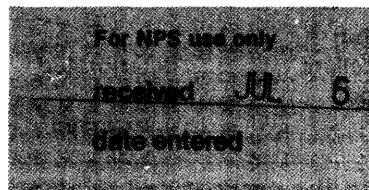


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *Nehemiah Magee House*

~~and/or~~ common *Eight Cedars*

2. Location

street & number *north side of La. 38 about one mile east of
Washington-Tangipahoa Parish line* *N/A not for publication*

city, town *Mt. Hermon* *N/A* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state *LA* code *022* county *Washington Parish* code *117*

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <i>N/A</i> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| | <i>N/A</i> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name *Patricia Magee Holland*

street & number *311 Centerville*

city, town *Denham Springs* *N/A* vicinity of state *LA* *70726*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Washington Parish Courthouse*

street & number *Washington Parish (no specific address)* *P. O. Box 607*

city, town *Franklinton* state *LA* *70438*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date *1980* federal state county local

depository for survey records *LA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date <u> N/A </u> |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Eight Cedars is a large frame farmhouse which was built in several stages beginning in about 1810. It is located in the rolling hills of northern Washington Parish. Although the house has undergone several changes in recent years, enough significant features remain to qualify the house for listing on the National Register.

The house began in about 1810 as a "single pen" one room log cabin with a central door flanked by a pair of unglazed openings. Although this original structure has been covered on three sides, all the logs are extant. Moreover, the front facade is still visible (Photo 2). Visible features include the door and window openings and the logs. (The narrow horizontal boards cover gaps between the logs.) The log walls are evidently well crafted judging by the smoothness achieved on the exposed surface of the front logs. This smooth, squared off characteristic is a testament to the early date of the original house.

In the mid-nineteenth century Nehemiah Magee enlarged the house in the following ways (see plan):

- 1. A room was added each side of the original log room.*
- 2. Five-bay front and rear galleries with chamfered, molded capital columns were added.*
- 3. An unusual kitchen/dining room wing with its own five-bay front gallery was added on the west side.*

Most of the present shutters and windows date from this period as does the exterior sheathing (Photo 2).

In the early-twentieth century false rafter ends were installed on the main house and a new mantel was installed on the main house's one fireplace.

In 1968 the following changes were made:

- 1. The rear gallery was enclosed.*
- 2. The exterior doors were replaced.*
- 3. Most of the interior walls of the main house were covered with plywood paneling.*
- 4. The kitchen/dining room wing gallery columns were found to be rotten; so the front gallery columns from the main house were moved to the kitchen/dining room gallery along with the balustrades. The front gallery of the main house was then fitted with wooden Doric columns.*
- 5. A compatible wing was built on the east side of the house (see plan).*

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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Continuation sheet *Eight Cedars*

Item number 7

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7. *Description (Continued)*Assessment of Integrity:

Although there have been a number of alterations in recent years, *Eight Cedars* retains several significant features which taken together qualify it for listing on the National Register. These include:

1. *The log facade with its original front openings.*
2. *The configuration of the kitchen/dining room wing with respect to the main house.*
3. *The size and length of the galleried facade of the mid-nineteenth century portions of the house.*

In addition, the house retains other features which identify it as an old structure. These include:

1. *The relatively high pitched roofs on the mid-nineteenth century portions of the house.*
2. *The many surviving mid-nineteenth century shutters and sash mounted windows.*
3. *The flushboard facades under the front galleries.*
4. *The gallery woodwork on the kitchen/dining room wing.*
5. *The basic form of the house.*

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates *c.1810 and c.1850* **Builder/Architect** *unknown for c.1810*

c.1850 builder: Nehemiah Magee

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria B and C

Eight Cedars is significant on the local level in two areas:

- (1) It is architecturally significant because it has a number of distinctive characteristics which qualify it as a landmark in the architectural heritage of Washington Parish.*
- (2) It is significant in the area of politics/government because it was the home of Nehemiah Magee, a prominent Washington Parish politician.*

ARCHITECTURE:

In a survey conducted in 1981, Eight Cedars was identified as one of twelve (12) extant log structures in Washington Parish. Because it was built c.1810, in all likelihood it is the oldest. (Log cabins are extremely difficult to date with certainty, but the other examples show signs of mid-nineteenth century construction or later.)

The mid-nineteenth century enlargements made by Nehemiah Magee give the house singular status within the parish. Among the several mid-nineteenth century structures remaining in Washington Parish, Eight Cedars is conspicuous because of its unusually large size. It is also conspicuous because of its unique (in the parish) placement of the kitchen/dining room wing off to the side rather than in the rear, which is customary. This created a large rambling galleried farmhouse with an almost continuous ten-bay facade which is unmatched in the parish (photo 1). This placement of the kitchen/dining room wing is also very unusual within the context of the state.

Finally, Washington Parish has a fair number of historic structures, but the vast majority of these date from the late-nineteenth century. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, any substantial structure which survives from before that time is of importance in the parish's architectural heritage.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT:

As described in Item 7, the original log portion of Eight Cedars was built around 1810 and enlarged c.1850 by Nehemiah Magee. Research done by a local historian in the area indicates that census records show Magee and his wife living there at least by the late 1840's. Apparently Magee lived there until his death in 1868. The house has remained in the hands of the Nehemiah Magee family through the years and is currently owned by Magee's great-granddaughter.

