

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana Parish, LA

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

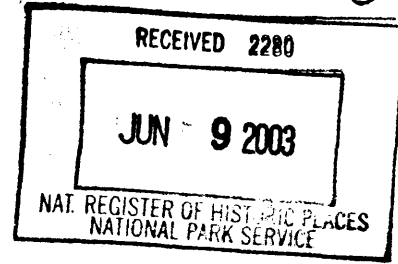
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

680

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Star Hill Plantation Dependency

Other Name/Site Number: Star Hill Billiard Hall



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 5018 U. S. HWY 61

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Star Hill

Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: West Feliciana Code: 125

Zip Code: 70775

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

June 6, 2003

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana 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):

Entered in the National Register

7/24/03

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
sites
structures
objects
1

Non contributing

- 0 buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

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

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana Parish, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic

Sub: secondary structure

Current: domestic

Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: no style

Materials:

Foundation: brick

Walls: brick

Roof: metal

Other:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana 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 Star Hill Plantation Dependency is a small c. 1845 brick one story building located in a lush setting on U.S. Highway 61 south of St. Francisville. The dependency is set back from the busy highway some 400 feet. Much closer, about 50 feet away, is Louisiana Highway 966, which runs along the side of the property (see attached map). While there have been numerous twentieth century alterations/additions to the dependency, the building still conveys its original age.

The dependency is the only standing structure remaining of the once extensive Star Hill sugar plantation, established by Dr. Henry Perkins and his brother John in the 1830s. According to tradition, the building served in the antebellum period as a billiard hall for Dr. Perkins' male guests and as an office for his medical practice. However, there is no written documentation to support the oral tradition. For much of the twentieth century the Star Hill dependency has been a residence. According to tradition, the nominated building dates from the 1830s. The architectural evidence (the molding profiles) suggests a date of c. 1845.

The dependency's verdant setting includes four huge live oaks, two believed to predate the building and two roughly the same age. Also within the gardens are scores of quite large camellia bushes planted by the present owner's parents 70 to 80 years ago and red cedars, pecans and bois d'arc trees which probably date to the antebellum period.

The Star Hill dependency is roughly 32 feet by 22 feet, with solid brick walls laid in common bond. The gable end roof has a chimney at each end. Along the north and south elevations (the long elevations) is a cornice formed of bricks with the corners pointing outward. All openings are surmounted with bricks laid in a manner resembling jack arches. There were originally three evenly spaced openings on each of the long elevations - three six over six windows on the south and a window-door-window on the north. The door on the north elevation has been filled in, and one of the windows on the south has been shortened. What were presumably two windows on the west elevation have been changed to a door and small multi-pane window. To provide additional space for residential use, a wing, set at a 90 degree angle, was added to the east elevation (1940s/'50s). The wing covers an original door, but the adjacent window was not impacted.

The original floor plan of the small building cannot be determined. The present configuration dates from the twentieth century and all surfaces (where clues might have been) have been covered. One assumes it was originally two rooms, given the two chimneys. The interior is largely twentieth century, with the following exceptions: door and window frames, one door, and a mantel. The mantel, with its fairly heavily molded capitals, was cut off at the bottom when the floor was raised at some point in the mid twentieth century. The original four panel door, located on the east elevation where the wing is attached, is quite generous in scale. Above is a transom (now painted over).

Assessment of Integrity:

Alterations to the Star Hill dependency admittedly have been numerous, and in some cases, particularly noticeable. That said, it could be argued that the building still conveys enough of its age and overall identity to merit Register listing.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana Parish, LA

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C X D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1845

Significant Dates: c.1845

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana 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 Star Hill Dependency is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare surviving example of a type of outbuilding once common in West Feliciana's prosperous antebellum plantation landscape.

