United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Signature of the Keeper

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a). 1. Name of Property Pecan Grove Plantation House historic name other names/site number 2. Location NA not for publication street & number 10 Pecan Grove Lane NA vicinity city or town Meraux zip code 70075 LA county St. Bernard code 087 code state Louisiana 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property In my opinion, the property X meets _ be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: X local statewide am Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. Date Signature of commenting official State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government Title 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: determined eligible for the National Register entered in the National Register ___ removed from the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register other (explain:)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

St. Bernard Parish, LA Pecan Grove Plantation House County and State Name of Property 5. Classification **Number of Resources within Property Category of Property Ownership of Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) (Check as many boxes as apply.) (Check only one box.) Contributing Noncontributing 1 buildings building(s) private district public - Local district public - State site structure structure public - Federal object object 1 1 **Total** Number of contributing resources previously Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing) listed in the National Register 0 Louisiana's French Creole Architecture 6. Function or Use **Current Functions Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) Domestic/Single Dwelling Domestic/Single Dwelling 7. Description **Materials Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: Brick Other: French Creole walls: Weatherboard

roof:

other:

Steel

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Pecan Grove Plantation House is a 1½ story, late 18th century or early 19th century French Creole house whose exterior was partially but compatibly remodeled c. 1930. It is the home's early French Creole features (a date of c. 1800 is being used for the purposes of this nomination) that make it significant. The house is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River on a large suburban tract in Meraux in upper St. Bernard Parish. This early *briquette-entre-poteaux* (brick-between-post) dwelling has undergone some alteration over the years, but its integrity and National Register eligibility remain intact. Pecan Grove is a rare and important example of French Creole vernacular architecture.

Narrative Description

Pecan Grove is situated on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Meraux, Louisiana in a setting resplendent with moss covered Live Oak trees. Once a working sugar plantation with an orchard of pecan trees, the property is now a tract of almost 5 acres in mostly suburban upper St. Bernard Parish. Despite the reduced size of the lot, the house retains its grand presence due to the oaks and its large setback from St. Bernard Highway.

Construction Date

Archival evidence collected by owner Gayle Buckley and St. Bernard Parish Historian William de Marigny Hyland support a construction date for the house between 1795 and 1805. The earliest record found for the property, now known as Pecan Grove, was an 1805 Act of Sale from Jean Mercier to Samuel Young recorded by notary Narcisse Broutin. There was no survey attached but the term "improvements" indicate buildings were present on the property. Major A. Latour's 1815 map for General Andrew Jackson provides the earliest known visual record of the house, which was then part of the larger Jumonville Plantation. The mortise and tenon joinery techniques found in the timber frame of the original roof truss are consistent with techniques used in the 18th century, according to Eugene D. Cizek, Ph.D., F.A.I.A., the founding Director of the Preservation Studies program at Tulane University School of Architecture. For these reasons a construction date of c. 1800 will be used for the house's important French Creole features.

The Move

In the early 1930's, during the ownership of Olivia Marquez De Bouchel, the house was moved by a mule, ropes and logs to its present location, 200 feet deeper into its own lot, in an attempt to distance the house from the traffic and noise of the new St. Bernard Highway. Despite the move, the setting and orientation of the house remain and are essentially the same as when it was built.

Description

Pecan Grove was built as a large Creole Cottage with a traditional hall-less floor plan, a Class III gabled umbrella roof and a full-length front gallery, as well as many other classic Creole interior features. In the 1930s, at the time of the above-mentioned move, alterations in the French Colonial Revival style were made to the exterior of the house, most notably to the roof and front gallery. As it stands today, Pecan Grove's massing is that of a rectangular main structure with a high pitched, hipped roof and a new service wing (standing perpendicular to the main block) on the downriver side of the rear elevation.

The house has many examples of the traditional elements of French Creole architectural style including:

1. The construction method. The house is set upon a raised brick pier foundation with *briquette-entre-poteaux* walls. This is an early construction method that utilizes upright posts and diagonal braces with the spaces between filled with brick. Usually the entire brick filled surface was then finished with a coat of lime plaster, interior and exterior, to protect the surface. The exterior was often covered with clapboard, as is the case with Pecan Grove.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

- 2. A high-pitched, Class III heavy timber umbrella roof featuring mortise and tenon, pegged joinery.
- 3. The roof is canted at the eaves, forming the double-pitch common in the rooflines of early French Colonial and Creole houses. The rafter tails, visible along the eaves line, are original to the roof construction.
- 4. A hall-less floor plan with four major rooms and a *cabinet/loggia* range to the rear in the classic Creole cottage manner.
- 5. French doors in original exterior door openings with original trim. These doors have four lights each with a panel below.
- 6. Dressed and beaded wood ceilings with exposed beaded beams below in the four major rooms and on the gallery.
- 7. Treatment of the front gallery as an exterior room (see below).
- 8. Four original cypress wraparound mantles.

Other interesting original features found at Pecan Grove include the classic pilaster styling of the wraparound mantels, several paneled interior doors and vertical beaded board and batten shutters with wrought iron strap hinges and shutter hooks. Of the four principle rooms, one retains the original wide plank cypress floors. The other three have antique heart pine floors (the date of their installation is unknown). The two downriver principle rooms also retain their original plaster walls. Much of the glass in the French doors is obviously old, wavy glass and in most cases, the French doors have their original hardware.

Front Elevation

Pecan Grove is raised approximately five feet on brick piers. The front façade is beaded tongue and groove wood in the Creole manner of an exterior room. The wall has four pairs of French doors, symmetrically placed, opening onto the front gallery. The doors are protected by vertical board and batten shutters with original wrought iron hardware. There are eight round wood columns, in a simple, neoclassical style, irregularly spaced across the gallery on the front elevation. A central wood stair leads to the front lawn. The hipped, high-pitched roof is canted at the eaves with exposed rafter-tails, a detail original to the house. The hips have a steeper pitch than the front to back pitch of the roof. There are two large 20th century dormers on the front elevation, each with two six over six, double-hung windows and small brackets supporting overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The dormers are sheathed with weatherboards. One central chimney is visible at the peak of the roof.

