

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 13 1983  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic Highland

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number 0.3 miles NW of St. Francisville, off Highland Road, N/A not for publication  
(Highland Rd. is off LA 66)

city, town St. Francisville vic. X vicinity of

state LA code 22 county West Feliciana Parish code 125

## 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name John Barrow Norwood, Sr. 504-635-3001

street & number Route 5W, Box 1415

city, town St. Francisville N/A vicinity of state LA 70775

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. West Feliciana Parish Courthouse

street & number Highway 61 (no specific address) P. O. Box 71

city, town St. Francisville state LA 70775

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☐ deteriorated

☒ good

☐ ruins

☐ fair

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date N/A

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

Highland (1805) is a two-story frame plantation house with Georgian and Federal style details. The house is located one-fourth mile west of Little Bayou Sara northwest of the town of St. Francisville amid rolling farm country. It is set in a randomly planted copse of eighty-seven live oak trees which also encompasses a family cemetery, two c.1900 board and batten barns, two c.1900 board and batten shotgun houses, two small c.1930 sheds, and a c.1930 carport. Despite several changes, the house retains enough significant features to merit listing in the National Register.

The surviving 1804 building contract describes the original house in detail. It began as a Carolina I house with a wide central hall, a large room each side, three rooms set in a rear shed, and an enclosed staircase. The shed area consisted of a long central room and two small end rooms. The upper story had a central hall with a single room each side.

A relatively short time after the house was built, a low second story was added over the rear shed. This rear second floor area was set several feet below the level of the main second floor. Consequently sets of steps had to be built from the main second story to the lower second story in the rear.

The house remained in this form until after the Civil War. Then, in about 1875, the original single story front gallery was raised to a full two stories. The shed roof of the original gallery was raised to the cornice line and supported on new two-story posts which sprang directly from the ground. The gallery floor was supported independently. The new two-story posts were braced at midpoint by horizontal members which gave the effect of a balcony from a distance.

In the late-nineteenth century a new front gallery balustrade was built and an Italianate mantel was installed upstairs.

In the twentieth century one of the chimneys was lost and the rear and sides of the house were fitted with aluminum siding. Four of the original mantels were lost and three windows were installed in the rear. In addition, the rear was fitted with a shed roof porch and some exterior steps. Finally, a small shed addition was built on the north side.

The house is mainly noteworthy for its Federal and Georgian woodwork. On the exterior the front door frame features pilasters with reeded bases and carved egg and dart capitals and triglyphs flanking the transom. Above the central front door is a Palladian window which lights the upper hall. It features heavily reeded pilasters with triglyph tops.

The interior retains most of its six panel doors. The central hall and the east parlor feature walnut false-grained paneled dado with pilasters between the panels. The chair rails protrude over the pilasters to suggest capitals. Some of the door frames feature elaborate patterns of decorative reeding. The front and rear doorways of the lower hall feature multiple paneled pilasters. All three of the remaining original mantels are of the Adams type and feature reeding, fluting, complex moldings, and incised "X" shaped diaper patterns. Highland's

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Highland

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

most elaborate mantel, which is located upstairs, appears to have been moved there from another location in the house.

Other noteworthy features include the twelve over twelve windows, the original floor boards, and the original brass locks which survive on some of the doors.

Assessment of Integrity--Architectural Significance:

Despite the above alterations, much remains of the house to suggest its age and type. Surviving historical attributes include the two-story five-bay form of the house, most of its details, the twelve over twelve windows, and the central hall plan. Moreover, Highland's architectural significance rests upon the features enumerated in Item 8, all of which, of course, still survive.

Assessment of Integrity--Historical Significance:

Highland is also being nominated for significance in the area of politics/government because of William Barrow III's prominent role in the West Florida Rebellion of 1810. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the house retains enough of its original character to represent his period of ownership (1805 until his death in 1823). The only major change in the house since William Barrow III's day has been the enlargement of the original front gallery. The symmetrical five-bay two-story fenestration pattern survives as does the unusual floor plan with its two level upper story. Moreover, the basic form of the house has survived without significant accretions. It seems clear that the builder would recognize the house today. After all, in its day Highland was one of the most distinctive houses in the parish (see Item 8), and it remains so to this day.

Outbuildings and Cemetery:

Included within the nominated acreage are the family cemetery (earliest tomb dating from 1803), two c.1930 sheds, two c.1900 shotguns, two c.1900 barns, and a c.1930 carport. These were included because they are part of Highland's live oak setting. They are all over fifty years old and contribute to Highland's identity as a rural plantation house. Hence they are all listed as contributing elements.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1805 (architecture) **Builder/Architect** Builder: William Barrow III

1810 (politics/government)  
**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criteria B and C

Highland is locally significant in the area of architecture as a superior example of the Georgian and Federal influences in West Feliciana Parish. It is of state significance in the area of politics/government because of the prominence of its builder, William Barrow III, in the West Florida Rebellion of 1810, an event of significance at the state level. The house was built for Barrow in 1805 and he resided there until his death in 1823.

