

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 9 1987

date entered DEC 14 1987

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

1. Name

historic Marengo Plantation House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number U. S. Hwy 84 about six miles west of Jonesville N/A not for publication

city, town Jonesville -X vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Catahoula code 025

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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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 Mrs. W. H. Beasley, Sr.

street & number P. O. Box 787

city, town Jonesville N/A vicinity of state LA 71343

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Catahoula Parish Courthouse

street & number Fourth Street (no specific address) P. O. Drawer 198

city, town Harrisonburg state LA 71340

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Marengo Plantation House is a late-1850s transitional Greek Revival-Italianate frame structure built in the form of a large galleried cottage. It is located in an open rural setting behind the Little River levee about six miles west of the town of Jonesville. Despite some alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The floor plan is a combination of French and English features with a relatively narrow central entrance hall in the front which gives way to a wide central room in the rear. The entrance hall contains a graceful partially curving staircase which ascends to the capacious finished garret. The garret consists of four bedrooms disposed around a central open area. The front and rear bedrooms are fairly unusual in that each is built in the form of a huge projecting dormer. Originally the dormers had central casement windows flanked by sash windows. Even more unusual is the way the front and rear bedrooms connect with the central open area through sets of interior French doors. When the French doors and dormer windows are all open, it creates an axial breezeway through the top of the house. The front rooms connect with the front gallery by means of floor-length windows. Originally there was no rear gallery.

Most of the detailing at Marengo is in the Greek Revival style. This includes the pediments and pilasters on the dormers, the paneled columns on the front gallery, the aedicule motif front doorway with its transom and side lights, and the aedicule style mantels on the interior. Each dormer also features a three-part panel treatment below the window sill. The modillion brackets on the entablature and dormers are a transitional Italianate touch. The mantel in the large central rear room has a curious pointed panel treatment which might be thought of as a Gothic touch.

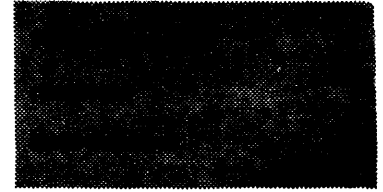
Alterations:

1. Sometime after the turn-of-the-century a rear gallery was added. This has subsequently been enclosed.
2. A small room in the rear has been converted into a kitchen.
3. Two of the original six mantels have been lost.
4. Part of a downstairs bedroom has been partitioned off for bathrooms and closets.
5. The original windows in the dormers have been replaced.
6. The rear and side elevations have been sheathed in aluminum siding. (The siding matches the original clapboard.)
7. The front gallery balustrade has been replaced.
8. A false gallery has been added to the facade.

CONTINUED

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Marengo Plantation House

Continuation sheet Catahoula Parish, LA

Item number 7

Page 1

7. Description (cont'd)

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these admittedly noteworthy alterations, virtually all of the house's character defining elements are intact. These include the columns, most of the mantels, the stair, and the dormer-breezeway configuration. Moreover, houses of the age and caliber of Marengo are so rare in Catahoula Parish that even a somewhat compromised example is still very significant.

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 late 1850s **Builder/Architect** Builder: Isaac Hudson Boatner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Marengo Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare and outstanding example of pre-Civil War residential architecture in Catahoula Parish.

The large rural parish of Catahoula was created in 1808 and the parish seat of Harrisonburg was founded in 1818. Despite this relative age, the parish has only seven remaining pre-Civil War residences, as documented in the recently completed historic structures survey. All seven have been significantly altered in varying degrees. Alterations include loss of whole galleries, replacement of columns, loss of original siding, the installation of false galleries, and loss of mantels. Marengo is in a better state of preservation than most of its fellows because virtually all of its character defining elements are still in place. Moreover, it has unusually fine features such as paneled columns (the only ones in the parish) and fully pedimented dormers (also the only ones in the parish). Its Italianate modillion bracketing is locally unique as is its upper bedroom dormer configuration (see Item 7). The use of dormers in this way is a creative local peculiarity one sometimes sees among Greek Revival houses in the Deep South. The existence of an example in Catahoula Parish lends interest and distinction to the parish's entire early building stock.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, Catahoula Parish.
Boatner family history, as communicated to present owner by descendant of the builder.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name Walters, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	0	2	2	4	0	3	4	9	5	4	8	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. Boundaries were chosen to encompass the house and its immediate setting. To have followed property lines would have meant including an extensive unnecessary acreage.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY THE OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date August 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.

