As previously mentioned, the lower brick service story was removed sometime after 1936. This necessitated a major reworking of the chimneys, which no longer rise above the roofline.

Other changes to the house include:

1. the removal of original roof dormers,
2. replacement of the gallery's turned colonnettes with square tapered posts,
3. the complete removal of the rear chimney and its two fireplaces, plus the loss of an original French wraparound mantel from the front portion of the home,
4. the addition of twentieth century double windows on at least one cabinet room wall,
5. the replacement of delicate fan-shaped Federal transoms over the French doors with rectangular transoms from the turn-of-the-century,
6. the covering of interior beaded board walls with plaster,
7. the moving of wall partitions within the rear range of rooms, and
8. the addition of a rear wing, terminating in a carport.

Of the various changes the house has undergone, the loss of the brick lower story has obviously had the most visual impact. While the house is no longer a raised Creole plantation house, the important point is that the most significant

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fannie Riche House, New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

story survives and with most of its original character-defining features intact. The house retains such Creole features as its umbrella hipped roof, French doors, dado-lined gallery, reeded lozenges, a wraparound mantel, and a great deal of its Creole construction elements, including bousillage walls, mortise and tenon joinery, and a modified Norman truss roof. It also retains the bulk of its Creole floorplan, including the most significant rooms. Finally, the interior and exterior Federal pilasters, the interior small scale entablatures over the doors, the parlor frieze, and the mantel and overmantel detailing survive as rare and superb examples of how American Federal styling influenced French builders during the early part of the nineteenth century. In summation, what survives at Fannie Riche is so significant that the house merits a Register listing in spite of the alterations. Even with its alterations, the house is more significant than many other more intact examples.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fannie Riche House, New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The home's Federal woodwork is also very rare and quite exceptional. In Louisiana, far more Creole houses with Greek Revival woodwork have survived than have those showing Federal influence. In addition, the craftsmanship of the Federal woodwork in the Fannie Riche house is quite superior. The significant Federal elements include the reeded pilasters on the interior and paneled pilasters outlining the exterior sides of the four sets of French doors; the small scale entablatures above the French doors on the interior; the reeded frieze which caps the parlor wall; and the detailing on the unusual fireplace mantel and overmantel, including colonnettes, a star and crescent motif, and a reeded arcade. The Fannie Riche House is one of the very few surviving Creole plantation houses which were decorated in such an elegant manner. Its woodwork is equal in craftsmanship and design to that found in Homeplace and Whitney, which are among the finest Creole houses in the state. Thus, its woodwork alone would make the Fannie Riche house eligible for the National Register.

Historical Note

The Fannie Riche House is named for the black mistress of a prominent Pointe Coupee Parish planter. Evidence suggests that Riche did live in the house, at least for a short period of time. The home is still in use as the residence of a working plantation which grows sugar cane and corn.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
c.1825-1835

Significant Dates
c.1825-1835

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

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

The Fannie Riche Plantation House is significant in the area of architecture on a statewide level. It is one of a select number of houses which illustrate rare and significant features of the French Creole style, and its Federal woodwork is among the finest examples in the state. Although it is unfortunate that the building has suffered some losses to its integrity, the historic fabric and details which remain mark the Fannie Riche Home as a most significant example of these two architectural styles.

Creole architecture was once dominant in French Louisiana. Today only 300 - 400 major examples survive, and many of these exhibit only one or two details which categorize them as Creole. However, the Fannie Riche House contains a variety of intact Creole architectural details. These characteristics include:

1. its hipped umbrella roof with modified Norman truss support system,
2. its use of French joinery methods and bousillage walls,
3. a gallery featuring a dado with raised panels on its walls,
4. an elaborate wraparound mantel and overmantel with unusual Federal detailing. The mantel features a rare star and crescent motif, while the reeded overmantel is articulated to resemble an arcade. The Division of Historic Preservation is unaware of similar detailing anywhere else in the state.
5. four sets of French doors,
6. and French style lozenges above the pilasters on the facade. Lozenges exist on only the earliest surviving Creole homes.

