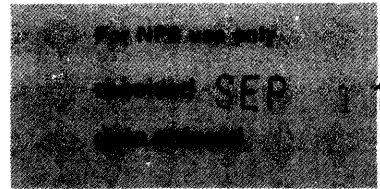


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09/12/82



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 Synope Plantation House

and/or common Same

2. Location *N of Columbia La off US 165*

street & number @1/3 of a mile southwest of US 165, @ 7 miles north of N/A not for publication

city, town ~~Columbia~~ Columbia, vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state LA code 22 ~~county~~ parish Caldwell code 021

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name O. N. Reynolds Estate

street & number Rt. 2, Box 177

city, town Monroe N/A vicinity of state LA 71202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caldwell Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 328

city, town Columbia state LA 71418

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Synope Plantation House is a mid-nineteenth century, single story, frame, Greek Revival plantation house. It is located in a garden setting behind the Ouachita River levee. Despite a major 1949 enlargement, the house retains enough of its original appearance to merit listing on the National Register.

Documentary evidence suggests that an early-nineteenth century dogtrot house was incorporated into the present structure. However, this is not supported by the architectural evidence. If indeed an earlier house was incorporated into the present structure, the reworking was so complete that the original fabric was thoroughly obscured. The documentary evidence indicates that the present house was built c.1857, and this is believable, given the architectural evidence.

Synope consists of features associated with both the French Creole and Anglo-American architectural traditions. The Creole influence is seen in the rear gallery with its pair of large cabinets. Anglo-American features include: (1) the short central hall; (2) the five-bay front facade; (3) the front and rear transomed, side lighted doors in the hall which fold away (including the side lights); (4) the chimneys which are set against the outside walls of the house; and (5) the Greek Revival elements, including the well-proportioned six column classical front gallery with its heavy molded capitals and full entablature, the aforementioned transomed and side lighted doors, the paneled ceiling on the front gallery roof, and the aedicule motif mantels.

Most of the original nine over nine windows are intact as are the original shutters.

In 1949 the following changes were made:

- (1) A large rear wing was added which incorporated the old rear gallery into a large parlor.
- (2) The north cabinet was made into a bathroom.
- (3) The south cabinet was made into a den, and a fireplace was installed with a small chimney.
- (4) A side bedroom wing was added.

In 1956 an unobtrusive garage/guesthouse was built approximately 50 feet to the northwest of the main house. It is connected to the main house by a covered walkway.

Assessment of Integrity:

Synope is architecturally significant as an example of a modest size Greek Revival plantation house. This significance is dependent upon the plan, the columnar facade, the mantels and other interior details, and the basic form of the house,

The impact of the changes upon these features has been minimal. The basic form and plan of the house are still clearly discernible (see photo showing three-quarter

Continued . . .

**United States Department of the Interior
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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Synope

Item number 7

Page 2

Description (cont'd)

view of front elevation). The columnar facade is completely intact, as are most of the important interior details, such as the mantels and doorways.

It also should be noted that the parish's other major surviving example of the Greek Revival style has been similarly altered. Hence Synope does not suffer in its standing in the parish because of the above alterations.

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Continuation sheet Moro Plantation House Item number 7 Page 2

Description (cont'd)

In the early 1900's, with the construction of Louisiana 566, the orientation of the house was reversed and the south elevation became the "front" and the north elevation became the "rear."

At that time the following changes were made:

1. Several of the old six over six windows were replaced with two over two windows.
2. The ends of the upper north gallery were enclosed for a kitchen and bathroom.
3. The remainder of the north upper gallery was screened in with clapboard siding installed below the waist level.
4. The original doorway at the south end of the upper hall was reworked. The aedicule motif frame was retained, but the double door was replaced with a single glass door and two massive plate glass side lights were installed.

