

DATA SHEET
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0698628

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1979

DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1979

**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

Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

Oakland; Atahoe

LOCATION

SE of Natchez on LA 19

STREET & NUMBER

Approximately 3 miles southeast of Natchez
on La. highway 19

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th - Jerry Huckaby

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Natchitoches

CODE

069

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(continued)

NAME

(1) Mr. and Mrs. James Alphonse Prud'homme

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2 Box 101

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 71456

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Natchitoches Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchitoches

STATE

Louisiana 71457

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme plantation consists of land and buildings on both sides of the Cane River. Included are the present plantation complex and Atahoe house, across the river. Atahoe is included in the nomination because it was built by one of two brothers who were heirs to the plantation after the Civil War. It was built on land from the original plantation tract which he acquired when the plantation was divided. Boundaries were drawn to encompass all extant buildings which are associated with the nineteenth century plantation. The setting is open and flat with a short alley of live oaks in front of the plantation house. There are also some oaks in front of Atahoe. The only change in elevation occurs at the river banks, where there is a drop of a few feet. The only intrusion in the area is a small metal truss bridge. However this is not a major feature in the landscape.

The Plantation Complex

The extant complex is laid out along either side of an access lane which runs roughly east to west.

The Plantation House

The house is set at the head of a short alley of live oaks behind a small formal garden. The parterres are outlined in bottles. There are crock bottles from Scotland, square bitters bottles, round bottom beer bottles from Ireland, torpedo-shaped bottles from England, and French wine bottles.

The house was originally built in 1818-1821 with a square four-room plan, which was completely surrounded by galleries. Chimneys were set between the pairs of rooms. In about 1822, three rooms were added on the north side, two rear rooms were extended, and another chimney was built. Galleries were built to surround this new seven-room plan. A stranger's room was built in the north gallery. The present rear kitchen wing was added after the Civil War. Family tradition has it that an earlier wing was removed and the lumber was used in the construction of Atahoe. Also after the Civil War a hallway was cut between the 1821 and 1822 portions of the house.

The house is raised a full story above the ground with heavy pegged and hewn sills, beams, joists, and studs. The wall fabric is bousillage.

The plantation is a large hip roof, raised cottage, with surrounding galleries and 28 chamfered posts. The three dormers on the front are original. Most rooms have double French doors. The interior walls are paneled with random-width boards. Only one of the original mantels remains--a comparatively plain Greek Revival wooden one in one of the bedrooms. The finer marble mantels cracked and were replaced with plain wooden mantels in 1915. Most of the transom doors and floor boards are original. The doorway between the parlor and the dining room takes the form of a graceful fanlit elliptical arch which contains four folding doors.

(continued)

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OWNER OF PROPERTY (continued)

(2) Mrs. Richard L. Williamson
Route 2 ✓
Atahoe Plantation
Natchez, Louisiana 71456

(3) Mr. Jesse Brett ✓
Route 2 Box 100
Natchez, Louisiana 71456

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The Outbuildings

The plantation outbuildings are as follows: The old store, a frame, gable-fronted building, dates back to the Civil War era. Behind the store is the carriage house, which is an old but nondescript frame building. It was converted into a machine shop in 1960. There are two frame hip roof pigeoniers at opposite ends of the access lane, and a small log carpenter's shop with half dovetail joints at the corners. Behind the carpenter shop is an old frame barn which was once a smokehouse. The smoked and charred beams remain. The overseer's house is a raised cottage which has been re-sided. The largest residence other than the plantation house is the doctor's house, a frame five-bay cottage with a pitched roof. Though much reworked, it still contributes to the overall appearance of the plantation.

Atahoe

Atahoe was built as a frame dogtrot house shortly after the Civil War. Since then, the dogtrot has been enclosed, the side walls have been faced in brick, a staircase has been built, and the upstairs has been remodeled. Nonetheless the plan remains as do the front windows and the front gallery.

The steel truss bridge is rivetted together, and is of comparatively recent construction (mid-20th century).

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 checked="" 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

1818-1821

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme plantation is of architectural and social significance. The plantation house is one of the finest examples of a raised cottage plantation house in the area of Natchitoches Parish. Indeed its lower brick columns, upper chamfered wood columns, hip roof, surrounding galleries, and plan mark it as a classic example of the French Colonial style in Louisiana. The Prud'homme plantation is the second largest house of its type in the parish. Particularly unusual and fine is its elliptical fanlit doorway between the parlor and the dining room.

In addition the Prud'homme plantation has the second most complete collection of surviving outbuildings of any plantation in the parish.

The Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme plantation also has social significance, because it has been owned by the same family throughout its entire history, something very unusual in Louisiana. The present owners of the plantation house constitute the fifth generation of unbroken family ownership.