Certain of these features are particularly rare. For example, as Anglo building methods gained the ascendancy over elements of French carpentry, the Norman roof truss was at first modified and then entirely disappeared. Paneled gallery walls are even more rare than the Norman truss, for they were placed only on the finer houses and very few remain today.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Edwards, Jay. A Survey of Louisiana French Vernacular Architecture, Volume II, A Report to the Division of the Arts and the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park of Louisiana. Baton Rouge: Museum of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, 1982.

Division of Historic Preservation. Historic Structures Survey of Pointe Coupee Parish.

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 # LA-35
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5	6	4	6	3	0	0	3	4	0	0	4	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

A chain link fence defining the yard of the significant resource was selected as the boundary. Following property lines would have meant including extensive agricultural acreage unrelated to the significance of the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Revised by Div. of Hist. Preservation staff

name/title Dr. Jay Edwards, Talal Albagdadi, and Donna Abbott

organization Fred B. Kniffen Cultural Resources Lab date June 1990

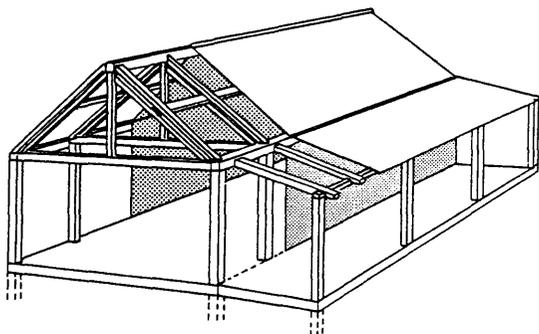
street & number Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU telephone (504) 388-2566

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70803

Owner: Mrs. Garnet L. Schexnayder
Rt 2, Box 74
New Roads, LA 70760

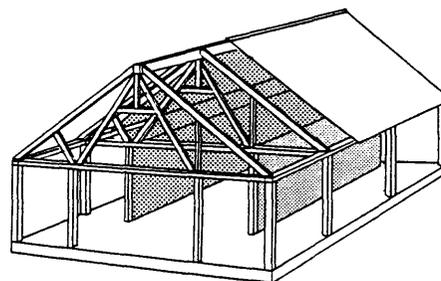
FIGURE 5

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



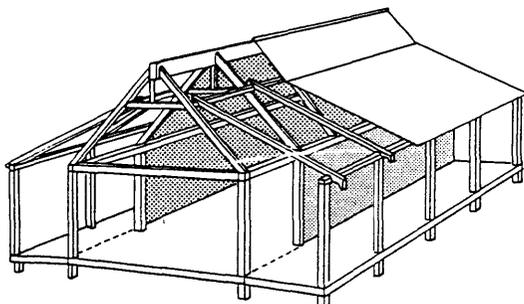
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



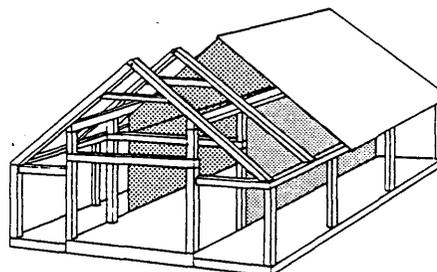
CLASS IIIa

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



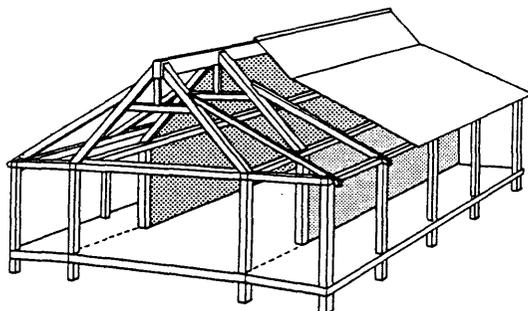
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



