

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

PH 008114

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

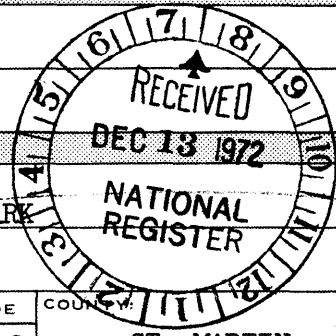
STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: ACADIAN HOUSE AND/OR HISTORIC: ACADIAN HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: LONGFELLOW EVANGELINE STATE PARK CITY OR TOWN: ST. MARTINSVILLE STATE: LOUISIANA CODE: 022 COUNTY: ST. MARTIN CODE: 099



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Building, Structure, Object OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Both STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted, Unrestricted, No PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Educational, Museum, Religious, Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: LOUISIANA STATE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. DRAWER 1111 CITY OR TOWN: BATON ROUGE, STATE: LOUISIANA CODE: 022

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: REGISTER OF DEEDS, COURT HOUSE STREET AND NUMBER: MAIN STREET CITY OR TOWN: ST. MARTINSVILLE STATE: LOUISIANA CODE: 022

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: LONGFELLOW - EVANGELINE STATE PARK DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 11th 1927 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: PARISH COURT HOUSE STREET AND NUMBER: MAIN STREET CITY OR TOWN: ST. MARTINSVILLE STATE: LOUISIANA CODE: 022

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

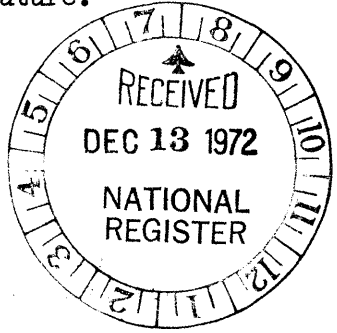
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Acadian House was built in 1765 and consists of three buildings. The main house, which is a two story cottage. The cusine (kitchen) which is connected to the main house by Whistlers Walk, and the Magazin (store house).

The main house is built of hand hewed cypress, fastened with Wooden Pegs, sun baked brick and adobe mixed with moss. The ground floor walls are of brick, they contain two main rooms with fire places, two smaller rooms and a front and rear patio like area. All the floors are paved with red brick. The walls of the second floor, extending up to the roof are made of adobe clay and moss. The second floor consist of two large rooms and two smaller rooms, there is a front and rear porch, with steps leading from the rear porch to the ground floor and enclosed steps leading to a large attic. Six brick columns extend to the second floor, front and back, where smaller wooden columns extend to the roof. The roof is covered with split cypress shingles.

Woodwork is crude, the center opening doors, hinges and hardware are primitive. The doors on the ground floor are small and windows heavily shuttered. The kitchen has been restored around the original fireplace and equipped with utensils of the period. The small magazin (store house) is a replica, a typical Acadian Kitchen garden is maintained in the area between the main house and the kitchen. A brick path leads to the area behind the kitchen where the slave quarters, stables and work sheds were located. These are no longer standing, but their exact location is known and it is intended that replicas will be built in the future.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

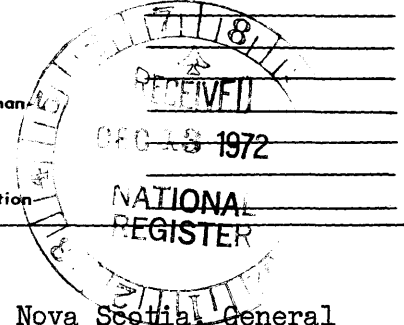
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On September 5, 1755, at Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, General Winslow of the British Army decreed that all Acadians were prisoners of the Crown. His orders were that all land, tenements, livestock and cattle, were forfeited to the Crown and that all Acadians would be deported from the province to a place suiting his majestys pleasure.

The order was swiftly carried out. On the 10th of Sept. 1755, one hundred and sixty one young men from the district of Minos, were driven on board five transports stationed in the Gaspereaux River. As more transports arrived, the women, children, and mothers and sweethearts were loaded on board to be carried away.

Although the Acadians were scattered from Main to Georgia, they held on to the common desire to once again be reunited under the French flag. Many found their way by riverboat, rafts, and overland trail to Louisiana. On the 13th of January, 1765, about six hundred and fifty five Acadians arrived at New Orleans. From New Orleans they were sent to form settlements in the Attakapas an area which comprises the present day Parishes of St. Martin, St. Mary Iberia, Lafayette and Vermillion.

It was from the accounts of these happenings and a legend about a maid that was torn from her new husband and then spent her life searching for him, that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow gathered the material for his immortal poem, Evangeline.

Local legend has it that the Acadian House was once the home of Louis Arceneaux, the prototype of Longfellow's Gabriel and that Emmaline Labiche was Evangeline. It is also believed that she is buried in the St. Martinsville Church yard. A Louis Arceneaux did live, he died on March 6, 1812, at the age of 44 years. Since parish records show that he was born in Louisiana, he could not have been Longfellow's Gabriel. There appears to be no record of an Emmaline Labiche being buried in the St. Martinsville graveyard, although records go back to 1756.

(Cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A treasure of Plantation Homes - F. Wesley Cooper. Louisiana Plantation Homes - W. Darrel Overdyke. Louisiana Antebellum Architecture - John Desmond, FAIA. Louisiana Vol. 11, Charles Gayarre. A History of Louisiana - Alcee Fortier, Litt. D. Parish Records - St. Martins Parish - American Papers, Vol. 4. Historical Collection of Louisiana - B.F. French, New York 1846- 51. Old Families of Louisiana - Clisby; deKenton, Huchet. Et. Al.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 8' 16.8"	91° 49' 30."	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre .25

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NONE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NW 15/613300
 NW 15/613460/3333700
 SW 15/612860/3333970
 NW 15/614100/3334630
 SE 15/613460/3333700
 SW 15/612860/3333970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **HERMAN C. WILLEM, JR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.**

ORGANIZATION: **STATE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. DRAWER 1111**

CITY OR TOWN: **BATON ROUGE,** STATE: **LOUISIANA** CODE: **022**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George W. Peck

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 6 December 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/30/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

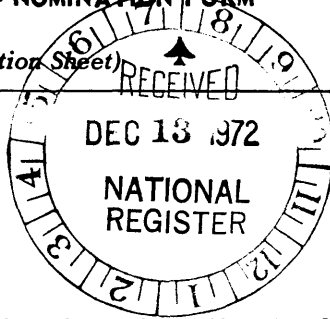
Date: 3/22/76

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STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 30 1973

8 - 2

(Continuation Sheet)



(Number all entries)

(Cont.)

Although no proof exists that the Acadian House was the home of Louis Arceneaux (Gabriel), there is proof that the house is authentic and that it was the home of many prominent Louisianians.

The Acadian House was built about 1765, by Mr. D'Autrive, Chevalier de St. Louis, on a Spanish Land Grant. The Chevalier died sometime before 1775 leaving his Widow extensive lands on the Bayou Teche and Mississippi. Mrs. D'Autrive lived on the Plantation, as on inventory taken at her death there were buildings on the land and she is referred to as a resident of the post

On November 13th, 1778 by act passed before Mr. DeClout, Commandant at the Post des Attakapas at Opelousas, the Plantation was sold to the Widow of Missire Paul Augustine Le Pelletier de la Houssaye, also called Pierre Augustine. He was a cadet at the Post des Attakapas, Captain detache de la Marine, Major de Place in New Orleans and Mobile, one of five commissioners appointed by the crown to make inquirey concerning the Rochemore - Kerlerec quarrel, commandant of the provincial militia and Knight of the Royal and Military order of St. Louis.

M. de Le Houssaye's widow was Magdeleine Victoire Petit de Livillers, their marriage combined two of the most influential and powerful families in the new world.

The list of notable Louisiana families connected with the Acadian House and Plantation, includes but is not limited to the Oliver de Vegin family. Pierre Francois Marie Oliver, Ecuyer Sieur de Vezin, was appointed Grand Voyer - Overseer of the highways and the kings surveyor general in the Province, Oct. 1747. In 1769 he became a "Regidor Perperuo Y Alquaszil Mayor", and took his seat in the Cabildo. Hughes Charles Hanore Oliver de Vezin de St. Maurice was one of eight children of this illustrious figure, he married Marie Madeline Phillippe de Marigny de Mandeville.

The de Blanc family was one of the foundation families of Louisiana. Chevalier Gesaire de Blanc de Neuville was born in Marseilles, France. He became second commander of Fort St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches. He left two sons. One of the sons, Louis Charles de Blanc Neuville, served from 1798 to 1803, as a commandant of Natchitoches and the Post de Attakapas (St. Martinville). He was capitaine d'infanterie under his Catholic majesty, King of Spain and was appointed one of the commissioners to turn Louisiana over to the United States. (Cont.)

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STATE
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ENTRY NUMBER 30 DATE MAR 30 1973

2-3

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

(Cont.)

The Forstall family was another owner of the Plantation. This ancient family dates back to the time when William Le Forestier, a ~~norman~~ Knight, crossed the English Channel with William the Conqueror in 1066.

Finally Mr. C.T. Bienvenue purchased the land from Mr. Frank Greig. Mr. Bienvenue was acting for Longfellow - Evangeline Memorial State and National Park Assn. On February 14, 1931, the National Park Association donated the Park to the State of Louisiana. The list of important families connected with the Acadian House is too long to be given here in its entirety.

The heritage of the Acadian House, The Association with the early history of Louisiana and more specifically the link with Longfellow classic poem, has made the Longfellow Evangeline State Park and the Acadian House, a mecca for tourist, Architects, Historians and Scholars.



ST. MARTINVILLE QUADRANGLE
 LOUISIANA
 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(OSCA BAYOU)