Downriver Elevation

The downriver elevation is also raised on brick piers but the walls are a more traditional weatherboard instead of the tongue and groove boards of the front elevation. There are two sets of French doors with batten shutters on this side. The door trim includes a drip cap since this wall would have been exposed to the weather before the c. 1930 renovation (see below). The gallery now wraps around the downriver elevation with 5 columns. Care was taken to match the original ceiling and beaded beam details. Three bays of this side porch were screened in as part of the first renovation (see below), as is shown in a 1935 photograph. There is one dormer on the downriver hip of the roof. It is smaller than the dormers on the front façade with a single window, but details to match. The rear wing was constructed in 2003. A triangular window of plate glass was added to the exterior wall of the *cabinet* during this renovation. The rear wing extends 33 feet from the back of the *cabinet* toward the rear of the lot. The walls are weatherboard to match the main portion of the house. The addition has a long rectangular leaded glass window flanked by two modern double-hung windows with batten shutters. The new shutters are reminiscent of the original door shutters but made of steel and without the beaded details. The roofline has a lower pitch than that of the main portion of the house.

Rear Elevation

The rear façade is the most altered elevation of Pecan Grove. The rear addition (which hides the rear wall of the original downriver *cabinet*) is raised on piers to match the rest of the house. There are no openings in the 22'-6" wide, gabled end wall of the rear wing. It is covered in weatherboards. The eaves of the wing are not canted. The *cabinet/loggia* range on the main block has undergone multiple changes over the years. The gallery was enclosed by the 1930's and the exterior gallery wall rebuilt in 2003. These renovations, including the addition of a window to the upriver *cabinet*, resulted in the removal of the cornerboards, which would have denoted the inner corners of the *cabinets*. The two new windows in this elevation are double-hung and secured by steel batten shutters, painted to match the extant shutters on the rest of the house. The shutters on the larger of these two windows are bi-fold since it would be unable to lay flat against the wall on the left side. There are two dormers symmetrically placed on the high-pitched roof. Their details match

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

County and State

St. Bernard Parish, LA

Name of Property

the small dormer on the side elevation. The roof of the *cabinet/loggia* range is an extension of the main slope of the roof (the ceiling height within this area is lower than that of the principle rooms of the house). Both chimneys are visible at the center of the house, one at the peak and the other midway down the slope of the roof.

Upriver Elevation

On this elevation, wide wood stairs lead up to the gallery floor, raised on piers. The elevation has two doors, one of which now serves as the primary entrance of Pecan Grove. The wall treatment here matches the downriver side of the house, but the French doors were replaced with single swing doors in the 1930's. These doors feature nine divided lights over two panels and antique box locks. They have shutters to match the other door openings on the gallery. There are five evenly spaced columns on this elevation and a dormer is centered above the central column on the upriver hip of the roof. Its details match the other small dormers. There is a double-hung replacement window in the cabinet portion of the wall and the roof extension covering the *cabinet/loggia* range is easily seen from this angle. The circa 2003 new wing features four large double-hung windows with bi-fold steel shutters and double glass patio doors opening onto a wood stair with a roof structure above. The roof over the stair has two square wood columns with simple capitals and extend all the way to the slab of the patio. The colors, materials, scale and eave depths are all reminiscent of the original house without competing with the historic structure.

Interior

Pecan Grove has a typical hall-less Creole floor plan with a front gallery, two front rooms, two rear rooms and a small rear gallery set between *cabinets*. The four major rooms have fireplaces served by two central chimneys. Although there have been alterations and additions to the house over the years, the original plan is easily discernible and the major interior features distinguishing the French Creole style are intact.

The principle level of Pecan Grove has generous proportions. The two front major rooms measure 22' x 17'-8" and the rear rooms are 22' x 14'-6" each. The *cabinet/loggia* range is 7'-7" deep across the entire back of the house. The house is built for south Louisiana's sultry climate with high ceilings and tall French door openings allowing for air circulation. The front gallery is 11'-6" deep, shading the house's interior from the sun and providing an outdoor living area in the Creole style.

Pecan Grove has four matching cypress mantles in the pilaster style in the primary rooms, as well as other original woodwork. The beaded tongue and groove ceilings have dressed and beaded beams below. The door trim has a bead and backband moldings. The enclosed rear loggia has beaded tongue and groove walls (to match the front elevation) and retains both the French doors and shutters that would have exited to the rear gallery. The original interior details are in excellent condition throughout.

c.1930 Alterations

The house's exterior was remodeled in the French Colonial Revival style in the 1930's. The original French Colonial style shares many elements with French Creole architecture including the construction methods, interior details and the basic floor plan. French Colonial buildings are often distinguished by their hipped roofs which extend over the galleries and by thin, turned wood columns. The living spaces of these houses are raised off the ground on brick piers, often with a full ground floor below with service rooms. French Colonial Revivalism did not become established as a style until the early twentieth century when elements of the Creole plantation and French Quarter townhouses were brought together and updated by architects such as Ellsworth and William Woodward, General Allison Owen and Collins C. Diboll. French Colonial Revival buildings are generally traditional and loosely evocative of Louisiana's early architectural heritage rather than Archaeologically correct. They borrow from French architecture, often mixing different periods in the same building.

Pecan Grove was altered in conjunction with the c.1930 move. The most notable alterations impacted the roof and front gallery. The original gable ended roof was extended with hips to cover new side galleries. There is clear evidence within the attic of where the gable end walls were partially removed and the heavy timber frame was extended to form the hips. Portions of the original gable wall remain, including a small window frame.

