



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bergeron, Valmont House

other names/site number Chateau Semas

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 414 N/A  not for publication

city or town Jarreau  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70749

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy 4/13/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date  
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 5/14/92

Valmont Bergeron House  
Name of Property

Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 0               | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| 1            | 0               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Valmont Bergeron House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The Valmont Bergeron House (c. 1840) is a one story frame dwelling in the French Creole style. It is located in a rural, agricultural area of Pointe Coupee Parish facing Louisiana Highway 414. Despite some alteration, the home retains its National Register eligibility.

Creole features found in the Valmont Bergeron House include:

- 1) a Class III gabled roof,
- 2) a partially intact floorplan displaying unusual Creole geometry. The structure is three rooms wide, and its salle is located at one end of the building. This is contrary to the more usual Creole arrangement in which the salle is centered in the plan and flanked by chambres. Whether the house was originally built in this configuration or expanded from a two-room plan is uncertain. A full length front gallery and altered cabinet/loggia range (see below) complete the floorplan.
- 3) an asymmetrical facade with openings which correspond to the internal arrangement of the rooms,
- 4) a pegged and mortised frame in which some members are hand hewn and others are pit sawn,
- 5) bousillage walls,
- 6) exposed beaded ceiling beams in the salle,
- 7) two surviving sets of French doors, each with three lights per leaf, and
- 8) two simple wraparound mantels.

Other interesting features found in the home include variable width ceiling planks in one room, original strap hinges on interior three batten single leaf doors, original solid wood gallery columns, and a low brick arch which serves as the foundation for two of the home's hearths and fireplaces. This feature is similar to foundation arches found in fully raised Creole plantation houses but is unusual in a building such as the Bergeron House, which stands low to the ground.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Valmont Bergeron House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

---

The Bergeron House has experienced the following changes, most of which appear to date to a 1937 renovation:

- 1) the loss of its Norman truss roof, chimneys, attic stairway, and one wraparound mantel,
- 2) the replacement of one set of French doors by a multi-pane single leaf door, the replacement of one chambre's exposed beaded ceiling beams by plain exposed beams, the installation of two sets of double windows in one cabinet room, and the replacement of all the exterior siding,
- 3) the covering of the upper part of the gallery's colonnade with clapboards in an effort to create an entablature and the loss of the gallery's balustrade, and
- 4) changes to the cabinet/loggia range. These include the enclosure of the loggia to create a kitchen and bathroom, the addition of a small wing at the rear to accommodate a dining room and porch which connect to the kitchen, and the conversion of one cabinet into a laundry.

Although the loss of some original features is regrettable, the Valmont Bergeron House retains its identity as a Creole dwelling. Its massing, asymmetrical facade, two wraparound mantels, two French doors, bousillage walls, and the salle's exposed beaded ceiling beams remain intact. While one door has been changed, the replacement door is in keeping with the architectural character of the house since it is derived from the single-leaf French door. Finally, the home's rear addition causes minimal visual impact and cannot be seen from the front. As an example of rare French Creole features in Pointe Coupee Parish, the Valmont Bergeron House is a viable candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance**

c.1840

**Significant Dates**

c.1840

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Valmont Bergeron House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

---

The Valmont Bergeron House is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Pointe Coupee Parish because it is one of a select number of houses which illustrate rare and significant features of the Creole style.

Although Pointe Coupee Parish has long been recognized as an important area of early French settlement, time and changing tastes have eroded the parish's collection of significant Creole houses. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has identified 799 50+ year old buildings in the parish. Of these, 193 are in the Creole style and hence reflect, at least in a general sense, the French origins of the area. However, most of these buildings are Creole in plan and configuration only and lack other significant features associated with the style. Instead, they usually display Greek Revival, Victorian, or bungalow details. Of the 193 structures identified as Creole, only approximately twelve to fifteen retain enough integrity in their stylistic and construction features to justify their recognition as noteworthy examples of Creole architecture. Of this small group, approximately half represent the two story raised plantation house which was the apex of the Creole style, and half are in the form of the moderately-sized and small one-story Creole homes which would have been the norm in the early days of parish history. The Valmont Bergeron House is one of these moderate-sized dwellings.

Features present in the Valmont Bergeron House which are not found in the majority of Pointe Coupee's Creole homes include bousillage walls and a French timber frame which utilizes mortised and pegged members. The vast majority of Pointe Coupee Parish's Creole houses have plain frame walls with no infill. The home is also one of only nine in the parish known to contain French wraparound mantels. In addition, it retains interior exposed beaded ceiling beams in one room and all but one of its French doors.

### Historical Note

Although the owners of the Valmont Bergeron House believe it to date to c. 1782, the available architectural evidence indicates that it was constructed around 1840. While associated most closely with Valmont Bergeron, the dwelling has been the residence of the Lopez family since 1937.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Valmont Bergeron House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

**Section number**   9   **Page**   1  

---

Historic Structures Survey of Pointe Coupee Parish, LA. Louisiana State Historic  
Preservation Office.

Site visit by National Register Staff.

Edwards, Jay. Draft National Register Nomination, Department of Geography and  
Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge.



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

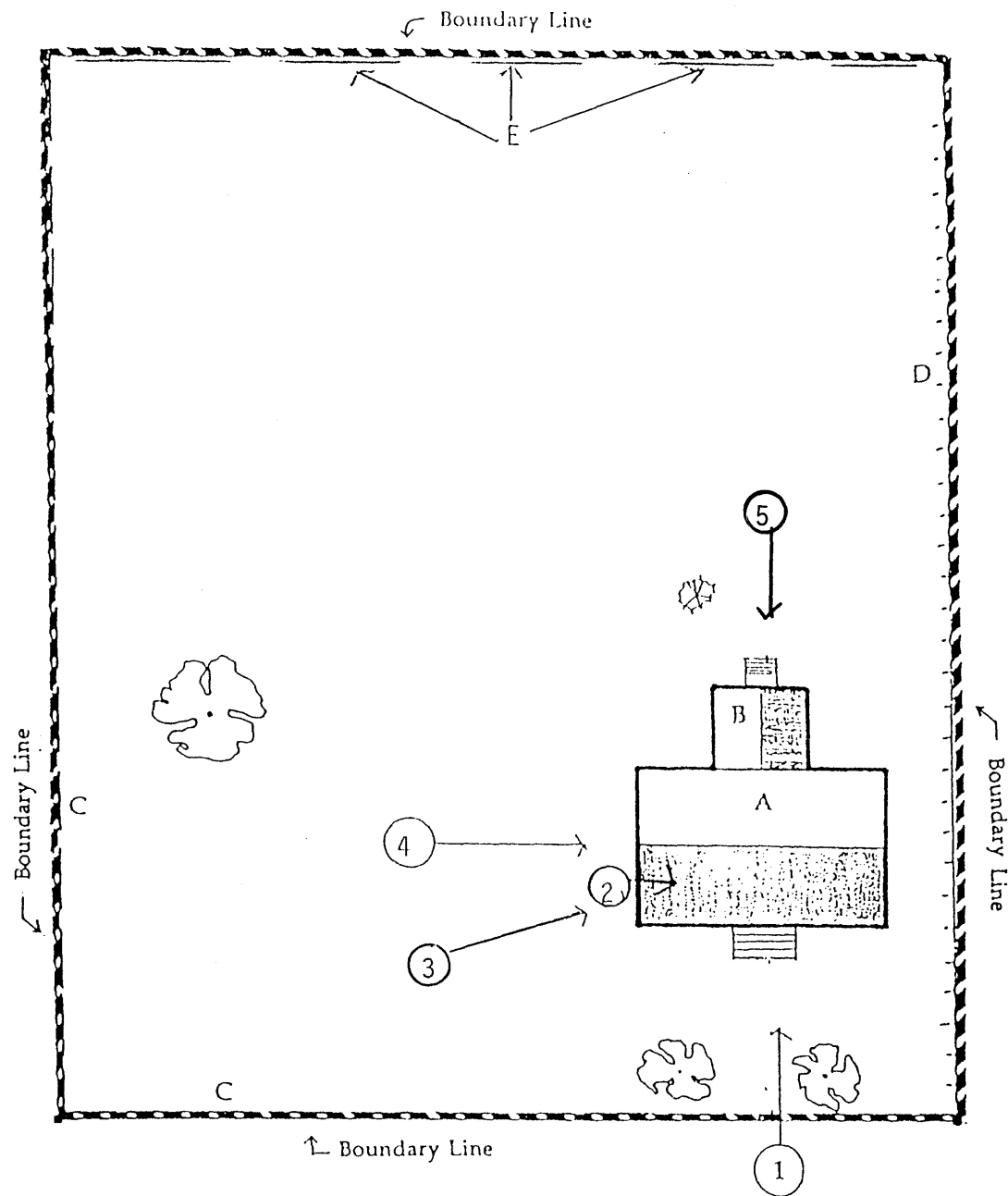
# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Bergeron House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
**Section number** 10 **Page** 1

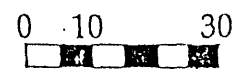
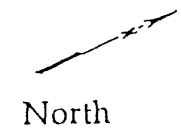
---

## Boundary Justification

The front and side boundaries follow the fence which outlines three sides of the yard. The rear boundary follows a ditch which creates a natural boundary on this side.



- A - House
- B - Addition
- C - Chain Link Fence
- D - Barbed Wire Fence
- E - Ditch



Scale 1" = 30'

MAP FOR VALMONT BERGERON HOUSE  
 LOCATED IN JARREAU VICINITY, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA