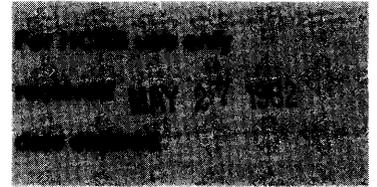


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Alberry Wasson Homeplace

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1 1/2 miles south of Summerfield N/A not for publication

city, town Summerfield X vicinity of _____ congressional district 4th - Buddy Leach

state LA code 22 parish Claiborne code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Claiborne Parish Courthouse

street & number E. Main (no specific address) P. O. Box 330

city, town Homer state LA 71040

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alberry Wasson Homeplace (c.1860) is a two-story log dogtrot house located in the woods one-and-one-half miles south of the town of Summerfield. The house has suffered the loss of several of its component parts; however, the loss is not nearly as important as the fact that much of the house remains unaltered.

The Alberry Wasson House consists of a two-story block constructed of half-round logs with a central dogtrot passageway on each floor. The second story is not readily discernible from the front because of the massive pitched roof which covers it and which extends out a considerable distance to encompass a wide front porch. At one time there was also a rear porch, but this has been removed. There are two rooms upstairs and down, each of which is entered from the dogtrot by means of board and batten doors. Originally there were only three windows. Two of these were located in the front walls of the two downstairs rooms. Neither of these front windows has ever been fitted with glass and both retain their original board and batten single shutters. The third window, which was set in the side wall of the parlor, has lost its original shutter. At one time the second floor dogtrot passageway was reached from the front gallery by means of a double staircase which had a Palladian configuration. One would ascend a straight flight of stairs either side of the facade to a central overhead platform. From the platform one stepped up into the second story dogtrot passageway. All that remains of the double staircase is the platform and a single wooden railing support. A crude aedicule motif mantel remains in the parlor. Interior walls are sheathed in random width horizontal boards which are nailed so as to cover gaps in the log walls.

In the past fifty years the house has suffered the following losses:

1. The entire rear porch has been removed.
2. The front porch is gone.
3. Most of the floor boards are gone from the ground story rooms and several of the joists are broken.
4. The old front stairs have been largely removed.
5. The west wall of the ground story has been partially removed and framing boards have been installed to carry the weight of the upper wall.
6. The two chimneys (one of which was brick and one of which was local sandstone) have crumbled.

Despite these admittedly considerable losses, the most significant features of the house survive. These include the two-story log block, the passageways, and the original doors and windows. In addition, it is felt that the house is sufficiently rare that even a major loss of integrity would not be sufficient to disqualify it for the National Register.

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 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 c.1860 **Builder/Architect** Alberry Wasson (Builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Alberry Wasson Homeplace is of statewide architectural significance as an important example of a log dogtrot house for the following reasons:

1. It is an unusual example of a rapidly disappearing house type. There are a number of surviving log dogtrot houses in Louisiana, but virtually all of these have one or one-and-a-half stories*. The Wasson House is one of only two known examples which have a fully developed second story with its own secondary dogtrot passageway.
2. Despite the described losses of architectural fabric, the Wasson House retains three important original features:
 - A. The dogtrot passageway is still open, which places the house in the minority of examples in the state.
 - B. The interior horizontal wall boards are still extant.
 - C. The original unglazed shuttered windows are still extant. This is highly unusual. There is hardly an old dogtrot house in Louisiana which did not at some point receive glass fitted sash windows.

Because the Wasson House is considered to be unusual within the context of Louisiana, it is nominated for a designation of significance at the state level.

*Dogtrot houses are found in those portions of Louisiana which were settled by Anglo-Americans (as opposed to French settlers) by the mid-nineteenth century. This includes the northern part of the state and those parishes east of the Mississippi River and north of the Isle of Orleans (the so-called Florida Parishes).

RELATIONSHIP OF INTEGRITY TO SIGNIFICANCE: SEE ITEM 7

NB: The Louisiana State Review Committee asked the State Historic Preservation Office to consider exploration/settlement as a possible area of significance; however, subsequent research on the subject did not prove fruitful. Claiborne Parish was created in 1828 and settlement began as early as 1818. Apparently there was a considerable influx of settlers in the late 1840's/early 1850's, at which time the builder of the present house arrived. Consequently, one could hardly say he was one of the parish's earliest settlers. He may have been one of the earliest in the Summerfield area, but, because of the paucity of adequate source materials, the State Historic Preservation Office, at present, cannot prove this.