The large front dormers, now present, do not have the scale and detail of early construction and were also a part of the 1930s work. They are very similar to those at Kenilworth, whose dormers were also altered in the 1930s. (Despite modifications, Kenilworth was deemed worthy of a National Register listing).

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

County and State

St. Bernard Parish, LA

Name of Property

The original square wood front columns were also replaced with stylized wood Tuscan columns, and a total of ten additional matching columns were added at the sides to formalize and unify the wraparound gallery. This is also likely when the interior stair was added to increase the living area into the attic. There is evidence of the original ladder style stair to the attic on the front gallery, which was removed. Electrical and plumbing improvements were made to the property which included adding the kitchen in the upriver cabinet, a bathroom in the downriver cabinet, a lean-to bathroom addition on the rear of the property and a bathroom in the attic. Three bedrooms were also finished in the attic and the rear gallery was enclosed.

Late 20th Century Alterations

Pecan Grove had been vacant for eight years when Bob and Gayle Buckley (with the help of their family) purchased it in 1985. The Buckley's initial renovation updated the electrical and plumbing, added a central HVAC system, and generally made the house inhabitable. The walls between the cabinets and gallery at the rear of the house were rotted and were rebuilt. They took care to preserve the existing original elements of the Creole house. They also renovated one of the upstairs bedrooms and its bath. The rest of the attic is used for storage.

During the summer of 2003, they started another renovation of Pecan Grove that included removing the old rear bathroom addition, updating the kitchen, reworking the enclosed rear gallery and renovating the bathroom in the downriver cabinet. They also built a new rear addition that housed another bathroom, laundry room, dressing area and sitting room (see above).

Two layers of damaged roof were stripped as part of this renovation: the original wood shake shingles and the asbestos slate roof over it. The new roof is a steel product, designed to mimic a shake shingle but engineered to withstand high winds. Although this shingle style is clearly not historically accurate, since its installation it has survived the impacts of four hurricanes without losing a shingle, thus protecting the rest of the house from damage. Antonia, in West Baton Rouge Parish, was added to the Register with a similar roof.

The Buckleys were almost finished with their renovations by August 29, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet levee failures flooded the raised home with four feet of water. This was the first time Pecan Grove had ever flooded. A third careful renovation has retained all the interior original features that were intact in the home when they purchased it in 1985.

Mitigation and Integrity

Despite alterations, Pecan Grove definitely retains the seven aspects of integrity and qualifies for National Register listing. For example, although the house experienced a short move, it was rolled back within its own parcel and has retained its integrity of location and setting. A grove of Live Oak trees screens the house from St. Bernard Highway and gives it a more rural feel even as the neighborhood becomes more suburban.

While the c.1930 alterations impacted the design by changing the massing of the roof and the configuration of the gallery, the changes were done in the French Colonial Revival style, a manner compatible with the French Creole styling of the original building. The original French Colonial style shares many elements with French Creole architecture including the construction methods, interior details and the basic floor plan. French Colonial buildings are often distinguished by their hipped roofs which extend over the galleries and by thin, turned wood columns. The living spaces of these houses are raised off the ground on brick piers, often with a full ground floor below with service rooms. French Colonial Revival buildings are generally traditional and loosely evocative of Louisiana's early architectural heritage rather than archaeologically correct. They borrow from French architecture, often mixing different periods and types (such as the Creole plantation and French Quarter townhouses) in the same building. Architects such as Ellsworth and William Woodward, General Allison Owen and Collins C. Diboll popularized French Colonial Revivalism in Louisiana beginning in the early twentieth century.

With the exception of the columns, the original front gallery details were matched on the new side extensions. Furthermore, the heart of the house remains pure French Creole vernacular. The original French Creole floor plan is clearly discernable and the interior details (such as the wraparound mantels and exposed beaded ceiling beams) remain intact. The new rear addition cannot be seen from the front of the property and its scale and materials are in keeping with the rest of the house.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

St. Bernard Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

Other changes and repairs to Pecan Grove have had even less impact and have been accomplished using traditional materials and construction methods. As a result, more than 80% of the house is original design, materials and workmanship. The changes to the exterior are more than 80 years old and part of the evolution of this historic c.1800 house. Despite some twentieth century details, Pecan Grove's facade has a sense of timelessness. As noted by architectural historian Ellen Weiss, the French Creole Revival is "so integrated with Louisiana traditions that they seem as much a continuation as a revival." Pecan Grove's exterior transformation from a gable ended French Creole house into a hipped French Colonial Revival was most successful because so many elements of French Colonial style were original to the house. In conclusion, Pecan Grove still presents as a French Creole house, has its integrity of location and setting, has a high percentage of its historic materials and workmanship, and expresses the feeling, association, and design related to Creole culture and style.

It should be noted that most of St. Bernard Parish's earliest houses have been altered. Pecan Grove's integrity is comparable to other early houses in the area and so it should not be regarded as a locally inferior candidate based on these issues. As a rare example of early French Creole vernacular construction in St. Bernard Parish, Pecan Grove is a legitimate candidate for the National Register.

Non-contributing Elements:

There is one small storage building built in 2004 at the rear of the main house. It is wood frame on a slab foundation. Its painted weatherboards and batten shutters are sensitive to Pecan Grove, but as a modern structure it is non-contributing. It is sited to form a courtyard behind Pecan Grove with its rear wing addition.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

St. Bernard Parish, LA

Pecan Grove Plantation House	
Name of Property	

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County and State	
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	ement of Significance	Areas of Significance
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property		(Enter categories from instructions.)
for Natio	onal Register listing.)	Architecture
Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	
	represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance
	and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	c. 1800
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
1000	Not applicable	c. 1800
		15
	ia Considerations	
(Mark ")	" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
Prope	rty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	NA
у Б	anneyed from its original location	Cultural Affiliation
x B	removed from its original location.	NA
C	a birthplace or grave.	
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	Unknown
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	
	Not applicable	

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, c. 1800, is based upon the resource's estimated date of construction. This is explained in Part 7.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

