

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **MAR 7 1983**  
date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Poiret Place

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number off LA 167 @ 7 miles <sup>NW</sup> northwest of Opelousas N/A not for publication

city, town Opelousas <sup>vic</sup>  vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Landry Parish code 097

## 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Richard J. Bidstrup

street & number 869 N. Union 318-942-2674

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of state LA 70570

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number corner of Court and Landry Streets (no specific address) P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

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

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

Poiret Place (c.1820) is a frame and brick fully raised Creole plantation house located in a rural setting about seven miles northwest of the town of Opelousas. Despite a few alterations, the house remains eligible for the National Register.

The two and one half story raised house has open galleries in the front and a semi-enclosed gallery at the rear. The hipped roof is steeply pitched, with two gable-end dormers at front and back, and two tall inside chimneys at either end of the center ridgepole.

The lower floor is of solid masonry construction with three layers of soft, handmade brick laid up in common bond. The upper floor is briquette-entre-poteaux, with outside walls covered with the original wide, beaded cypress weatherboard. The gallery face is plastered, as are all interior walls.

The front roof overhangs to form the gallery, which is supported at ground level by eight round brick columns with square bases. Eight slender octagonal solid cypress colonnettes support the upper level. These are nicely detailed, with rounded capitals and lamb's-tongue detailing. The solid cypress handrail is of simple design, with slender square spindles on the balustrade.

Three beaded cypress double battened doors open onto the galleries at both levels, with similarly shuttered windows at either side of the central doors in balanced symmetry. The original casement windows remain at the ground floor level. All other windows are double hung 6/6 with a few replacements being 4/4.

The interior shows the typical Creole floor plan of three symmetrically placed rooms across the front, each opening onto the gallery at both levels, with two cabinets at the rear flanking the recessed gallery.

All ceilings are of wide, beaded cypress, with double beaded, massive hand-hewn exposed beams. The chair railing is nicely detailed, matching the simple window and door framing. Many of the interior beaded battened doors still remain, with all of their handwrought strap hinges, hooks and keepers. Glazed French doors open onto the galleries at both levels, from all of the front rooms.

Many of the original crude Adams style mantels remain. These have fluted engaged pilasters and heavy molded tops.

In the attic the walls have been covered between the beams, leaving the tie beam structural members exposed. The mortise-and-tenon joints are fastened together with large pegs. Many of the structural members appear to have been taken from earlier buildings.

The two chimney shafts are left free-standing. All flooring and ceiling is of the original wide cypress planks, hand-planed and beaded. Much of the old glass remains in the windows and doors.

Since the house was built, the rear galleries have been partially enclosed and a staircase has been built on the interior.

CONTINUED

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Continuation sheet Poiret Place

Item number 7

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7. Description (continued)

At one side of the house is a large underground cistern, bricked in, with a hand pump. The cistern is surmounted by a small cistern house which dates from the 1920's. Both the cistern and the cistern house are listed as contributing elements because they contribute to one's appreciation of Poiret Place as a historic rural property.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the aforementioned changes, Poiret Place still retains the essential features which establish its identity as a French Colonial style plantation house (see Item 8). This identity is the basis of the house's architectural significance.

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

**Specific dates** c.1820 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Florentin Poiret

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

Poiret Place is architecturally significant on the local level as an important example of a French Colonial style house. Of the approximately twenty major antebellum houses in the large rural parish of St. Landry, Poiret Place is one of a distinct group of four which are most closely related to the classic French Colonial prototype. This can be seen in its two-story hip roof form, its hall-less plan with cabinets, its round brick columns downstairs and chamfered frame columns upstairs, and its use of French doors. This is important because St. Landry Parish was settled primarily by French Creoles and this group of four houses represents the French architectural influence in its purest form before it came strongly under the influence of the American Greek Revival. (The majority of the parish's antebellum homes show marked Greek Revival influence.) In addition, the chamfered columns at Poiret Place have octagonal molded capitals, which is a very unusual classical treatment.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH:

Poiret Place was built by Chevalier Florentin Poiret sometime between 1807, when he acquired the property, and his death in 1826. Florentin Poiret was the son of Andre Chevalier Poiret, who was Grande Magazin du Roi at the fort of Chartres in Illinois in the mid-eighteenth century, and Louise Francoise LeKintrek, whose father, Joseph LeKintrek, was an early coureur de bois in Louisiana. Upon Florentin Poiret's death, the house was passed on to his son Francois. Francois died in 1870, and since that time the house has changed hands many times. It was purchased by the present owner in 1976.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title, St. Landry Parish Courthouse

\*Research Report Submitted by Ruth Fontenot, Poiret Place National Register File, LA State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

\*This report was based upon extensive research in numerous primary and secondary sources.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/5th of an acre

Quadrangle name Opelousas, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A 

15	583250	3338300
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sketch map.

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 Ruth R. Fontenot

organization Ruth R. Fontenot, Inc.

date July 1981

street & number Pontalba Apts., 633 Decatur St.

telephone 504-586-9770

city or town New Orleans

state LA 70130

## 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 LA State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 25, 1983

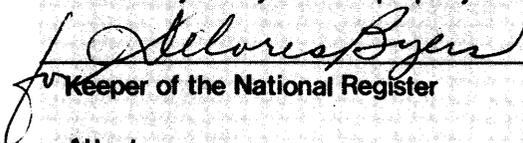
For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

4/7/83

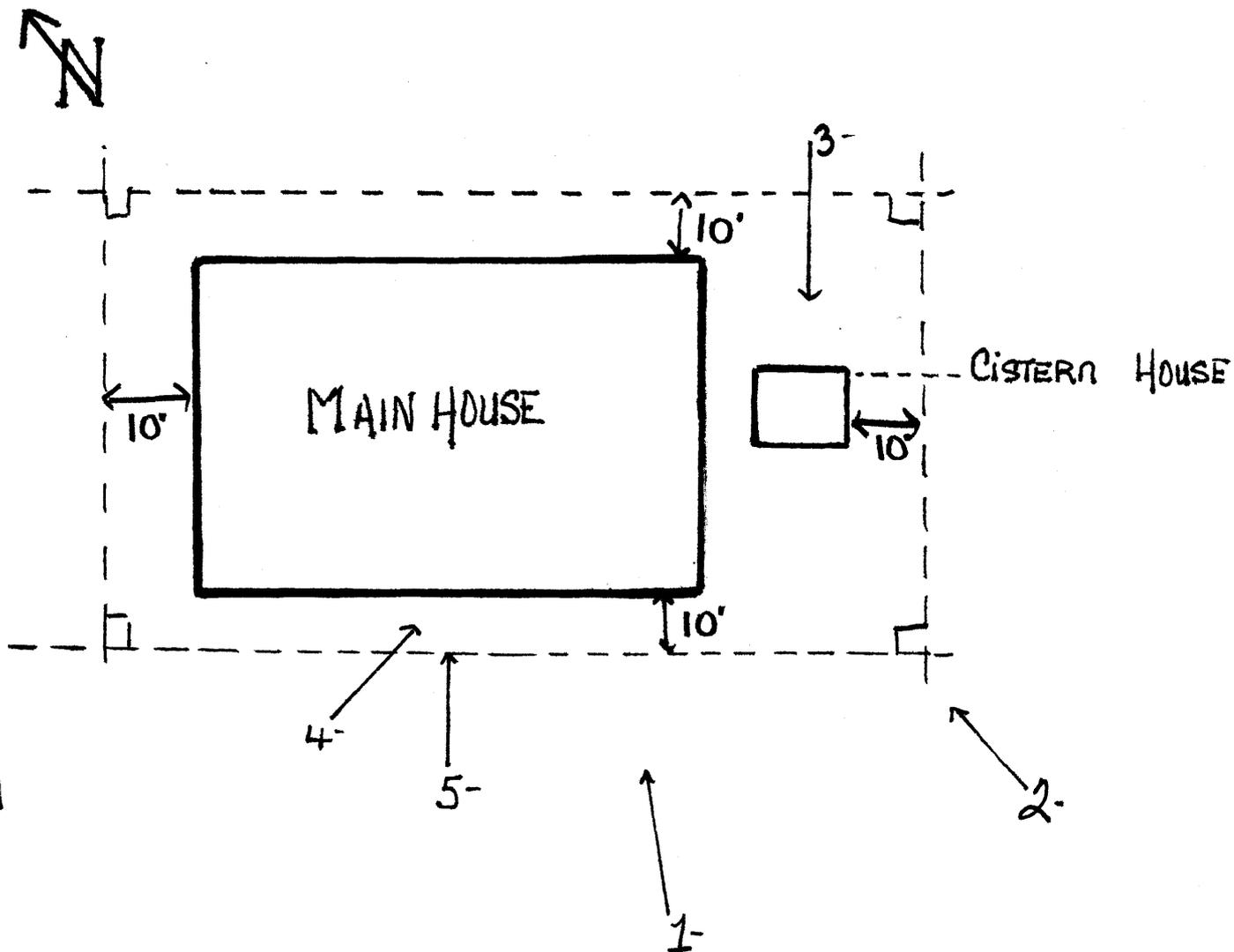
  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# Piñet Place, St. LANDRY PARISH



Boundaries parallel  
building facades,  
distances as  
shown.