According to tradition, the plantation house was built during 1818-1821 by Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme (1762-1845). The land, located about thirteen miles below Natchitoches, was granted to him in 1789 by Estevan Miro, governor-general of the province of Louisiana.¹ A surveyor's plat from 1816 reveals that Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme owned both Section 104 and Section 44 of Township 8 north Range 6 west. The Red River (later the Cane River) ran between these two sections. The site of the plantation house is Section 104 on the east side of the river.²

Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme represented his family's second generation born in Louisiana. His grandfather, Jean Prud'homme, had come here from France in the early eighteenth century.³ In the 1810 Census, "Emanl" Prud'homme is listed as head of a household also containing his wife, three children under ten years of age, and 53 slaves.⁴ Apparently his agricultural enterprises prospered, since by 1820 the number of slaves had grown to 74; by 1830 the slaves numbered 96, and by 1840, when Emmanuel Prud'homme was 78 years old, they numbered 104.⁵

Emmanuel's son was Pierre Phanor Prud'homme (1807-1865), who according to family tradition took over management of the plantation about 1835. The 1840 Census lists Phanor as the owner of 40 slaves in his own right.⁶ As a

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Atahoe Plantation." Report by Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williamson, owners of Atahoe, in National Register nomination file for Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. Nashville: Southern Publishing Co., 1890.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 70

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	499425	3503550	B	15	500000	3503300
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	15	500000	3502900	D	15	499425	3502675
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at the intersection of La. Route 119 and the access road as shown on USGS map. Proceed due south to the southern leg of Rt. 119. Then proceed generally northward along Rt. 119 to the intersection with the bridge. Then proceed due east 600 ft. then north 400 ft. then due west back to Rt. 119 then follow Rt. 119 to original intersection.

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

Mrs. James Alphonse Prud'homme and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williamson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 2

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Natchez

Louisiana 71456

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-9-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

8-29-79

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE

8/29/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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youth he was educated in France. In 1842 he was commissioned a captain in the state militia and at some point he served two terms in the state legislature.⁷ With his father's death in 1845, complete control of the family plantation passed to him. According to the 1850 Census, he owned \$170,000 worth of real estate, a total of 1800 acres, of which 800 were improved. The previous year, his plantation had produced 250 bales of ginned cotton (400-pound bales) and 4500 bushels of corn. He owned 124 slaves. By 1860 he owned 3400 acres, of which 1000 were improved, and 145 slaves, who lived in 30 slave dwellings. The year before, his lands had yielded 698 bales of cotton (400-pound bales) and 7,000 bushels of corn.⁸

Phanor had two sons who figure prominently in the subsequent history of the family plantation--Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme and Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme. Jacques Alphonse was educated as a civil engineer at the University of Virginia and at the Univeristy of North Carolina, from which he graduated in 1860. Shortly after his return home the Civil War broke out, and he enlisted in the Confederate army and served in the field until April, 1864, when he was relieved from field duty due to his never having fully recovered from wounds.⁹

Pierre Emmanuel, for his part, entered Georgetown College in Washington, D. C. at the age of fifteen in 1859. When the war began, he returned home and joined the army, serving until its end.¹⁰

When the war was over, according to family tradition, the two brothers and their wives returned to the family plantation and lived in the old home, trying to get the farming operations going again. Late in 1865 the brothers' father Phanor died. In 1867 the two brothers agreed to divide the family holdings, with Jacques Alphonse retaining Section 104, east of the river and the site of the family home, and Pierre Emmanuel taking up residence across the river on Section 44, which subsequently became known as "Atahoe," probably named after a stream on the property. Jacques Alphonse meanwhile named his portion "Oakland."¹¹

The 1870 Argiculture Census reveals that by that time the brothers were each doing rather well at making a living. Jacques Alphonse, residing in the old home, owned 1400 acres of land, of which 500 were improved. The previous year his land had produced 70 bales of cotton (450-pound bales) and 1200 bushels of Indian corn. The estimated value of all his farm produce for that year was \$8100. His brother Pierre Emmanuel's statistics were similar. He too owned 1400 acres of land, of which 500 were improved. The year before, his lands had produced 63 bales of cotton and 2500 bushels of corn. The value of his farm produce had been \$8226.¹²

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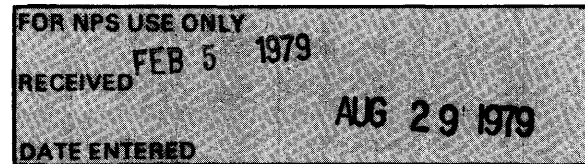
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In 1877, the original house which had been situated on Section 44 burned. Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme then built the present house in 1878. It was constructed from materials which came from a wing of the old plantation house. This wing was torn down for the sole purpose of building the house at Atahoe across the river. Atahoe has since remained in the hands of the descendants of Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme.¹³

The plantation home's owner after Jacques Alphonse Prud'homme's death in 1919 became his son Pierre Phanor Prud'homme II (1865-1948). In 1942, he in turn sold it to his oldest son James Alphonse Prud'homme II (born 1896), the present owner.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Alcee Fortier, "Jacques Alphonse Prudhomme," in Louisiana (Atlanta: Southern Historical Association, 1909), Vol. 3; hereinafter cited as Fortier, "J. A. Prudhomme."

