

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 3 1987

date entered SEP - 8 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Burks House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number intersection of Railroad Avenue and Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Merryville N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Beauregard Parish code 011

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Merryville Historical Society, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 495

city, town Merryville N/A vicinity of state LA 70653

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beauregard Parish Courthouse

street & number First Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 100

city, town DeRidder state LA 70634

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1987  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1983
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The A. J. Burks House (1883) is a single pen log house located on a large lot in the rural village of Merryville. Despite a recent move and some alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility as a rare example of its type.

In 1983 the cabin was moved some six miles within the same parish to its present location. The previous location was rural, and the present one is in a small rural village. Despite this change in setting, the house is still within the area which is the context for architectural significance--i.e., Beauregard Parish. The house had been donated to the Merryville Historical Society and was moved onto their property to become part of a proposed museum complex.

Originally the Burks cabin consisted of a single saddle notched log room with front and rear porches and a front and rear door. There were no windows. The structure was surmounted by a double pitched roof. On each side of the house there was a single extra long log which extended out over the porches to frame into the roof. The interior consisted of plain wall boards, a crude corner staircase, and a loft resting upon exposed beams.

Sometime around 1900 a board and batten room was added on the side and the porches were extended to accommodate it. As a result, the roofline acquired its present half gablet design.

### Later Alterations:

Prior to the 1983 move the Burks House had fallen into disrepair. Consequently, certain features had to be replaced, including the porches, two of the logs, and the mud chimney. In addition, the clapboards in the gables were removed and replaced with shingles.

Despite these changes, the Burks House still conveys its architectural identity as a single pen log cabin which was extended at the turn-of-the-century. As such, it represents a type so rare in Beauregard Parish that even a somewhat compromised example is still very significant. In any case, most of the major architectural elements are original--i.e., the log walls, the interiors, and the roof structure (excluding the porches).

\*A pre-move picture exists, but it is not certain whether the porches shown in it are original. The present replacement porches are fairly typical of single pen houses around the state.

Note regarding photos: There is no electricity in the house, and it was much too dark to take interior views.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1883 **Builder/Architect** Builder: A. J. Burks

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Burks House is locally significant in the area of architecture as an important Upland South structure within the context of Beauregard Parish.

The Burks House is a single pen, which is the most basic of all Upland South house types. It represents the pioneer phase of settlement in Beauregard Parish and is thought to be the parish's oldest structure. Very few buildings remain to represent the Upland South architectural tradition in the region, partly because there were not many to begin with. Southwestern Louisiana was settled comparatively late in the nineteenth century, and did not have the dense rural settlement which characterized the culturally similar northern part of the state. There simply was not much time for Upland South building traits to establish themselves in the area before the bungalow style swept all before it. In addition, many Upland South structures have been lost due to demolition by neglect.

The Burks House is important in this regard because it is a rare surviving example of a single pen in Beauregard Parish. In addition, it is thought to be the parish's only single pen constructed of logs.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Webb Burks, son of A. J. Burks. Interviewed by Linda Stark, Merryville Historical Society.

Historical sketch of building prepared by Merryville Historical Society, copy in National Register file (apparently based largely on Burks family history).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @1/20th of an acre

Quadrangle name Merryville, Tex-La

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	4	4	8	2	5	0	3	4	0	2	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				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 enclosed sketch map. Because the Burks House has been moved and there is no historic setting to recognize, boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the significant resource.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY MERRYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

organization Division of Historic Preservation  
State of Louisiana date May 1987

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

## 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 July 30, 1987

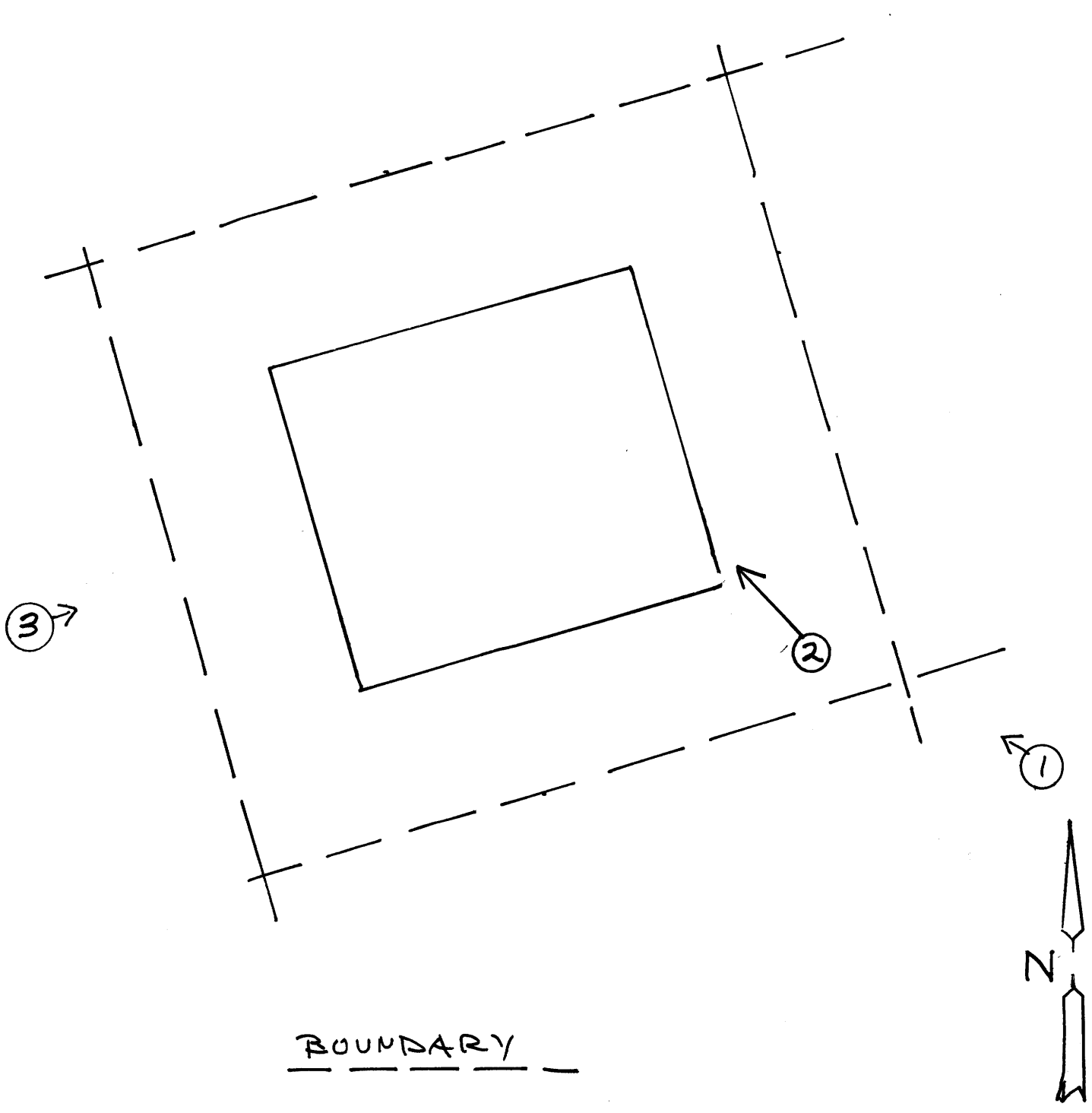
### For NPS use only

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

 Keiper of the National Register entered in National Register date 9-8-87

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



BOUNDARY

BURKS HOUSE  
BEAUREGARD  
PARISH, LA.

SCALE 1" = 10'