DATE NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Claiborne Parish Conveyance Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .08 acre

Quadrangle name Summerfield, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A 1 5 | 5 1 4 | 8 5 0 | 3 1 6 3 1 8 9 2 5
Zone Easting Northing

9 400 01B 9/21/83

B | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Hall

organization N/A date February 1982

street & number P. O. Box 173 telephone (318) 927-2754

city or town Summerfield state LA 71079

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national state ___ local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 19, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Beth Grosvenor</i>	date 6/25/82
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet ALBERRY WASSON HOMEPLACE Item number 4

Page 1

4. OWNERS OF PROPERTY

1. Mrs. Maude Erin Hall
P. O. Box 173
Summerfield, LA 71079
(318) 927-2754
2. Mrs. Katie Mae Marsalis
General Delivery
Rt. 1, Box 9
Athens, LA 71003
(318) 258-3736
3. Mrs. Gloria Tubbs
2115 West Main
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730
(501) 863-7232
4. Mr. George Wasson
P. O. Box 46
Gladwater, Texas 75647
(214) 845-3792
5. Mr. N. E. Wasson
108 Fawn Valley Drive
Boerne, Texas 78006
(512) 249-8483
6. Mrs. Carolyn Thurmon
914 Edgewood Drive
Homer, LA 71040
(318) 928-9358
7. Mrs. Peggy Wise
Rt. 2, Box 38
Tallulah, LA 71282
(318) 574-0820
8. Mrs. Louise Locke
1500 Apt. 703
Maderia Beach
Indian Shores, Florida
(813) 446-2316

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Alberry Wasson Homeplace Item number 7 Page
Claiborne Parish, LA

ADDENDUM TO ITEM 7 (DESCRIPTION)

Since the Wasson Homeplace was listed on the Register (June 25, 1982), the following changes have been made:

- (1) The structure has been moved intact approximately 300 yards to the north.
- (2) The house has been restored to approximate its original appearance. Deteriorated features were replaced in kind and historic features which had been lost were rebuilt. As it stands, the flooring, porches, doors, stairs, chimneys*, shutters, some of the beams, some of the roof structure, and ten of the logs are modern. In addition, windows were glazed in and fitted with iron bars. The only noteworthy modern feature which does not duplicate the original is the exterior stairway configuration. Originally a set of stairs ascended from each side of the ground story dogtrot corridor. In the restoration stairs were only installed on one side.

Assessment of Integrity:

- (1) The Move: The new setting has a rolling woodland character which is virtually identical to the original. Because the house is of statewide significance, the 300 yard move has not removed it from its architectural context. It should also be noted that the house was in the middle of an oil field in its original location and faced an uncertain future.
- (2) The Restoration: The replacements previously mentioned were necessary because the house was in a deteriorated state when it was listed on the Register. Despite the fact that the house was not restored exactly as it was built (i.e., the staircase and windows), it presents its historical appearance to a large extent. It is certainly much closer to its historical appearance than it was before the restoration was begun. The house is still significant even if one considers only the remaining original fabric. The two story dogtrot configuration and the log walls remain intact. Hence the house still represents an extreme architectural rarity within Louisiana, which is the basis of its National Register eligibility.

*When the Wasson Homeplace was listed on the Register the two chimneys had crumbled. One was of stone and the other of brick. In the restoration it was assumed that originally both were of stone.

NB: See Item 10 continuation sheet for assessment of integrity vis à vis the rear dependency which was appended by a breezeway.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Alberry Wasson Homeplace Item number 10
Claiborne Parish, LA

Page

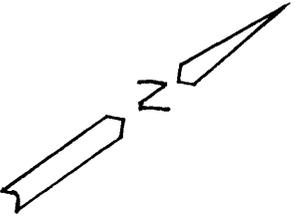
10. Geographical Information (addendum to original nomination form)

New UTM's: 15/514900/3639775

Acreage: @ 1/8th of an acre

Boundary Description and Justification:

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. The boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the significant resource. The building was moved to its present location; hence there is no historic setting to recognize. The boundaries cut closely around the house to the rear in order to exclude a modern rear dependency which has been connected to the house by a breezeway. The dependency duplicates the appearance of the kind of late-nineteenth century kitchen dependency which was often appended to a house of this type via an open breezeway. In our opinion, the kitchen has not adversely affected the house's historical appearance because the original house stands forth.



ALBERRY WASSON HOMEPLACE
CLAIBORNE PARISH, LA

APPROX 1/8 ACRE

② Boundary lines parallel the house facades at distances shown.