### ARCHITECTURE:

Highland is one of the earliest residences in West Feliciana Parish. Like many of its fellows, it exhibits the Anglo-American influence through its Federal and Georgian architectural features. This is important because the Feliciana Parishes are known as citadels of Anglo-American culture in French Louisiana. Among this group of eight essentially pre-Greek Revival houses, Highland is conspicuous because of the high style quality of its surviving architectural features. The Adams style mantels are unsurpassed in the parish both in elaborateness and workmanship. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, the entrance doorway shares its egg and dart pilaster capitals with one other house in the parish, but the triglyphs with flank the transom are thought to be unique within the same context. Both of the main doorways on the interior of the hall feature multiple paneled pilasters, reeding, punchwork, and tiny modillions. These too are thought to be unique in the parish. The surviving interior dado surpasses all other examples in West Feliciana Parish. Instead of the usual rectangular panels, the dado in the lower hall features unusual panels with quarter round corner cuts. In addition, the hall dado is surmounted by a frieze with a unique combination of triglyph cuts and diaper patterns. Moreover, most of the dado retains its original false graining, which is very rare. Finally, the upper hall features the parish's only Georgian Palladian window.

### POLITICS/GOVERNMENT:

Highland is of state significance in the area of politics/government because of the prominence of its owner, William Barrow III, in the West Florida Rebellion of 1810. When the United States purchased Louisiana in 1803, West Florida (the present Florida parishes of Louisiana) was not included. It had been since 1779 under Spanish control; however, its inhabitants were anxious to be annexed to the Louisiana Purchase and eventually become part of the United States. This dissatisfaction came to a head in 1810 when a meeting was called at Egypt Plantation on June 23 to set up a revolutionary government. This meeting was attended by more than 500 citizens. The leaders submitted a plan which called for the election of four "responsible and influential" individuals to be elected from each district of West Florida as representatives to a common council. William Barrow III of Highland was among the four representatives elected from Feliciana.

In September, 1810, the insurrectionists marched on Baton Rouge, captured the town, and proclaimed West Florida a free and independent state. A republic was set up, a constitution drafted, and President James Madison was petitioned to annex

CONTINUED

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

West Feliciana Parish Conveyance Records

Highland Building Contract, 1804. Original in possession of owner.

Floyd, William Barrow. The Barrow Family of Old Louisiana. Published by the author, Lexington, Kentucky, 1963.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property        @ 23 acres       

Quadrangle name Weyanoke, LA-Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

6	5	0	0	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	1	8	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	5
---	---

6	4	9	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	1	7	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	5
---	---

6	4	9	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	1	7	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	5
---	---

6	5	0	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	1	7	9	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to attached sketch map. As noted in Item 7, the boundaries were drawn to include the extant outbuildings and the cops of live oaks which form the historical setting for the main house.  
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY OWNER

name/title National Register Staff, Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana

date April 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

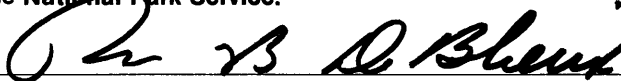
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

       national   X   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 June 29, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Patrick W. Anderson

date 8/23/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Highland

Item number 8

Page 2

8. Significance (continued)

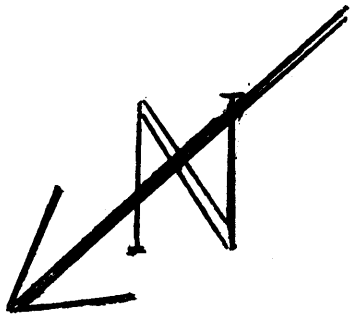
the area to the United States. William Barrow III was one of the five members of the provisional government of the new nation. The Republic of West Florida was short-lived because soon after its creation it was added to the Louisiana Purchase and in 1812 became a part of the new state of Louisiana.

The house is of state significance because the event with which William Barrow III is closely associated is an event which was important for the state as a whole. The West Florida Rebellion of 1810 made possible the annexation of the region (5,084 square miles) to the United States and consequently its addition to what in 1812 became the state of Louisiana. (See attached map.)

NB: State is checked in Item 12 because, in cases where two levels of significance are involved, the standard practice is to check the higher of the two.

Historical Note:

It should be noted that Highland was the first house built in Louisiana by the Barrows, a family that created and reigned over one of the largest plantation empires in the antebellum South. It was the first of many magnificent antebellum homes associated with this immensely wealthy and prominent family. The house has remained in the Barrow family down through the years and is presently the home of John Barrow Norwood, a direct descendant of the builder.