With the acquisition of Moro in 1957 by the present occupants, the following changes were made:

1. The ends of the lower hall were enclosed with plywood and two-by-fours.
2. A staircase was built from the lower hall to the upper hall.
3. The upper south gallery was screened in.
4. The original upper hall staircase was reworked and four of the five newel posts were removed.
5. The upstairs fireplaces were covered and gas heaters were installed.
6. The present exterior double staircase on the south side was built.
7. The present small awning was added above the north gallery.
8. A temporary exterior staircase was added on the north side.

Assessment of Integrity

Moro is significant because it is a fully developed two-story galleried Greek Revival plantation house and because it has outstanding interior woodwork in the four main rooms of the upper story. Both of these aspects of the house remain more or less intact. The woodwork is completely intact. A few of the described changes have eroded the basic galleried form of the house somewhat. These include the enclosure of part of the upper north gallery, the screening in of the remaining upper galleries, the construction of exterior stairs on the south facade, and the addition of an awning above the north gallery. However, these changes have not

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Continuation sheet Moro Plantation House

Item number 7

Page 3

Description (cont'd)

substantially obscured the architectural identity of the house. In any case, they are all easily reversible.

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.1857 **Builder/Architect** Probable Builder: Alfred Ferrand

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Synope Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an important example of a Greek Revival plantation house within the context of Caldwell Parish.

Caldwell Parish was never comparable to the great Mississippi River parishes either in terms of wealth or the grandeur of its plantation houses. This can be seen if one examines the parish's 1860 census records. There were only seven slaveholdings which exceeded 50, and all but one of these ranged from 53 to 81. (Historians consider anyone who owned 50 or more slaves a "large slaveholder.") Given these statistics, one is on fairly safe ground in concluding that the parish's Greek Revival building stock on the eve of the Civil War consisted almost exclusively of medium sized houses such as Synope. There were probably numerous such examples in the parish. (One did not necessarily have to own 50 or more slaves to be wealthy enough to afford such a house.)

Synope is important within the above context in two respects:

- (1) It is one of only two substantially intact Greek Revival plantation houses remaining in the parish. (Local sources indicate that there are two others which are possibly pre-Civil War, but they are in a deteriorated condition.)
- (2) Given the aforementioned slaveholding statistics, it is probably one of the finest Greek Revival plantation houses ever built in the parish. Today it stands as one of the parish's two remaining fully developed five-bay, central hall plan Greek Revival plantation houses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .37 acre

Quadrangle name Columbia, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=625000

UMT References

A

1	5
Zone	

5	8	3	6	4	0
Easting					

3	5	6	2	0	4	0
Northing						

B

Zone	

Easting			

Northing					

C

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

D

Zone	

Easting			

Northing					

E

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

F

Zone	

Easting			

Northing					

G

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

H

Zone	

Easting			

Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____

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*
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 24, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Tom L. Daniel

Keeper of the National Register

date 10/5/82

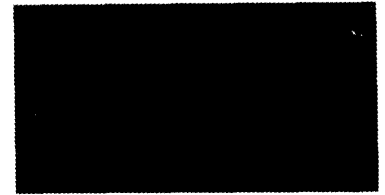
Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 9/30/82

Chief of Registration

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

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Synope Plantation House Item number 9

Page 2

9. Bibliography

This form is based upon a nomination form prepared by Mac Ward, Director, Division of Historic Preservation, North Delta Regional Planning and Development District, Inc., and the owners (Mrs. O. N. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. John Crump, Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Reynolds, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Stone).

The above form was extensively documented with numerous primary and secondary sources, copies of which are in the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

The sources were as follows:

Abstract of Synope Plantation, 1815-1932, Caldwell Abstract Company, Columbia, LA.

Letter from Northeast Louisiana Historical Society to Mrs. O. N. Reynolds regarding derivation of the name Synope (Sinope).

Books:

Morgan, Elmore & Kerr, Ed., The Lower Mississippi Valley, Baton Rouge, 1962.

Menn, Joseph K., The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana - 1860, New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Company, 1964.