The Star Hill Dependency belongs to a class of plantation outbuildings that were connected with a main house (often substantial) and with the lives of the planter and his family. Structures of this ilk include schoolhouses, offices, garconnières, carriage houses, chapels, or privies and kitchens of the grander sort. These are just as much a part of the overall picture as agricultural related dependencies such as mule barns, gin houses, or quarters houses. And like the quarters row, the plantation ambiance of domestic dependencies is largely a vanished world. Individual examples of support structures of this kind survive in extremely limited numbers. This is true across the plantation South, but it is particularly relevant for West Feliciana Parish, an area known for its affluent planters.

The 1860 census lists 63 large plantation holdings (50 slaves or more) in the parish. Although it would be impossible to verify, most would be expected to have boasted a significant coterie of substantial domestic dependencies. Taken together with smaller plantation holdings, it is reasonable to conclude that during the heyday of antebellum plantation life, structures such as the Star Hill Dependency numbered in the hundreds. According to the West Feliciana Historic Structures Survey, only 13 former antebellum plantations retain any support structures at all, regardless of type. Thus, the Star Hill dependency is part of a small coterie of buildings that form a vital part of the parish's noteworthy plantation heritage. Like the famed gardens at Rosedown with their latticed summerhouses, but admittedly to a smaller degree, the Star Hill dependency helps "tell the story" of the domestic landscape of wealthy planters.

Historical Note:

Star Hill continued to be owned by Dr. Henry Perkins until 1868 when the property was seized by the sheriff to pay off long-standing mortgages. On March 9 of that year it was rescinded to Citizens Bank of Louisiana. Citizens Bank sold it to Robert Daniel in 1882. The Perkins name (but apparently not related) came back to Star Hill when Robert Daniel's granddaughter, Martha (Mattie) McQueen, married James Gaydon Perkins in 1908. The couple made their home at Star Hill beginning in the 1920s. Their son, Clayton Perkins, Sr., resides there today with his wife. (Their home, not within the nominated acreage, dates from circa 1950. The dependency is rental property.)

Possible Additional Significance:

According to historical background provided in a 1942 thesis, the Star Hill dependency played an important role in the lives of African-Americans in the immediate area. The author (see bibliography) references archives of the Morning Star Society which demonstrate that Dr. Perkins formed this association on July 4, 1869 to help former slaves. The monthly meetings, according to tradition, were held in the candidate in the very early years. (Presumably Morning Star was a benevolent society, a type of self-help, burial insurance organization.) The same thesis indicates that the candidate was used at some point as a school for African-Americans. The footnote for this statement references interviews conducted by the author. Because the foregoing cannot be documented to National Register standards, significance in this regard is not being "claimed" officially for the purposes of this Register form.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana Parish, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

West Feliciana Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Hahn, Thurston H. G., Mahoney, Richard, *et.al.*, *Highway 61 Visited: Cultural Resources Survey and Testing of the LA-US 61 Four Lane Project Corridor between Bains and Thompson Creek, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 1997.

Ryan, Joanne, Hahn, Thurston H. G., *et.al.*, *Highway 61 Revisited: Cultural Resources Survey and Testing of the LA-US 61 Four Lane Project Corridor between Bains and Thompson Creek, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 2002.

Simmons, Lois. "A Study of the History of Public Relief in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, 1824-1932." Unpublished master's thesis, School of Social Work, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1942.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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: # HABS LA 1263
- 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):

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

Star Hill Plantation Dependency, West Feliciana Parish, LA

Page 8

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approx. 4 acres

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 661100 3404640

Verbal Boundary Description: See attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the dependency and its immediate verdant setting of live oaks, camellias, etc. As can be seen on the attached sketch map, they follow roadways on three sides. The boundary on the fourth side (the east) was chosen to recognize the dependency's setting while deleting acreage containing a circa 1950 house.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

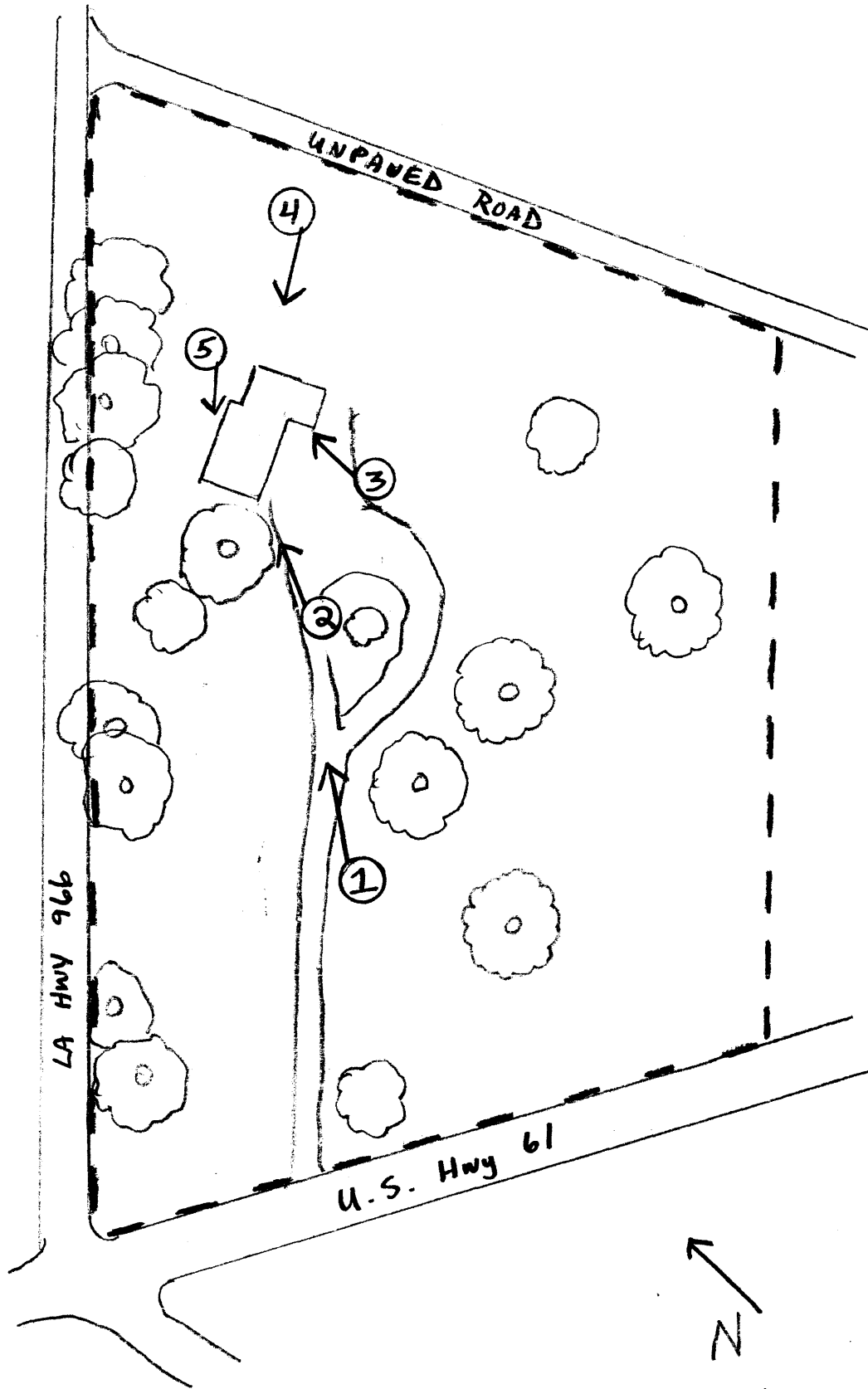
Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: April 2003

PROPERTY OWNERS

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Perkins
P. O. Box 365
St. Francisville, LA 70775



Star Hill Plantation
 Dependency
 West Feliciana Parish, LA

↑
 N
 1" = 100'

 boundary