Despite having been moved 200 feet back on its original plot, Pecan grove qualifies under Criteria Consideration G because it retains its architectural values and integrity.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Pecan Grove Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture, Criterion C, as an important remnant of St. Bernard Parish's French Creole architectural heritage. Despite having been moved 200 feet back on its original plot, it qualifies under Criteria Consideration G because it retains its architectural values and integrity. Its period of significance is c. 1800, the estimated date of construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

French Creole or French Colonial style architecture is one of the nation's three major colonial architectural traditions. The other two are British Colonial, as exemplified by the saltbox houses of New England and a later generation of "Georgian" houses, and the Spanish Colonial, as seen in the missions of California and the southwest. The French Creole building tradition was developed in the French territory of Orleans in the lower Mississippi Valley. There are examples found in the St. Louis, Missouri and Mobile, Alabama areas, as well as other early French colonial outposts, but the overwhelming majority of surviving examples of this style are in Louisiana. These buildings are now unequivocally identified with that latter state's architectural tradition. Indeed, the style in its several forms has come to represent the quintessential Louisiana colonial house.

The lower Mississippi Valley was claimed for France in 1683, but it was not until some 35 years later that the city of New Orleans was founded. There were several indigenous American tribes in the area, and the early European settlers were predominately French. As early as 1721, a number of Germans also arrived in the colony and this contingent settled upriver from the city in what later came to be known as the German coast. Through a further admixture of African people, both free and enslaved, and later Spaniards, a French speaking cultural mélange emerged and came to known as "French Creole." In modern usage, Louisianans often distinguish between Creoles of Color, those people of mixed French, African, Spanish and Native American heritage, and other people (also called Creoles) who are the descendants of European settlers, mainly French and Spanish. This combination of cultures is richer for this mix. Creole architecture reflects this concept of mixture, which defines the Creoles themselves. In the second half of the eighteenth century, French-speaking Acadians settled in southwestern Louisiana and also adopted this building style. The tradition continued to dominate local architecture well into the nineteenth century. Although France sold Louisiana to the United States in 1803, Anglo-American elements did not immediately impact the Creole building tradition. Pure French Creole houses were built as late as the 1830s. Eventually, central halls started to appear in otherwise French Creole houses.

The French Creole tradition contains four types of buildings:

- 1. The Creole Cottage, a galleried one-story house of small to moderate size of which there are three sub-types:
 - a. Those with small, hall-less floor plans, only two or three rooms wide. A front gallery and rear *cabinet/loggia* range usually run parallel to this group of rooms.
 - b. Larger cottages with hall-less floor plans more than three rooms wide. These also feature front galleries and rear *cabinet/loggia* ranges. Such houses were sometimes created by enclosing one or more side galleries to create additional rooms.
 - c. Those with central halls flanked by front and rear rooms on each side. Front galleries are present, but sometimes the *cabinet/loggia* ranges are missing. This type reflects the impact of Anglo-American architecture upon the Creole building.
- 2. The larger raised Creole plantation house, a pre-Greek revival two story dwelling (of which the lower story is an above-ground basement) that represents the apex of Louisiana's Creole architecture. This house has front galleries at both levels. The State Historic Preservation Office estimates that perhaps only 30 of these houses remain standing.
- 3. The Creole town house, common to the more populated areas like New Orleans and Natchitoches.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

4. The *pigeonnier*, a small tower-like outbuilding with upper-floor nesting boxes for pigeons whose nestlings, squab, were considered a delicacy.

Architectural characteristics of the French Creole style include:

- 1. a spreading hipped or gabled umbrella roof, perhaps with a Norman truss roof system;
- 2. heavy braced timber frame walls with briquette-entre-poteaux or bousillage infill;
- raised above the ground on brick piers;
- 4. a full length front gallery, sometimes decorated as an outdoor room;
- 5. chamfered gallery columns with lamb's tongue stops, French doors, exposed ceiling beams (sometimes beaded), and wraparound mantles; and
- 6. a hall-less Creole floor plan with a *cabinet/loggia* range and (if the house is multi-story) an exterior staircase on the gallery leading to the *premier etage* (upper-level primary living space).

The French Creole architectural tradition, which was once dominant, is almost gone from St. Bernard Parish. This was well demonstrated in a parish-wide Historic Structures Survey conducted in 1982. Although it has not been possible to determine how many of these surveyed buildings survive post-Katrina, the survey provides a good basis for assessing the worth of Pecan Grove. The survey identified some 618 buildings which were 50 years old or more at that time. The vast majority of these were modest shotgun houses and bungalows from the period 1890 to the early 1930's. The French Creole style was represented by fifty or so cabins of various sizes, most of which were late (some date from the early twentieth century), and by six early nineteenth century plantation houses. These resources displayed the requisite shape and form but all had been altered to some extent. There were also a few small Creole houses claiming an early nineteenth century date but, without exception, these had severe integrity problems (replaced siding, substitute columns, replaced windows, lowered gallery floors).

Pecan Grove, Sebastopol, Kenilworth, Magnolia, LeBeau and the Rene Beauregard House represent the Creole Plantation style in St. Bernard Parish. Although none of these houses is in a pristine state of integrity, all show examples of some elements of Creole architecture.

There are similarities in integrity between several of these houses and Pecan Grove. National Register listed Sebastopol (c.1830) is a single-story Creole frame plantation house located on a large suburban lot downriver on Bayou Terre aux Boeufs. Both Sebastopol and Pecan Grove have the same hall-less floor plan with two central chimneys and retain their interior details (including wraparound mantles). They both have French doors opening onto their front galleries, Sebastopol's with Greek Revival fretwork transoms. Both houses had their original columns replaced c.1930. Pecan Grove's roofline was altered in a renovation but the main section of high-pitched timber framing is original. Sebastopol's roof was damaged by a hurricane but replaced with same pitch and form. Both have their rear galleries enclosed and rear wing additions.

