

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

12/24/01 124

Page 1

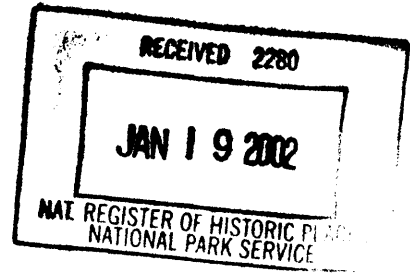
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Jones, Jerry, House

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number LA HWY 484

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Melrose

Vicinity: X

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Natchitoches Code: 069

Zip Code: 71456

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

October 22, 2001 Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Handwritten signature: Sarah D. Pope

Handwritten date: 3/6/02

(pr) Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing
1
1

Non contributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic Sub: single dwelling
Current work in progress Sub:

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: other: French Creole

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: wood; asphalt
Roof: metal
Other:

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Jones House (c.1835) is a medium size French Creole cottage located on Cane River in Natchitoches Parish. It was moved approximately 500 feet across a field in the spring of 2001. Long vacant and threatened by demolition by neglect, it was purchased by a new owner on the condition that it be removed from the property. The very rural setting amid flat cotton fields is virtually identical to the original. Despite some deterioration and losses and some superficial alterations, the Jones House strongly conveys its French Creole character.

The Jones House is raised about three feet above grade (as it was originally) and has an enormous gable-end roof. Essentially it is a scaled-up version of a conventional small Louisiana Creole cottage, as can be seen in its large front rooms with high ceilings and its over-scaled openings on the façade. The plan consists of a deep front gallery, two almost square front rooms with a chimney between, and a rear *cabinet* and loggia range. A narrow steep stair ascends to the attic on the west side next to the *cabinet*. Walls are of *bousillage* throughout with French angle braces. The large pitched roof is fairly lightly framed; the attic was never meant for occupation. Ceilings feature exposed beaded beams, both on the interior and the gallery. The two sets of French doors (ten panes per leaf) which open onto the front gallery are surmounted by five-pane transoms. The façade is finished off with plaster on lathe, with the lathe held in place with small square nails. Six over six windows survive on the façade, with paneled shutters. Interior doors are single leaf board and batten. The house's two original simple Greek Revival mantels are extant and will be in their proper place once the chimneys are rebuilt. Each has a pair of side framing boards near the top that suggest a wraparound configuration, albeit hesitantly.

Alterations and Losses:

As part of the move, the chimney was dismantled. It will soon be rebuilt and the mantels re-installed. The once open rear loggia was enclosed sometime in the early twentieth century. Most of the weatherboards on the side and rear elevations are missing or deteriorated. These elevations are currently covered in asphalt siding stamped to resemble brickwork. This will be removed as restoration work progresses. The side windows are, for the most part, early twentieth century replacements. Most notably, the original front gallery columns are missing, as is the plate. Splayed pilasters survive at each corner of the façade, and presumably the columns would have matched, as is typical. This is corroborated in a historic structures survey conducted in the early 1980s for the Division of Historic Preservation. The owners at the time were interviewed and stated that they had replaced the deteriorated original columns with the current 4 by 4s and that the columns matched the pilasters.

Assessment of Integrity:

The move is not an integrity issue because of the brief distance involved and the fact that the new setting is virtually identical to the old. Threatened with demolition by neglect, the house was moved to the new owner's adjacent property and is in the beginning stages of restoration. Alterations and losses notwithstanding, the house conveys all of its original French Creole character-defining features.

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C X D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A__ B X C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1835

Significant Dates: c. 1835

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Jerry Jones House is of local significance in the area of architecture because it contributes to Natchitoches Parish's well-known cultural identity as a center of French Creole architecture.

Creole architecture in its broadest sense represents one of the three major colonial architectural traditions in the continental United States. The French colonial tradition takes its place alongside British colonial, as exemplified by the brick "Georgian" buildings in the eastern states, and Spanish Colonial, as exemplified by the California missions. It should be noted that Louisiana has the nation's largest number of French Creole buildings. (There are also important examples in southern Missouri and Illinois and a few in Mobile, Alabama.)

Natchitoches Parish, a French enclave in an otherwise Anglo-Saxon North Louisiana, is renown as a major center of Creole architecture in Louisiana, with over a dozen major examples and roughly a similar number comparable in size and detail to the Jerry Jones House. Natchitoches Parish was a very early area of French settlement, with the town of Natchitoches being founded in 1714, only fifteen years after the founding of the colony and three years before New Orleans. Hence the parish had time to develop a significant Creole building stock. Also, it appears that the Greek Revival (which competed with the French Creole beginning in the 1830s) never gained much of a stronghold in the parish. Finally, Natchitoches Parish was bypassed by development in the mid-nineteenth century. These factors have left the parish with a fairly large number of French Creole houses in a comparatively small area.

The Jerry Jones House helps establish the parish's identity as a center of the Creole style. It is overwhelmingly French Creole – i.e., with no Anglo-American influences (other than the simple Greek Revival styling of the mantels). Its character-defining French Creole features include *bousillage* construction with French angle braces, a hall-less floor plan with a rear *cabinet* and loggia range, copious exposed beaded ceiling beams, and the façade fenestration pattern (French doors).

Historical Note:

The house is named for the Jerry Jones family, who owned it for decades prior to the recent move.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic structures survey, Natchitoches Parish, copy in Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
- 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 (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: less than an acre

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 501380 3496600

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries parallel building elevations, each at a distance of 20 feet.

Boundary Justification: There are no historic property lines to recognize for this moved building.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Jones, Jerry, House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Page 8

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: August 2001

PROPERTY OWNERS

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