Hays, Mrs. Drew Nelson, Louisiana: Sketches of Historical Homes and Sights, Baton Rouge, n. d.

Woods, H. Ted, Caldwell Parish in Slices, Vol. 1, Baton Rouge, Claitor's Publishing Division, 1972.

Woods, H. Ted, Caldwell Parish in Slices, Vol. II, Columbia, Progress Printing Company, 1976.

Encyclopedia Britanica, XIV Edition, Volume XX, page 715.

Random House Dictionary, Unabridged Edition, New York, Random House, 1967, page 1331.

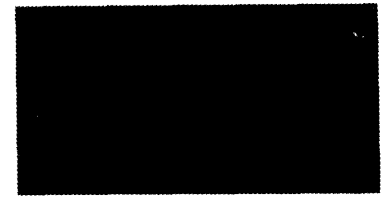
Webster's 20th Century Dictionary, Unabridged Edition, Cleveland and New York, World Publishing Company, 1971, page 1696.

Williamson, F. W. and Goodman G. T., Eastern Louisiana: A History of the Watershed of the Ouachita River and the Florida Parishes, Historical Record Association, n. d.

CONTINUED

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Continuation sheet Synope Plantation House

Item number 9

Page 3

9. Bibliography

Articles:

Booth, Robert H, "New Orleans and the Gulf States," Better Homes and Gardens, March, 1967.

Dowdy, Verdis, "Synope on the Ouachita," Louisiana Heritage, Vol. II, No. 1, 1969.

Woods, H. Ted, "Ferrands, Early Parish Settlers: Caldwell Parish in Slices," The Caldwell Watchman, n. d.

Woods, H. Ted, "Oliveaux, Etiers, Early Settlers at Prairie de Lait," The Caldwell Watchman, n. d.

Woods, H. Ted, "Hypolite Ferrand, Caldwell Parish in Slices," The Caldwell Watchman, June 4, 1970.

Woods, H. Ted, "Synope Plantation House and Garden Will Be Included in the Louisiana Plantation Homes Tour," The Caldwell Watchman, March 16, 1965.

Woods, H. Ted. "Caldwell Parish in the Making: Synope Plantation," The Caldwell Watchman, May 30, 1968.

John, Jana, "Sign Leads Visitors Back in Time," Monroe News Star World, October 15, 1981.

"Heaven. . . The Greeks Had a Name For It: Synope," The author of this short article is not identified.

Maps of Synope Plantation dating from 1813, 1820, 1855, and 1890-1900.

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey Form for Synope Plantation House.

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Continuation sheet Synope Plantation House Item number 11