Kenilworth (c.1820) is also on Bayou Terre aux Boeufs and is National Register listed. Kenilworth is a two story French Creole Plantation house surrounded by galleries. It has a typical *premier etage* Creole floor plan for a multi-story plantation house (although there have been changes to the layout by contemporary owners); Pecan Grove has a typical Creole floor plan for one-story cottages. Both have early twentieth century dormers. Both retain interior details such as wraparound mantles, exposed beaded ceilings and beams, and French doors with shutters opening onto the wide galleries. They both feature many examples of original hardware.

Magnolia Plantation house (c.1800) was constructed around the same time as Pecan Grove. It is a raised house of bousillage construction while Pecan Grove's walls have briquette-entre-poteaux infill. Magnolia's massing is similar to Pecan Grove with the high-pitched hipped roof, but while Pecan Grove's wraparound front gallery is a spacious outdoor room, the galleries at Magnolia have been enclosed and the original square wood columns replaced with red brick.

LeBeau (c.1854) is "a unique example of a monumental Creole plantation with overall styling of the Greek Revival," according the 1982 survey. It has elements of Creole construction such as *briquette-entre-poteaux*, a high-pitched hipped roof and a winding exterior stair within the gallery. However, the heavy entablature, columns and trim details are all archetypical of the Greek Revival. Its octagonal cupola is an interesting feature that distinguishes LeBeau from other houses in the parish.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA
County and State

The Rene Beauregard House is an element within the National Historic Landmark Chalmette National Historical Park, the site of the Battle of New Orleans (the house was not yet built at the time of the battle, January 1815). This c.1832 two-story house displays the Creole hall-less floorplan and double-pitched, heavy timber hipped roof. Midnineteenth century renovations added Greek Revival elements such as monumental columns, a heavy entablature and ornate door surrounds. The rusticated plaster façade adds to the monumental feel of the house.

As can be seen from the above descriptions, Pecan Grove retains as many important French Creole and French Colonial style features as the parish's other noted examples. It equals Sebastopol and Kenilworth (both National Register listed) in importance and has better integrity than Magnolia. While LeBeau Plantation house and the Rene Beauregard House (c.1832) also have French Creole elements, these later houses are both visually dominated by their Greek Revival styling. Pecan Grove retains the massing, visual/architectural identity, and many defining characteristics of the French Creole architectural tradition.

At one time there were many grand French Creole plantation houses along the river in St. Bernard Parish. Between war, fires, hurricanes and the push of industry, most of these have been lost. Pecan Grove is a rare example of early French Creole architecture. Despite some compatible exterior alterations, it retains a French Creole appearance as well as its original distinctive Creole floor plan and many original interior details. Within the context of St. Bernard Parish, Pecan Grove remains a very early and important example of the area's native French Creole tradition and a-legitimate candidate for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

NOTE:

According to William de Marigny Hyland, St. Bernard Parish Historian, Pecan Grove is the oldest standing structure fronting the Mississippi River in St. Bernard Parish. However, since age alone does not qualify a candidate for Register listing, the Louisiana SHPO is not claiming this as a reason for recognition.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

St. Bernard Parish is located 5 miles downriver from downtown New Orleans. The upper part of the parish along the Mississippi River is suburban with industrial development, while the rest of the parish is more rural with a primarily agricultural and fisheries economy. Approximately two-thirds of the parish is surrounded by water and is made up of marshlands forming a rich wetlands ecosystem. The alluvial soil is well suited to agriculture and historically produced sugarcane, indigo and a variety of vegetables.

Settlement began in the early eighteenth century but French colonization was primarily limited to individual plantation tracts along the natural levee bordering the Mississippi River and extending to Lake Borgne, the area now known as upper St. Bernard Parish. After the transfer of the Louisiana Territory from France to Spain, the Spanish began colonization of lower St. Bernard Parish along Bayou Terre au Boeufs. Pierre de Marigny de Mandeville donated his concession in St. Bernard to Charles III, King of Spain for the use of the colonists. These immigrants were primarily Canary Islanders, brought to this new land under Bernardo de Galvez around 1780. Their settlement was originally called New Galvez but the colonists changed the name to San Bernardo or St. Bernard in honor of Galvez's name saint. These colonists came to be known as the *Islenos* or Islanders.

St. Bernard Parish may be best known historically as the site of the Battle of New Orleans, the battle in January of 1815 that effectively ended the War of 1812. The American forces, led by General Andrew Jackson, defeated a much larger British Army that was attempting to seize the lower Mississippi valley and the territory America had acquired through the Louisiana Purchase. The Treaty of Ghent ending the war had actually been signed on December 24, 1814, but news of peace did not reach the combatants until February 1815. The battle is regarded as the greatest American land victory of the war, and although the battle itself had no impact on the final settlement, it intensified American patriotism and ensured independence. According to Gene A. Smith, historian and editor of A. Latour's first hand account of the battle, it represented the American ability to persevere and prevail despite overwhelming odds. They would never again be a British colony or dependant.

Over the next 200 years, upper St. Bernard Parish developed into a suburb of the city of New Orleans. Between 1930 and 1980, the census data showed a dramatic increase of population, from 6,512 to 64,097 people living in the

(Expires 5/31/2012)

P	ecan	Grove	Plantation	House
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Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

parish. Some of the early plantations were displaced by industry, including sugar and oil refineries. Others were subdivided into neighborhoods. Many streets in these neighborhoods bear the names of the historical plantations they once were, the people who lived there and major players in the Battle of New Orleans. Lower St. Bernard Parish has remained primarily rural with small fishing and farming communities.