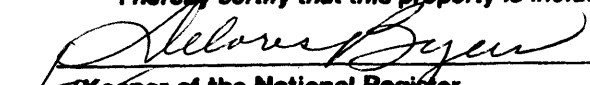
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 3, 1987

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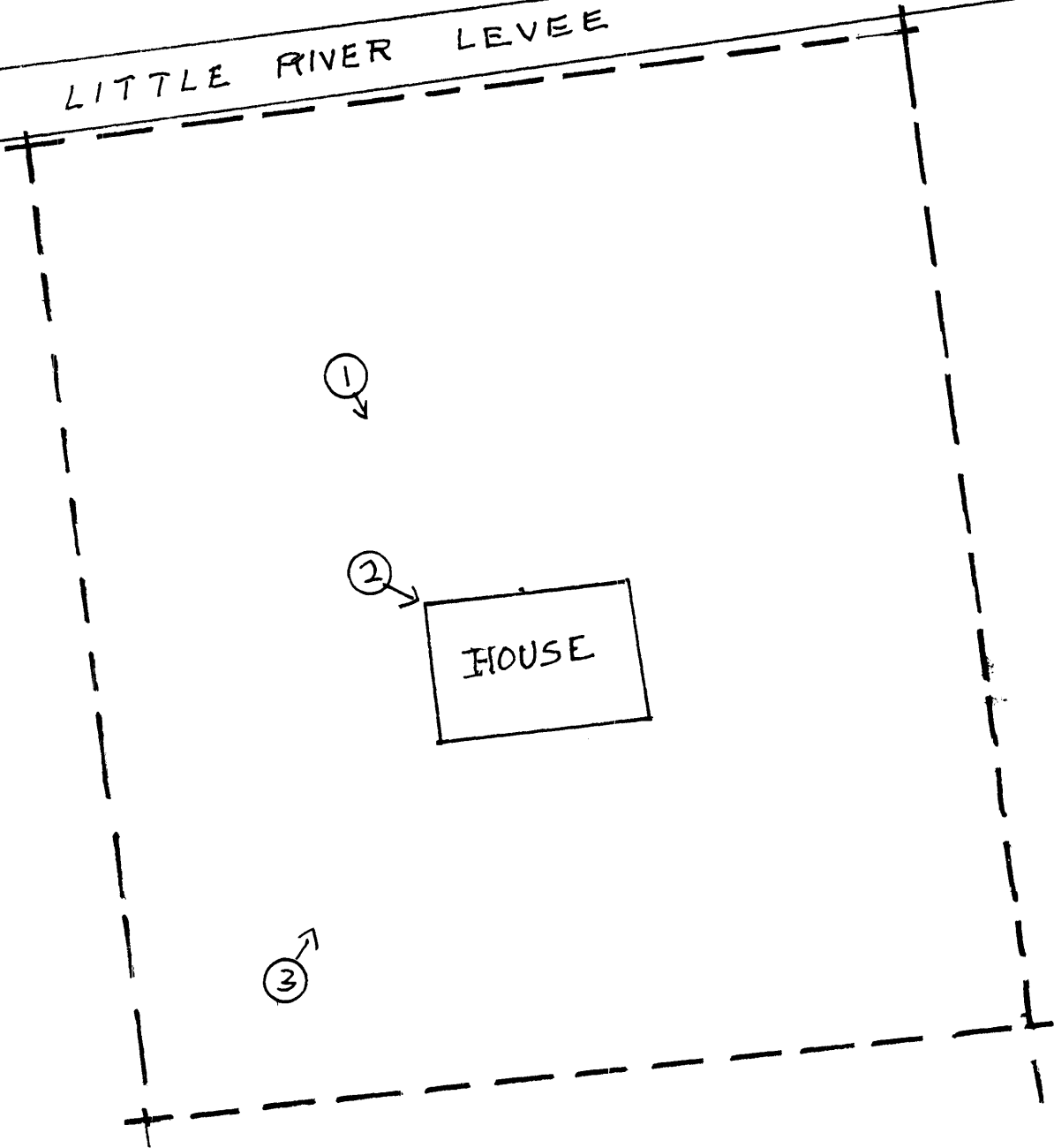
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 12-14-87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

LITTLE RIVER LEVEE



SCALE 1" = 50'

BOUNDARY



MARENGO PLANTATION HOUSE
CATAHOULA PARISH, LA

APPROX. 1³/₄ ACRE