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Research Report Prepared by Daunton Gibbs, Washington Parish Historian. Located in Eight Cedars National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.
Official Journal of the Proceedings of the Convention of the State of Louisiana, 1861.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property @.3 acre

Quadrangle name Mt. Hermon, LA

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|---|---------|----|---|----|----------|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 7 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 9 | 17 | 15 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 16 | 7 | 17 | 15 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

B

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

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

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

G

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

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached 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 Patricia Magee Holland

organization N/A

date originally prepared January 1980
reworked December 1980

street & number 311 Centerville

telephone work: 504-665-5371
home: 504-665-2653

city or town Denham Springs

state LA 70726

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

date 8-11-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet *Eight Cedars*

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8. *Statement of Significance (Continued)*

During the period that Magee lived at Eight Cedars he was a prominent local politician. For example, he was a state representative during the 1860's. (It is difficult to pinpoint the exact dates he served in this capacity because the legislative journals are not extant.) Magee also represented Washington Parish at the state constitutional convention of 1861 at which time Louisiana withdrew from the Union and joined the Confederacy. His signature can be seen on the ordinance of secession adopted by this body.

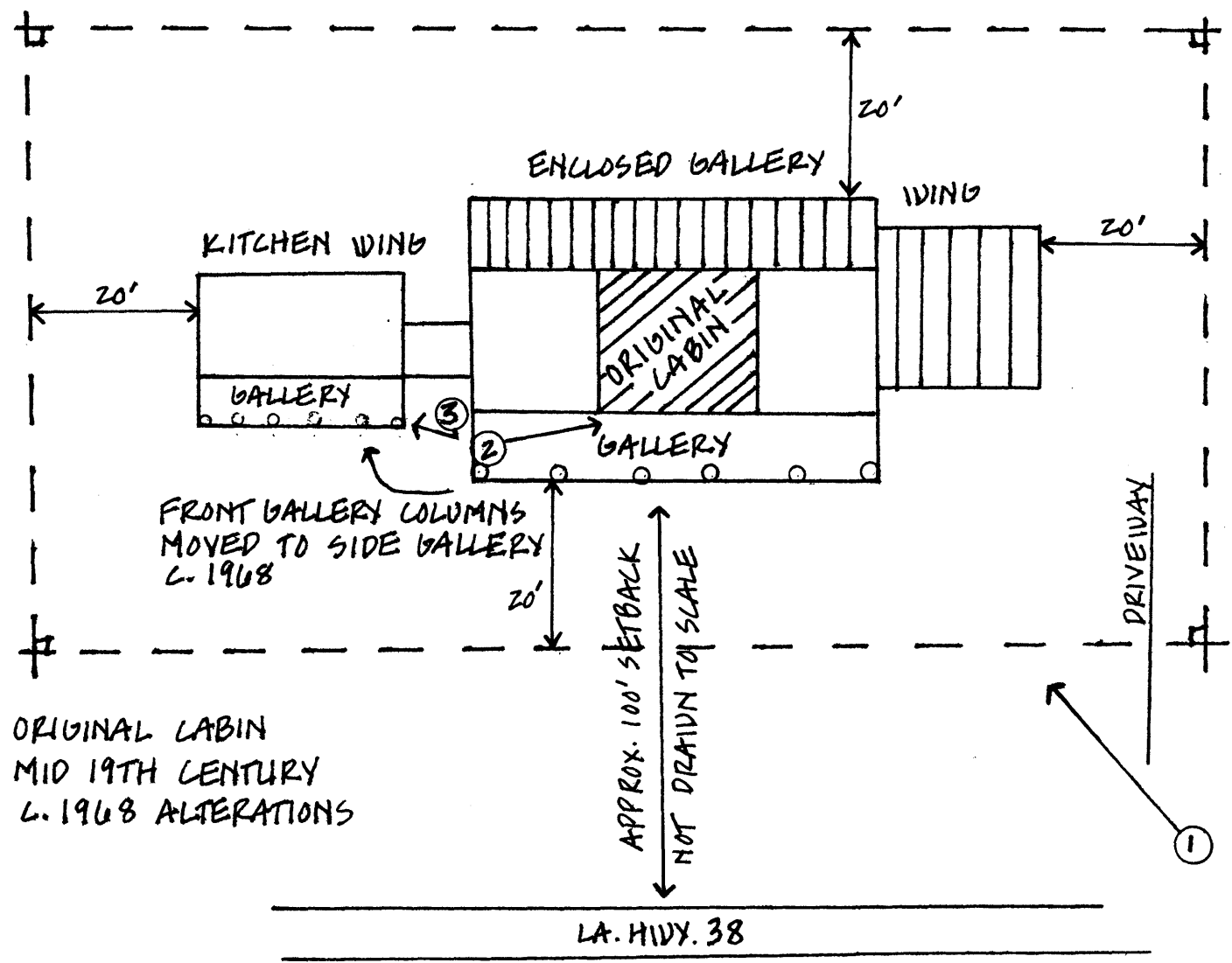
In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, Eight Cedars represents the period of Nehemiah Magee enough to convey its historical associations. The five room main block and the kitchen/dining room wing created by Magee's mid-nineteenth century renovations are still largely intact despite the later alterations discussed in Item 7. They still represent the major portion of the existing house and their age is clearly recognizable.

EIGHT CEDARS
 MT. HERMON, LOUISIANA

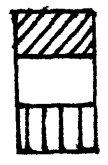
NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES
 PARALLEL BLDG.
 FACADES AT DISTANCE
 SHOWN, AND ENCOMPASS
 HOUSE & IMMEDIATE
 SETTING

← TO TANGIPAHOA/
 WASHINGTON PARISH LINE

↗ TO MT. HERMON



KEY:



ORIGINAL LABIN
 MID 19TH CENTURY
 c. 1968 ALTERATIONS