St. Bernard Parish was devastated on August 29, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina and the resulting levee breaches of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet pushed up to twelve feet of marsh muck, mud and water into the communities of the parish. Not a structure was spared, and the waters did not recede for over two weeks in some locations. Rebuilding is ongoing but the population of St. Bernard remains well below its pre-storm numbers. St. Bernard Parish Census Data showed a 2000 population of 67,229. As of 2010, the population was only 35,897, a 46.6% loss.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Census Data." Census Data. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 Oct. 2012. http://louisiana.gov/Explore/Historical_Census/>.

Chain-of-title research of Pecan Grove Plantation by Gayle Buckley, research and inspection by William de Marigny Hyland, St Bernard Parish Historian and Eugene D. Cizek, Ph.D., F.A.I.A.

Historic photograph of Pecan Grove, dated c. 1935.

- Latour, Arsène Lacarrière, and Gene A. Smith. Historical Memoir of the War in West Florida and Louisiana in 1814-15: With an Atlas. [New Orleans, La.]: Historic New Orleans Collection, 1999. Print.
- Louisiana National Register nominations for Kenilworth Plantation House, St. Bernard Parish, Sebastopol Plantation House, St. Bernard Parish, Haydel-Jones House, St. John the Baptist Parish.
- St. Bernard Historic Structures Survey. Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, September 1982.
- Weiss, Ellen. "City and Country, 1880-1915: New Impulses and New TastesTastes." *Louisiana Buildings, 1720-1940.* By Jessie J. Poesch and Barbara SoRelle. Bacot. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1997. Print.
- Wilson, Samuel, Jr., F.A.I.A. *Plantation Houses on the Battlefield of New Orleans*. [New Orleans]: Battle of New Orleans, 150th Anniversary Committee of Louisiana, 1965. Print.
- Wilson, Samuel, Jr., Roulhac Toledano, Sally Kittredge Evans, and Mary Louise Christovich. *New Orleans Architecture, Volume IV: The Creole Faubourgs.* Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub., 1974. Print.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)previously listed in the National Registerpreviously determined eligible by the National Registerdesignated a National Historic Landmarkrecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #xxxrecorded by Historic American Engineering Record #xxxrecorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #xxxNot Applicable Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA	x State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House				St. Bernard Parish, LA	
Name of Property				County and State	
40 Coopenhinal Data					
10. Geographical Data					
Acreage of Property 4.7 acre (Do not include previously listed resource)		-			
Use either the UTM syste	m or latitude/lo	ongitude coo	rdinates		
Latitude/Longitude Coo Datum if other than WGS (enter coordinates to 6 de	884:	_			
1. Latitude: 29.929617		Longitude:	-89.926883		
2. Latitude:		Longitude:			
3. Latitude:		Longitude:			
4. Latitude:		Longitude:			
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on USC NAD 1927 or	GS map): X NAD 19	983			
1. Zone: 15	Easting:	217460	Northing:	3314580	
2. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:		
3. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:		
4. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot No. 1-A, Pecan Grove Subdivision, St. Bernard Parish, State of Louisiana. Lot No. 1A measures 292 feet front on Louisiana State Highway No. 46, 335.45 feet in width at the rear, by a depth on the sideline nearer Paul Drive of 654 feet and by a depth of 600.34 feet on the sideline nearer Olivia Drive.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries follow the candidate's property lines and preserve its historic setting.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House	St. Bernard Parish, LA	
Name of Property	County and State	
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Heather McVicar Ruoss		
organization NA	date Fall 2012	
street & number 1001 Mazant Street	telephone 504 914-7558	
city or town New Orleans	state LA zip code 70117	
e-mail <u>hmhmruoss@hotmail.com</u>		
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all

Continuation Sheets

photographs to this map.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

Pecan Grove Plantation

City or Vicinity:

Meraux

County:

St. Bernard Parish

State: LA

Photographer:

Heather McVicar Ruoss

Date Photographed:

September 11, 13, October 7, 8, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of <u>19</u>

1 of 19.

The view is looking northeast.

The front elevation has many original details including four pairs of French doors with batten shutters and a dressed and beaded wood ceiling with exposed beaded beams. The front elevation wall is beaded tongue and groove wood (as is the rear gallery exterior wall) while the side elevations are typical weatherboards.

2 of 19. The view is looking northeast.

The French doors and shutters have almost all their original hardware including shutter hooks. Where hardware was missing it was replaced with antique hardware to match.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

3 of 19. Detail of the gallery ceiling looking toward the <u>northeast</u>.

There are scars locating the placement of the original ladder type attic stair on the front gallery. Living space was expanded into the attic during the circa 1930 renovation at the same time the side galleries were added and hips were added to the roof. One can see the slight differences in the ceiling beams at the corner where the addition starts.

4 of 19. Front elevation view looking toward the <u>northeast</u>.

The Pecan Grove Plantation principle house was moved approximately 200 feet deeper into its own lot and renovated in the 1930's to provide a buffer between itself and St. Bernard Highway. Additional changes to the exterior of Pecan Grove included the addition of hips to the roof to cover new side galleries and large front dormers. The original square columns were replaced with round neoclassical wood columns when the gallery was expanded. A rear wing was added to the house in 2003 but it is not visible from the front of the house. Note: Building on right edge/middle of picture is outside nomination boundary.

5 of 19. View of Pecan Grove's front elevation looking north.

The house is almost obscured from St. Bernard Highway by a grove of Live Oak trees.

6 of 19. View of the downriver elevation looking toward the <u>northwest</u>.

The screened side gallery and dormer window were added in the 1930's. The rear addition was added in 2003. Although the window openings in the newer rear wing are not consistent with the fenestration of the historic structure, this elevation is only visible from deep within its own lot.

7 of 19. View from the screened porch looking west, northwest, toward St. Bernard Highway.

The exterior walls are weatherboard with a drip edge on the trim above the French door openings, unlike the walls and trim on the front façade and rear gallery. This is because the sides were originally exposed to the weather.

8 of 19. View of the rear elevation looking southwest.