²Map of land claimed by Emmanuel Prudhomme, surveyed by Joseph Irwin, 1816, State Land Office, Baton Rouge.

³Fortier, "J. A. Prudhomme."

⁴1810 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, p. 128.

⁵1820 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, p. 98; 1830 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, p. 67; 1840 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, pp. 147-148.

⁶1840 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, pp. 147-148.

⁷Fortier, "J. A. Prudhomme."

⁸1850 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Population Schedule, p. 91; Agriculture Census, unpaginated; Slave Schedule, p. 969; Joseph K. Menn, The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana--1860 (New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Company, 1964), pp. 298-299.

⁹Fortier, "J. A. Prudhomme."

¹⁰Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana (Nashville: Southern Publishing Co., 1890), pp. 366-367; hereinafter cited as Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana.

¹¹Fortier, "J. A. Prudhomme;" Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana, pp. 365-367.

¹²1870 Census, Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish, Agriculture Census, pp. 9-10.

¹³"Atahoe Plantation," report by Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Williamson, owners of Atahoe, in National Register nomination file for Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

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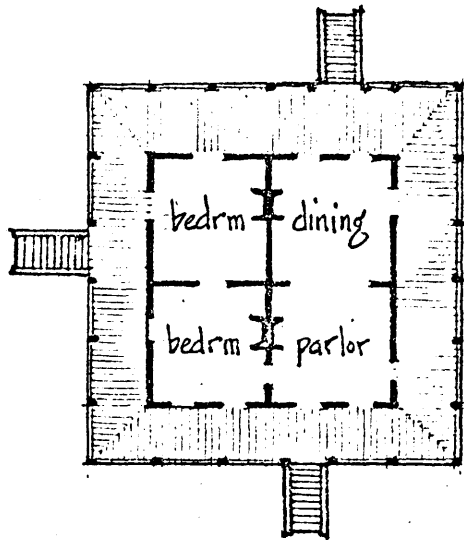
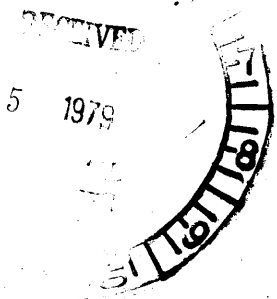
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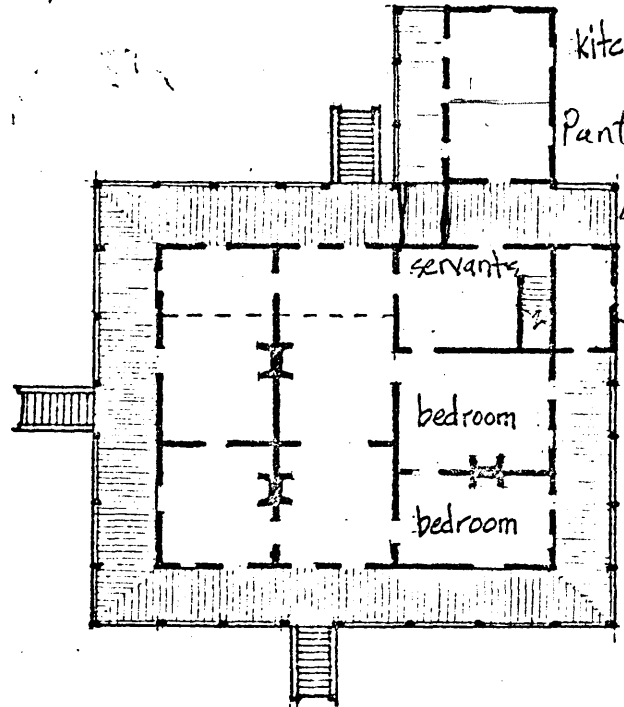
- Census of 1850. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Agriculture Census; Population Schedule; Slave Schedule.
- Census of 1840. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Population Schedule.
- Census of 1870. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Agriculture Census.
- Census of 1810. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Population Schedule
- Census of 1830. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Population Schedule.
- Census of 1820. Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish. Population Schedule.
- Fortier, Alcee. "Jacques Alphonse Prudhomme," in Louisiana. Atlanta: Southern Historical Association, 1909. Vol. 3.
- Map of land claimed by Emmanuel Prudhomme, surveyed by Joseph Irwin, 1816. State Land Office, Baton Rouge.
- Menn, Joseph K. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana--1860. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Co., 1964.