# HIGHLAND, WEST FELICIANA

(NOT TO SCALE)

8



10'

c. 1900 SHOTGUN

c. 1930 shed

c. 1930 shed

9

c. 1900 SHOTGUN

c. 1930 airport

10'

c. 1900 BARN

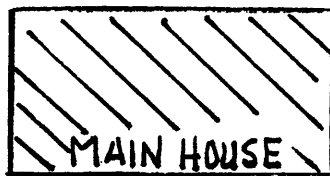
c. 1900 BARN



CEMETERY

7

6



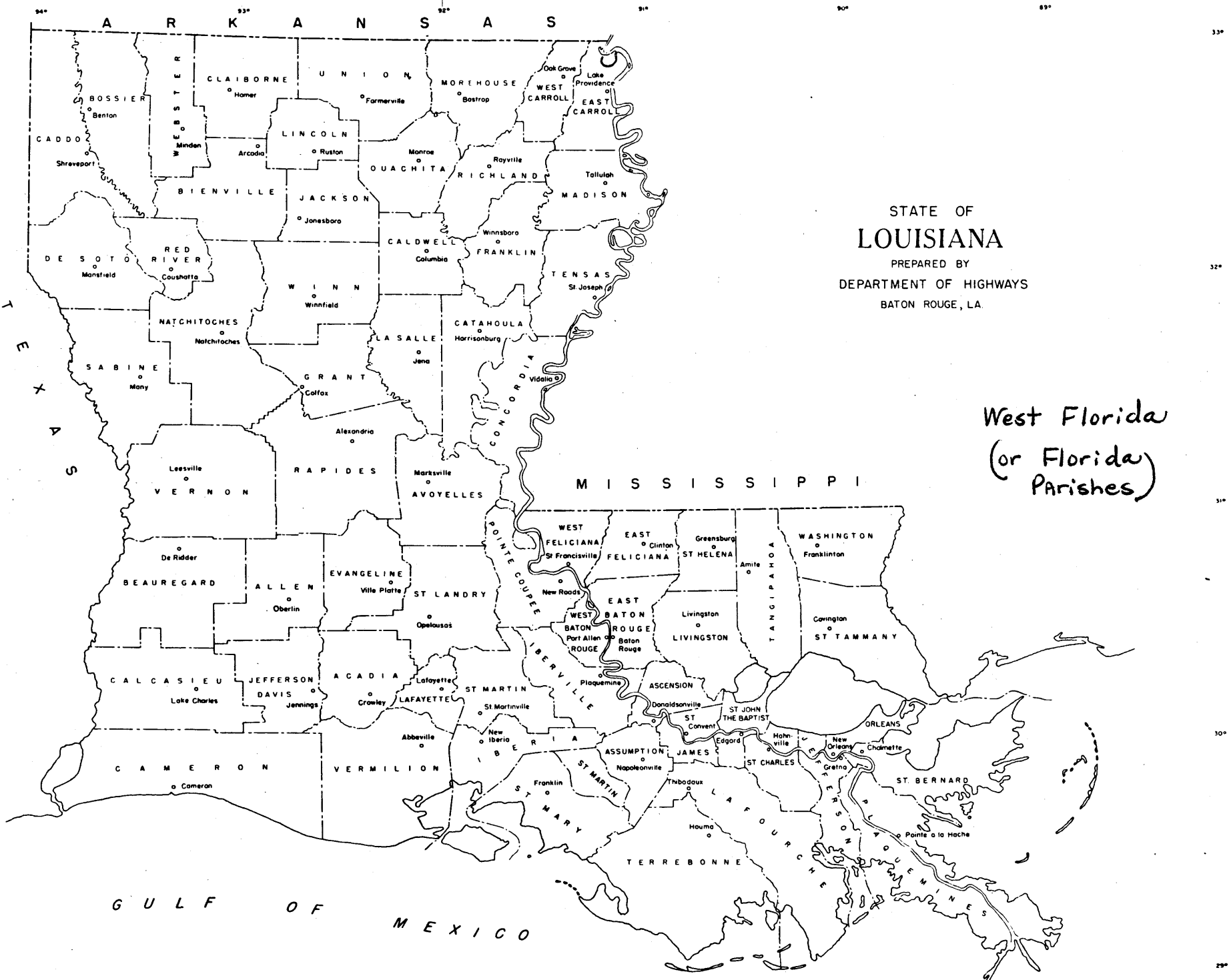
5 4 3

2

1

10

Highland Road



STATE OF  
LOUISIANA

PREPARED BY  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
BATON ROUGE, LA.

West Florida  
(or Florida)  
Parishes)