The original rear gallery was enclosed by the 1930's and had a small bathroom addition on the upriver side. This early addition was removed, the gallery enclosure rebuilt and the rear wing added in 2003. The storage building opposite was built in 2004.

9 of 19. View of the upriver elevation of Pecan Grove looking toward the southeast.

The rear wing was added in 2003. It is modern but was built with compatible materials and is tucked away so it cannot be seen from the front of the property. A small storage building adjacent to the addition helps form a courtyard at the rear of the house.

10 of 19. The view is looking toward the southeast.

The upriver side door is now the primary entrance to the house. The painted square on the weatherboards is a reminder of how high the waterline was in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina in 2005, the only time the property ever flooded. The smaller side dormers were added at the same time as the roof hips, circa 1930.

11 of 19. The view is looking toward the southeast.

Detail of the roof edge showing the slight double pitch characteristic of Creole architecture. The side wings were added to the original front gallery in the 1930's. Care was taken to match original framing and ceiling details in the newer construction. Round wood columns replaced the original square columns during this period more than 80 years ago. The original roof material was wood shakes. Asbestos slate shingles later covered this roof. Both roofs were stripped off the house in 2003 and replaced with a hurricane rated steel roof. The roof style and color is intended to mimic a weathered

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Pecan Grove Plantation House

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

Name of Property

wood shake roof. Since installation, this new roof has protected Pecan Grove from the effects of four hurricanes without significant damage.

12 of 19. Interior

There are four fireplaces in the house, all with original pilaster style box mantles. Another interior feature typical of the Creole style is the dressed and beaded wood ceiling with beams below.

13 of 19. Interior

Pecan Grove has a traditional Creole Cottage floor plan with four primary rooms, two *cabinet* rooms and a small rear gallery. This large room on the upriver, front side of the house is used as a dining room and has original French doors, a dressed, beaded wood ceiling with below beams, and pilaster style box mantle.

14 of 19. Interior

The French doors feature ornate slide bolts as well as headbolts and box locks.

15 of 19. Interior

This example of interior door trim is typical of the original openings. It is 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide with a bead to the inside of the opening and a finely detailed backband trim.

16 of 19. Interior

This large room on the downriver, front side of the house is used as a master bedroom and has original French doors, a dressed, beaded wood ceiling with below beams, and pilaster style box mantle.

17 of 19. Interior

This detail shows the exposed *briquette-entre-poteaux* construction of the house.

18 of 19. Interior

Pecan Grove has an early heavy timbered roof framing system with mortise and tenon joints held together by wood pegs. The front chimney is angled in the attic to come out at the peak of the roof. This framing is one of the primary features dating the house to the late 18th/ early 19th century.

19 of 19. Interior

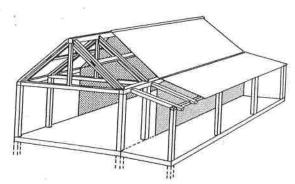
The weatherboards of the gable end wall are further evidence of the original roof form. The hip was added to the end of the extant ridge beam to cover new side galleries below in the circa 1930 renovation. The timber frame of the original gable end wall was cut off and left unsupported when this hip was added to the roof. The problem was discovered in the early 21st century when the downriver side porch started to separate from the main portion of the house. A new frame and posts were devised to support the load from the ridge beam at the hip.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

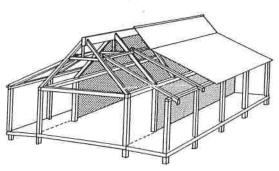
FIGURE 5

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



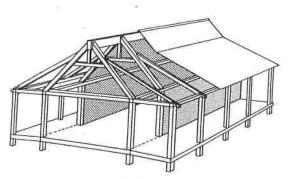
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



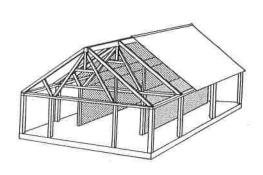
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery afters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



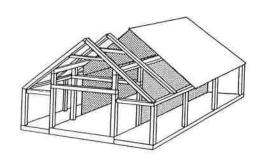
CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate, Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.



CLASS IIIa

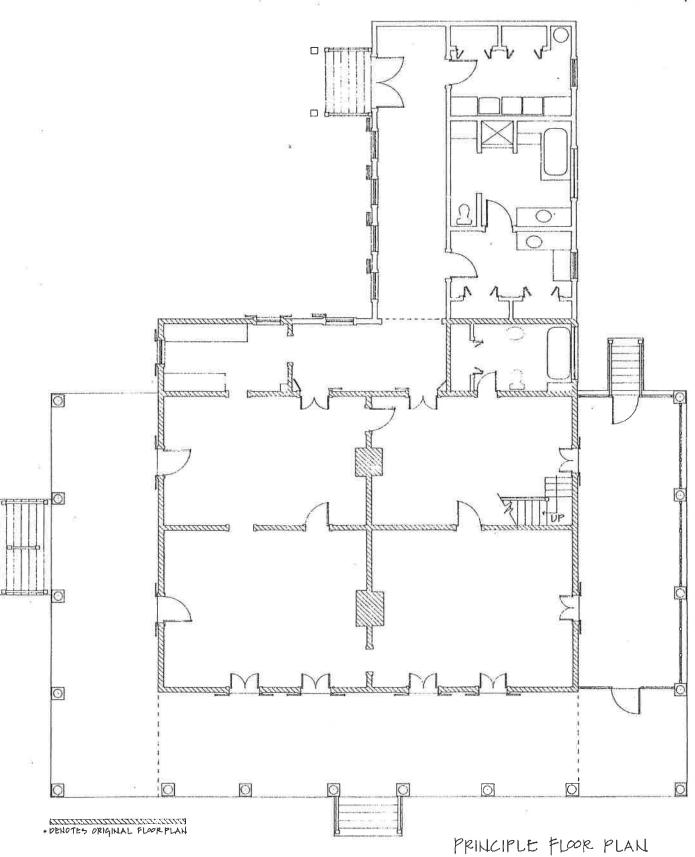
Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