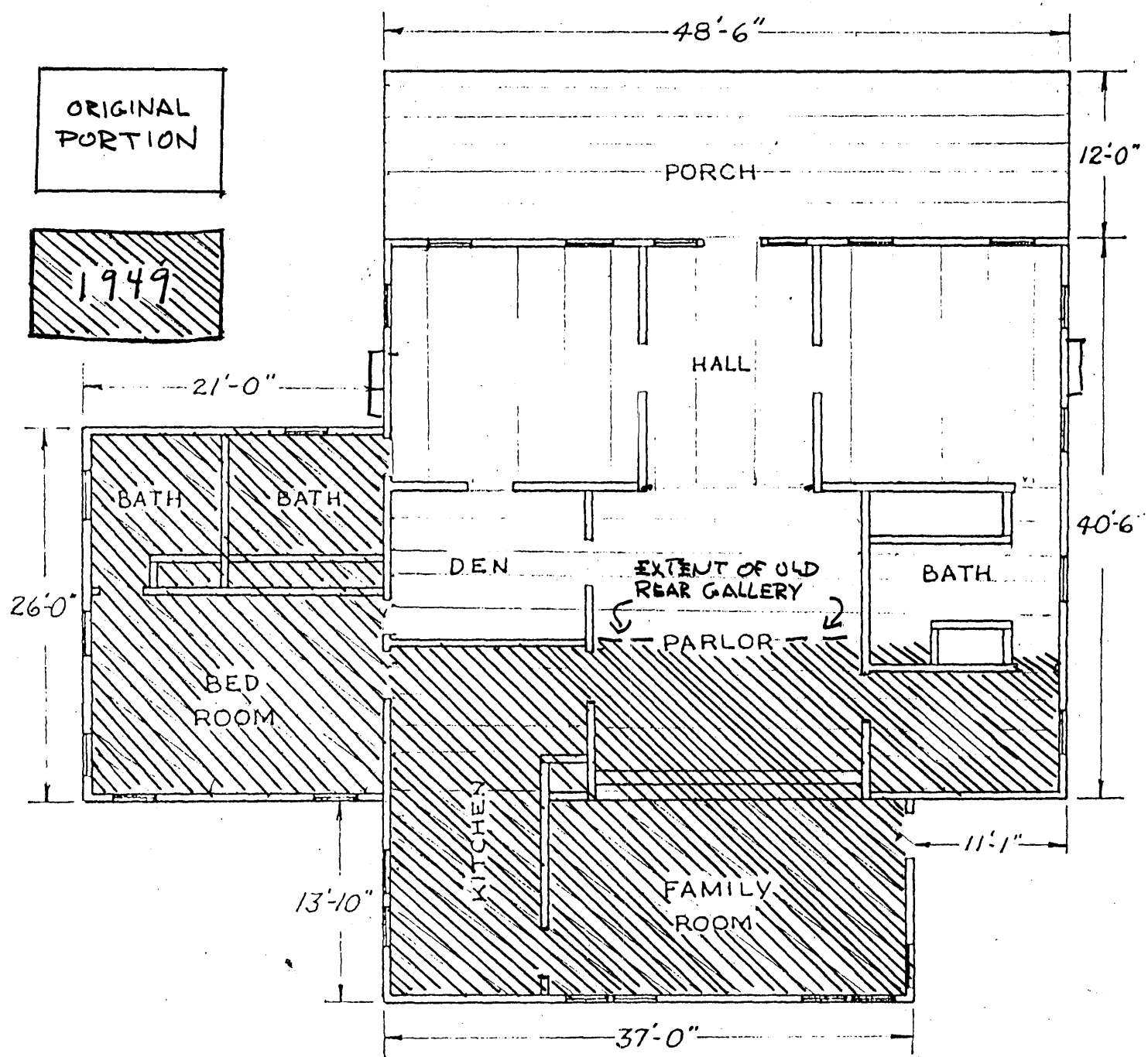
Page 2

11. Form Prepared By:

This form was prepared by the National Register Staff of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office in July of 1982 (P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge 70804, 504-342-6682). The information contained herein is based upon an on-site inspection of the property and a nomination form (along with copies of the documentation) prepared by Mac Ward, Director, Division of Historic Preservation, North Delta Regional Planning and Development District, Inc., 2115 Justice Street, Monroe, LA 71201, 318-387-2572, and the owners (Mrs. O. N. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. John Crump, Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Reynolds, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Stone). The latter can be reached at Rt. 2, Box 177, Monroe, LA 71202, 318-649-2877.

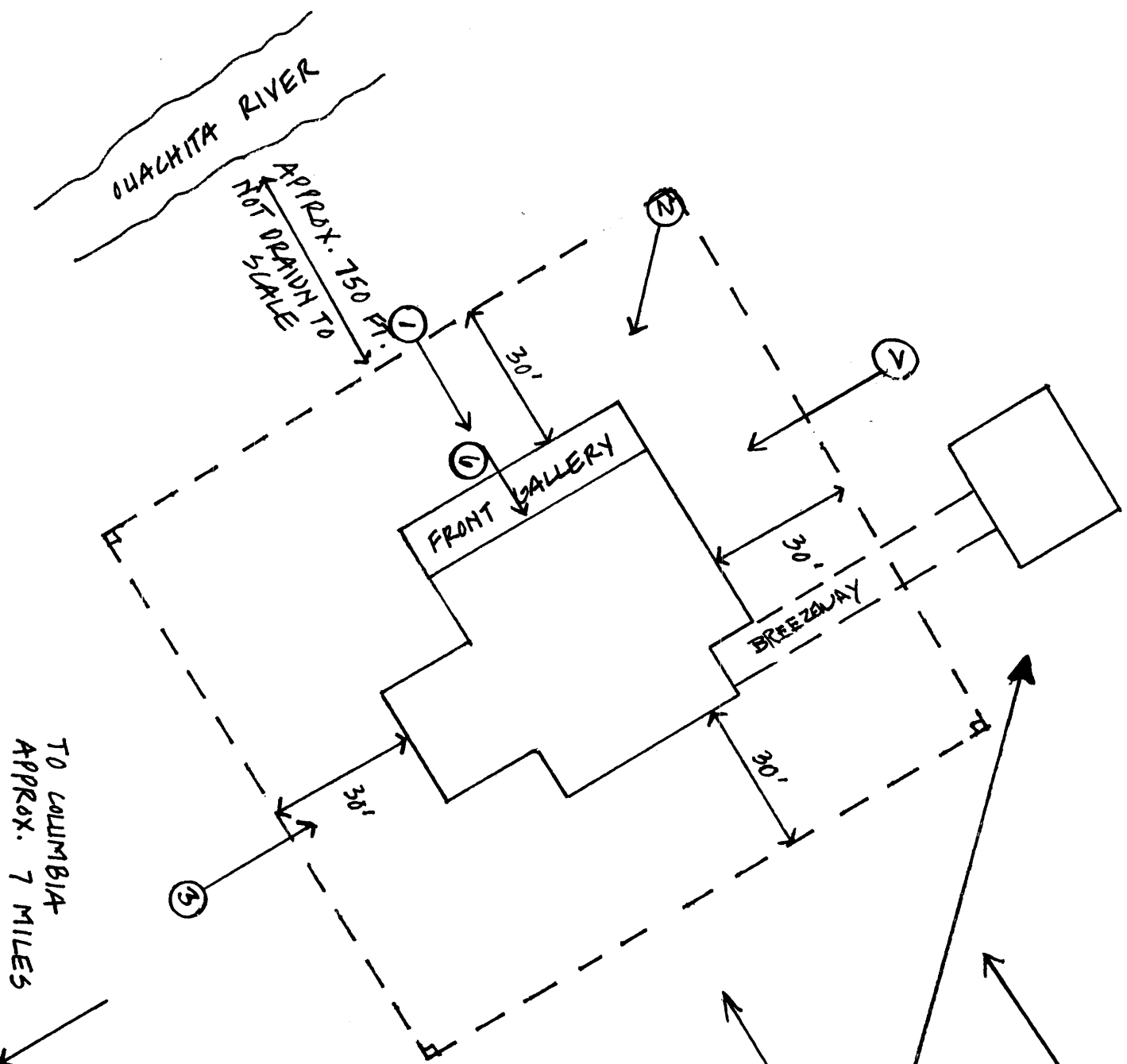
SYNOPE PLANTATION HOUSE

O. N. REYNOLDS FARM
CALDWELL PARISH, LOUISIANA



SYNOPE PLANTATION HOUSE

COLUMBIA VIL., LOUISIANA



MODERN GARAGE/
GUESTHOUSE NOT
INCLUDED IN
NOMINATED PROPERTY.

TO HILDY, IUS
APPROX. 1/3 MILE

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES
PARALLEL BLDG.
FACADES AT DISTANCES
SHOUDN AND ENCOMPASS
THE IMMEDIATE
SETTING.

SCALE 1" = 30' APPROX.

TO COLUMBIA
APPROX. 7 MILES

APPROX. 150 FT.
NOT DRAIN TO
QUACHITA RIVER