CLASS IIIb

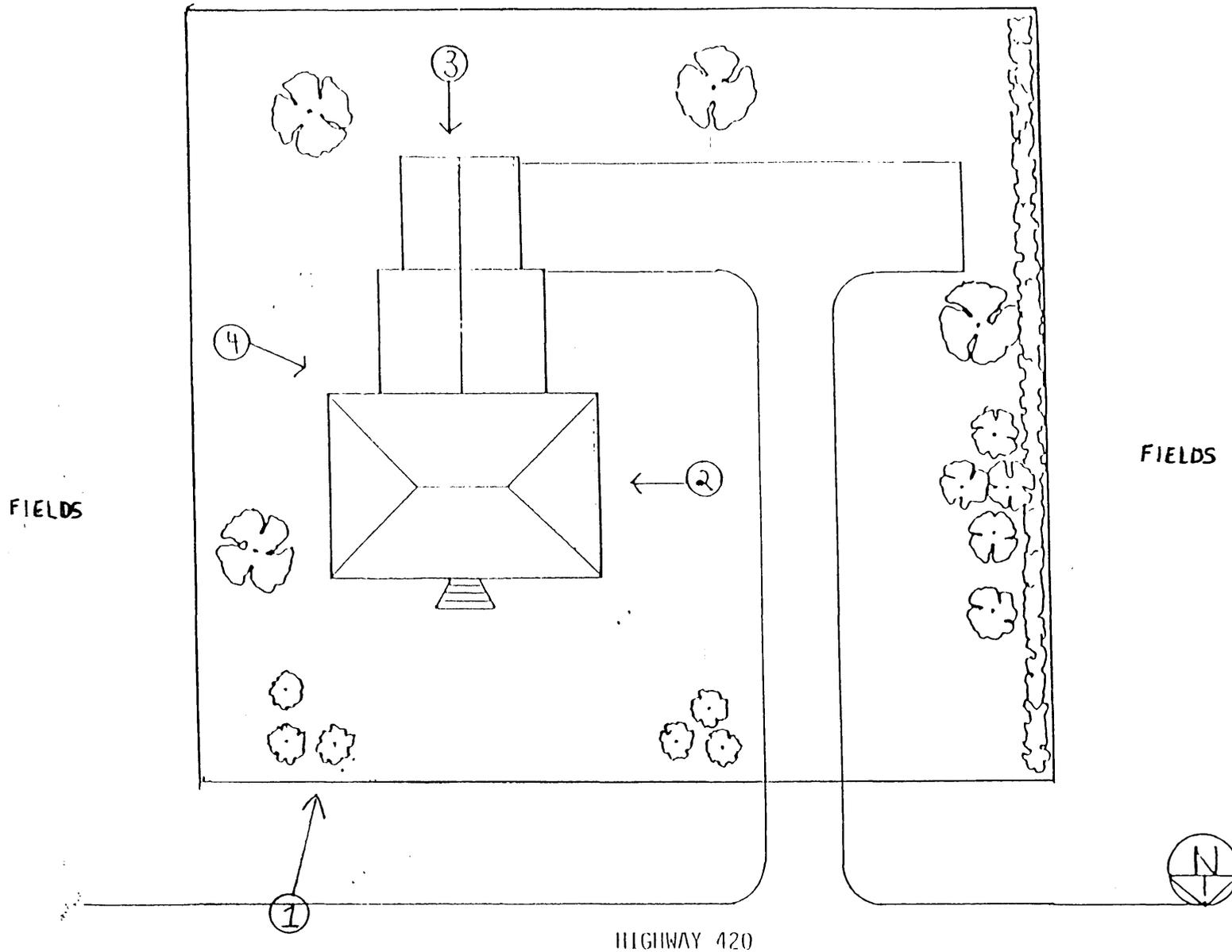
Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.



CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.

FIELDS



MAP FOR FANNIE RICHE PLANTATION HOUSE
LOCATED IN NEW ROADS VICINITY, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA
SITE BOUNDARIES

SCALE:

