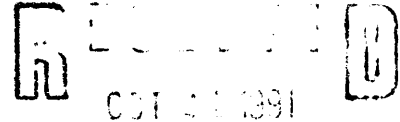


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). 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 Salmen, Fritz House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 127 Cleveland Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Slidell N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. Tammany code 103 zip code 70458

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

Leslie P. Tassin October 15, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Date
Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. 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:)

Alvarez/Byer 11/21/91
Signature of the Keeper 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

DOMESTIC/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Queen Anne Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fritz Salmen House is a one-and-one-half story frame residence located on a large lot bordering one of Slidell's major thoroughfares. Stylistically, it features elements from both the Colonial Revival and the Queen Anne styles. Built c. 1900, it has experienced no major changes since Salmen himself completed a major expansion in 1917. Thus, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

The home's surviving Colonial Revival decorative features include:

- 1) an overall symmetrical, boxy shape;
- 2) a hipped roof with prominent central shed dormers featuring paneled pilasters, gablets, and triple windows;
- 3) a double entrance door with transom and sidelights; and
- 4) a pillared porch wrapping around two sides of the building beneath the home's main roof. The pillars rest on brick pedestals and feature molded panels and capitals.

The dwelling's surviving Queen Anne style characteristics include textured shingles on the sides of the dormers; one intact bay window; a second, partially surviving bay on one side of the home; and corbelled chimney tops. The interior woodwork and mantels are typical of that found in transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival houses.

The house appears to have achieved its current configuration in three stages:

1. Although Salmen family tradition indicates that the house was built around 1892, architectural evidence points to a date shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. Salmen appears to have built a symmetrical home with galleries on three sides. Each of the two side galleries was interrupted by a projecting bay, which resulted in the creation of small side porches on the rear corners of the home. A rear gallery also existed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Salmen, Fritz House, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

2. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Slidell for 1906 (the first available) shows that the rear gallery had been enclosed and expanded by that year. In addition, a kitchen ell had been attached at the rear. At this time, the home's first floor contained a main block organized around a large central stair hall with three rooms on each side. A dining room connected to the main block at the rear and connected it with the kitchen. The upper floor consisted of three rooms surrounding a large central space.
3. Salmen's 1917 enlargement of the home was completed in anticipation of a family wedding. At this time, he created two bathrooms by enclosing the west rear corner porch, added a breakfast room to the rear of the kitchen ell, enlarged the bedroom on the southeast side of the home and converted part of the large resulting space into a bathroom, expanded the east gallery into a large sunroom, and attached a porte-cochere to the sunroom's east wall. This expanded floorplan remains virtually intact.

Only minor changes have occurred since 1917. These include the addition of a shed carport attached to the kitchen/breakfast room ell, the construction of a wheelchair ramp leading to the front gallery, the replacement of the gallery's original front steps with brick, and the lowering of the kitchen ceiling. The house has also undergone a careful restoration in the last year. Because the ramp is shielded by shrubbery, it has no major impact on the facade. The brick steps also are not a major intrusion. Furthermore, the rear carport cannot be viewed from the front. If Fritz Salmen were to return to Slidell today, he would easily recognize the house at 127 Cleveland Avenue as the residence he first built and then remodeled as his personal home. Because of its close association with a major figure in the early economic history of Slidell (see Part 8), the Fritz Salmen House is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Elements

Also on the property are four outbuildings, the survival of which is somewhat unusual considering their urban setting. They include a children's playhouse, combination barn/servants' quarters, wash house, and garage. They are being counted as contributing elements for the purposes of this nomination because they were all constructed by Fritz Salmen during his period of residence (c.1900-1934) and, despite some losses of integrity, would still be recognized by him. (The barn has lost a shed roof wing, the fenestration has changed on the front of the wash house, and a shed roof greenhouse has been added to the garage.)

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)
Industry

Period of Significance
c.1900 - 1934

Significant Dates
c.1900 - 1934

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
Salmen, Fritz

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

The Fritz Salmen House is locally significant in the area of industry because of its close association with Fritz Salmen, founder of the brickyard which was Slidell's first major industrial facility. The Salmen Brothers Brick and Lumber Company was the economic mainstay of Slidell from its founding in the 1880s through at least the second decade of the twentieth century. The home was Fritz Salmen's residence from its construction c.1900 until his death in 1934.

Slidell was one of the last towns to be founded in St. Tammany Parish. Its birth coincided with the arrival of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad, which surveyed the townsite in 1883. At this time the parish was already well known for its fine clay deposits, which had furnished the raw material for brick making since well before the Civil War. Slidell became a center of brick making with the arrival of Swiss immigrant Fritz Salmen in 1886. Salmen first established a small brickworks in which his employees made the bricks by hand. When the company showed promise of success the following year, Fritz sent for his younger brother Jacob to join him in business. Three years later a third brother, Albert, also joined the firm. True entrepreneurs, the brothers soon branched out, establishing a large lumber mill beside the ever expanding brickworks. Fritz and Albert also built homes side-by-side on a street directly across from their industrial complex. In addition, they assumed responsibility for their employees' welfare by building a six-to-eight block neighborhood of small workers houses which became known as Salmen Town.

Although Jacob died in 1908, the entrepreneurship of the surviving brothers continued. They expanded their timber operations to Nicaragua and, in 1914, opened a small shipyard known as the Slidell Shipbuilding Corporation. It was located on nearby Bayou Bonfouca and maintained the ships servicing their foreign operation. However, it was the brick factory and lumber mill which provided the economic basis for Slidell's survival during the community's early years. The 1906 and 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Slidell confirm this role. The earliest maps available, both show that the Salmen enterprise was by far the largest industrial complex in the community. Its size was indicated by the fact that it took three pages of maps to illustrate the compound, which included the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellis, Frederick S. St. Tammany Parish: L'Autre Cote Du Lac. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1981.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Slidell, LA, 1906, 1911, 1930.

Slidell Centennial Issue of New Orleans Times-Picayune, October 16, 1986.

- 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 # _____

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 @ 3 1/2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

2	3	1	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	5	1	7	6	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

Boundary lines follow property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504/342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Homer G. Fritchie, Jr.
127 Cleveland Avenue
Slidell, LA 70458

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Salmen, Fritz House, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

lumber mill as well as the brick component of the business. Structures existing within the complex in 1911, for example, included a brick mill, dry clay shed, pressed brick storage building, numerous kilns, several lumber platforms, a wood mill, sawmill, lath mill, shingle mill, planing mill, log warehouses, steam drying houses, dressed lumber shed, dry lumber shed, and machine shops.

Sometime during the 1920s the brothers began to cut back their operations. Although business at the shipyard had boomed during World War I, the end of that conflict also spelled the end of this business when government contracts ended. By 1926 a new company owned the original brick plant, but the Salmen Brothers still operated a smaller brick and lumber plant along the bayou. However, the 1930 Sanborn Map indicates that the company had closed. Of course, by this time Fritz and Albert were both over seventy years of age, a time when most men retire from active business. Albert Salmen died in 1931, followed by Fritz in 1934.

Other Properties Associated with the Salmen Family

In addition to the Fritz Salmen Home, several other properties in Slidell are associated with the Salmen family. Among these are the brickyard's kiln building; the home of Albert Salmen; a commissary, church, and school; and the Salmen Town neighborhood. Although the brick kiln itself would be the most representative building illustrating the brothers' economic role in the community, it has been so drastically altered that it would not be recognizable to someone from the historic period. The commissary's integrity has also been severely compromised. Although the Salmen Town neighborhood remains partially intact, it is no longer cohesive enough to form a historic district in its own right. The church was founded by Fritz Salmen's wife, Rosa, rather than by the brothers themselves. The school, also founded by the family and located within Salmen Town, is not as closely associated with the two brothers as are their homes. In addition, it has suffered a loss of integrity due to its conversion into a private residence. No buildings specifically associated with Jacob Salmen survive. Only the homes of Fritz and Albert Salmen retain the integrity and close associations necessary to justify National Register listing. Fritz's home is especially noteworthy in this regard. It is located directly across the street from the brickyard facility, and Fritz often used the large bay window in his parlor to observe activities within the industrial compound.

After Fritz Salmen died in 1934, his home came into the hands of Homer G. Fritchie, Sr., Slidell's mayor from 1930 to 1962. Fritchie was Albert Salmen's nephew by marriage and was partly raised by Albert and his wife Elisa after the death of Fritchie's father in 1908. Thus, Homer Fritchie grew up next door to the Fritz Salmen House. The home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Homer G. Fritchie, Jr., who operate it as a bed and breakfast inn.

Map of Fritz Salmen House
• Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Legend: Boundary: - - -
Scale: 1" = 100'