CLASS IIIb

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present

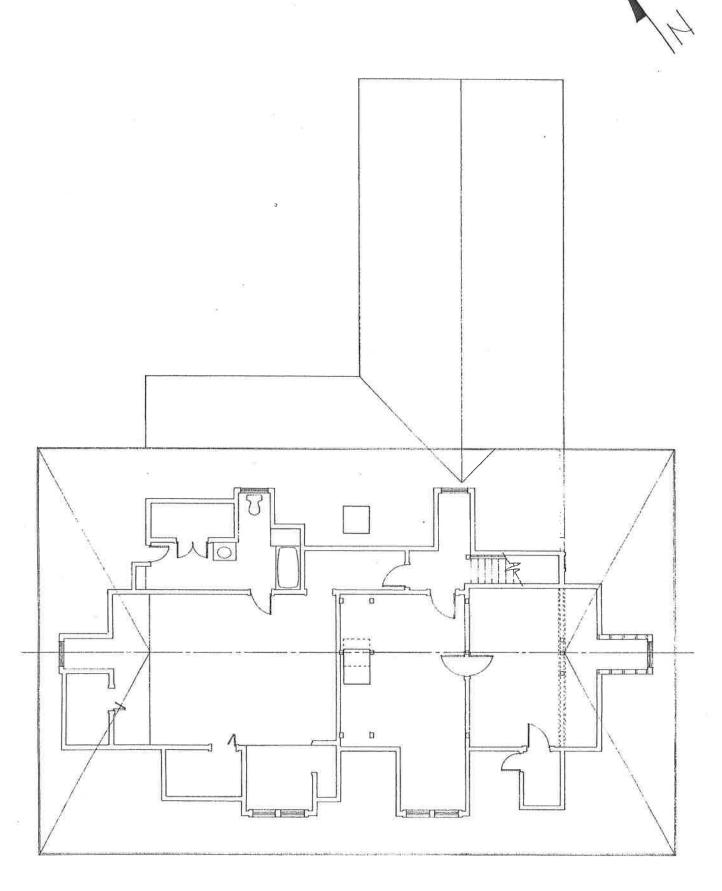




PECAN GROVE PLANTATION

OCALE:

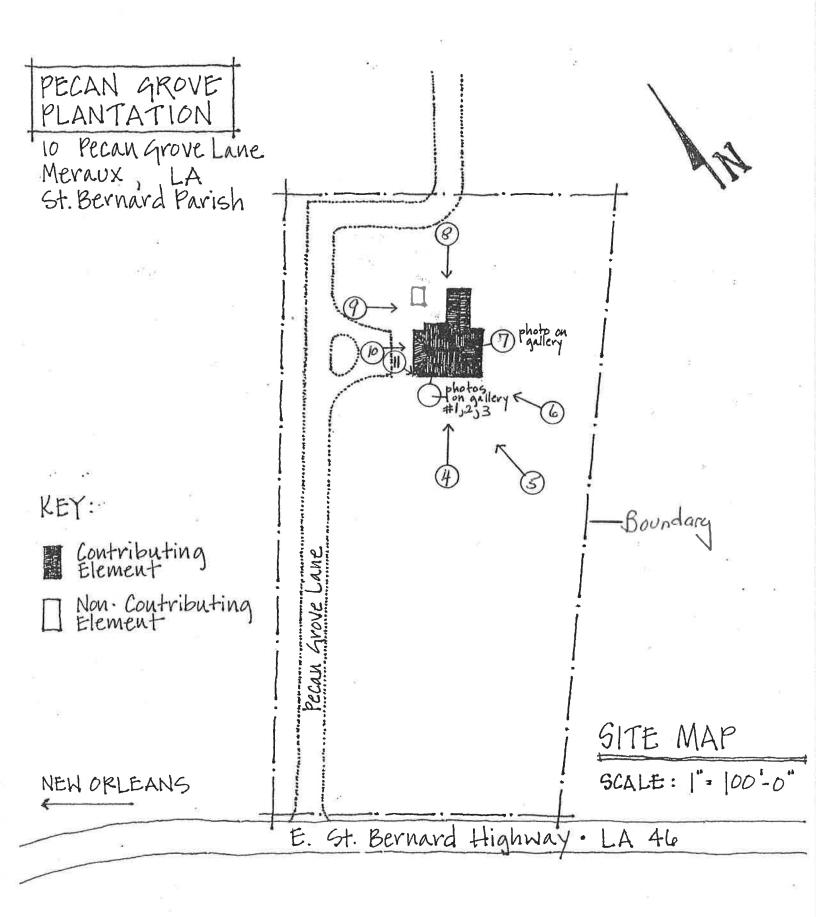
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PECAN GROVE PLANTATION ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

SCALE:

0 1 2 3 4 5 1 3 5 1 10 PEET



Mississippi River

Broad Location Map





Closeup Location Map











































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Pecan Grove Plantation House NAME:
MULTIPLE Louisiana's French Creole Architecture MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, St. Bernard
DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/13 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/13 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 3/20/13
REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000094
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPTRETURNREJECT3 20 · 13DATE ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONEDATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





JAY DARDENNE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 30, 2013 Mr. James Gabbert TO: National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005 Patricia Duncan, Architectural Historian, National Register Coordinator FROM: Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation Patricia Duncan RE: Pecan Grove Plantation House, St. Bernard Parish, LA Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property or historic district. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595. PD/pld **Enclosures:** _ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form NA Multiple Property Nomination form 1 CD with electronic images 19 Photograph(s) 1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s) 2 Location/Latitude-Longitude Maps (close up and broad view) _4____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s) O Piece(s) of correspondence 0_____ Other_____ **COMMENTS:** Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67 _The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do______ do not_____ constitute a majority of property owners. [3 letters from original (same) owner; 1 letter from new owner]