#32



1821

basic four room plan

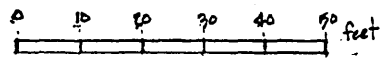


1822

enlarged to the rear and side
kitchen added post civil war

kitchen } after
Pantry } Civil War
New Kitchen
1948
~~guest~~
stranger's
room

North



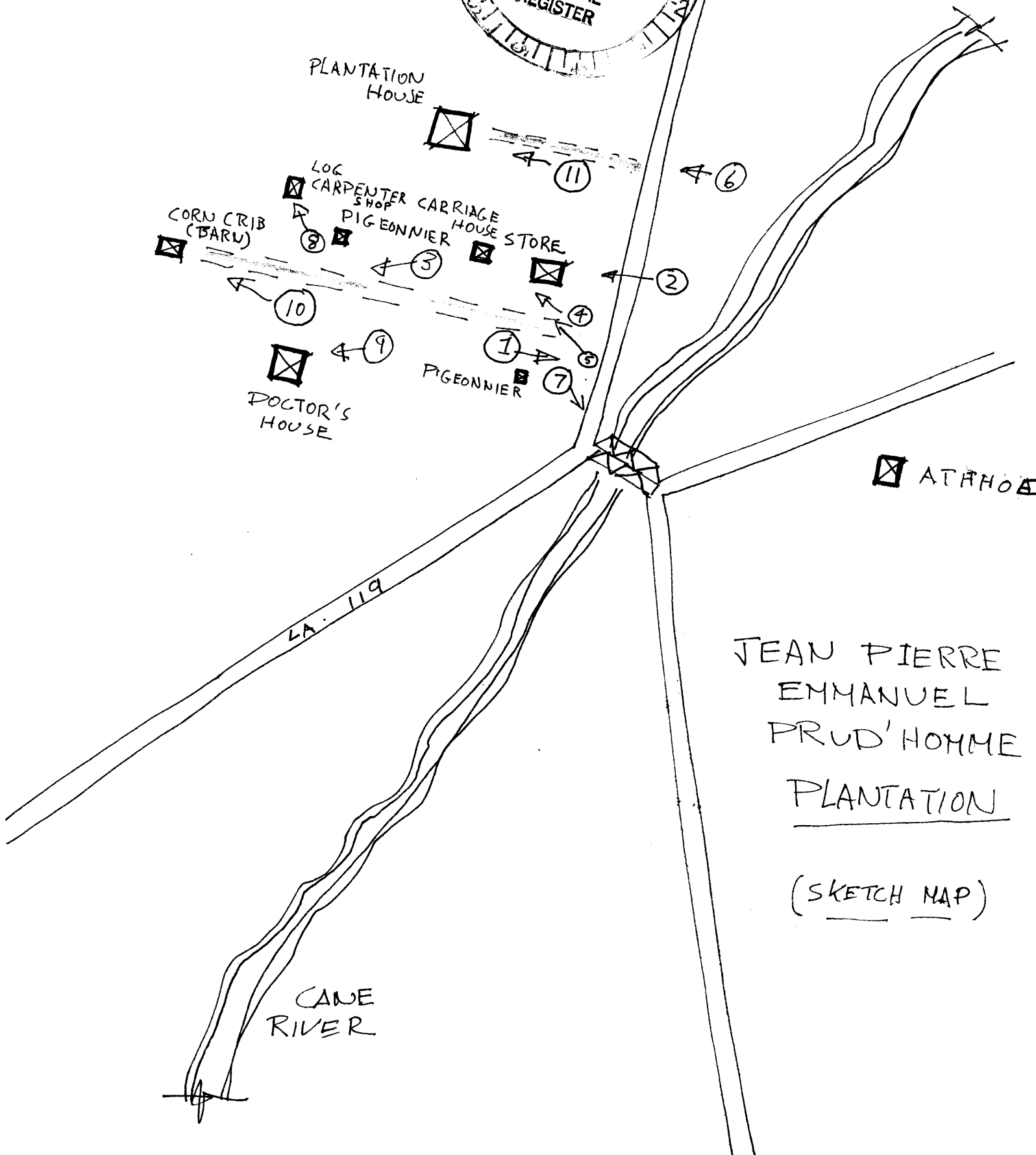
OAKLAND • PRUD'HOMME PLANTATION

over →

Approximate drawing of first house plan ^{finished} in 1821
and with the addition begun in 1822 - finished 1835

Drawn by Craig Estee

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PLANTATION HOUSE

LOG CARPENTER SHOP
CORN CRIB (BARU)
PIGEONNIER
DOCTOR'S HOUSE

CARRIAGE HOUSE
STORE
PIGEONNIER

ATHOIE

LA 119

CANE RIVER

JEAN PIERRE
EMMANUEL
PRUD'HOMME
PLANTATION

(SKETCH MAP)