

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 83000485

Date Listed: 3/3/1983

Property Name: Tezcuco

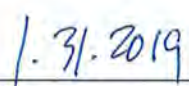
Parish: Ascension

State: LA

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

Qualities which caused the property to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed.

The Tezcuco plantation house was been demolished by fire in 2014.

The property is hereby removed from the National Register.

The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **JAN 17 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Tezcuco

and/or common Same

2. Location *S of Burnside on,*

street & number *3 River Road (no specific address)* N/A not for publication

city, town Burnside *vicinity* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 ^{parish}~~county~~ Ascension code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant at present

4. Owner of Property

name General and Mrs. O. J. Daigle

street & number 8241 Oak Street

city, town New Orleans *N/A* vicinity of state LA 70118

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ascension Parish Courthouse

street & number Houma Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 192

city, town Donaldsonville state LA 70346

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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

Tezcuco, a 1½ story, frame, Greek Revival plantation house, is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River near Burnside. It is set back from the River Road behind numerous oak trees (Photo 1). Except for the few alterations explained below, the residence retains its original c.1855 appearance on both the exterior and interior. Also included in the nomination as a contributing element is a contemporaneous Creole cottage which echoes the architecture of the main house.

The raised house is finished with flush board siding and rests on a stuccoed brick basement with similar piers under the galleries and porches. The tin-covered hip roof has gabled, pedimented dormers with entablatures and pilasters. The building block, which includes front and rear galleries, has an entablature and brackets with ball drop finials (Photo 2). Heavy square columns support these galleries, while ironwork in an elaborate grape and vine pattern is found on the two side porches (Photo #3). The same ironwork forms the railing on the front gallery (Photo 4). The central entrance has relatively simple side lights and a transom, but it is surrounded by pilasters topped by a heavy overdoor with an entablature (Photo 5). The glass panellled doors have muntins set in a Gothic pattern.

The relative simplicity of the exterior belies the luxurious detail of the interior. The cornices and friezes of the major rooms have moldings of an intricately foliated design (Photo 6). The doors, a number of which are faux boised (Photo 7), are surrounded throughout by battered, shoulder molded door surrounds with deep architraves (Photo 8). In addition, there are elaborate ceiling medallions (Photo 9) and three marble mantels with round arched openings and cartouches (Photo 10). Also noteworthy are the fifteen foot ceilings found throughout the house.

The plan of the house amounts to an enlarged and developed version of the traditional Creole plantation house plan. The traditional form has a hall-less plan, three rooms wide and one room deep with rear cabinets flanking a gallery. Tezcuco's plan is similar in concept, but is an enlarged and more complex lineal descendant. Small rooms exist where cabinets should be, but one of them is doubled. The space where the rear gallery should be is taken up by a long and impressive rear dining room. This complex plan is encompassed by a full front and rear gallery. Evidently the two side galleries were not originally planned for the house, but were added during construction. (See sketch of floor plan.)

The following alterations have been made:

- (1) In the late nineteenth century, the ends of the rear gallery were enclosed to form "cabinets." (Photo 11)
- (2) Circa 1955, a small room was added to the rear of each of the side porches in order to install modern bathrooms, a modern kitchen (housed in a sunporch) was added on the side porch on the upriver elevation, a vestibule entry to the basement was constructed next to the front steps, and the rear gallery was enclosed by inserting sheets of plywood between the columns (Photo 11).

Also included as a contributing element is a mid-nineteenth century, two-bay, briqueette-entre-poteaux Creole cottage (Photo 12). The entablature, columns, and

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Tezcuco

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

brackets on the gallery reflect the styling of the main house and indicate that it was constructed at the same time. The moldings on the door frames, which are similar to those on the doors of the late-nineteenth century "cabinets" of the main house, and the clapboarding on the facade, which suggests a construction date later in the nineteenth century, are probably replacements.

The boundaries are shown on the attached sketch map, and were drawn to include the plantation house, with its live oak setting, and the aforementioned contemporaneous Creole cottage which echoes the architecture of the main house. Also included, but as non-contributing elements, are a garage and shed, both of which are fairly nondescript and date from a much later period (Photo #13).

Assessment of Integrity:

Tezcuco's significance rests upon its size, its plan, and its details, as discussed in Item 8. These, of course, remain more or less intact. Additions to the plan are clearly discernible and do not obscure the original room layout.

The cottage has suffered no loss of integrity.

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 c.1855 **Builder/Architect** Built by I.T. Wood for Benjamin Tureaud

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Tezcuco is architecturally significant on a statewide level as a superior example of a Greek Revival plantation house. This can be seen in its plan, its size, and its elaborate and sophisticated detailing. Obviously it was the plantation house of a style-conscious prosperous planter.

The average surviving Greek Revival plantation house of this period in Louisiana is considerably smaller than Tezcuco and features front and rear galleries with simple, wooden columns and an entrance with a transom and side lights. If the interior features are intact, they probably include simple molded woodwork and wooden mantels.

Tezcuco is exceptional for the following reasons:

- (1) Its floor plan is more elaborate and developed than that of the typical plantation house of the period. (See Item 7 and sketch of floor plan.)
- (2) The fifteen foot ceilings give the rooms an unusual grandeur and spaciousness.
- (3) The interior features are remarkably intact and include elaborate moldings on the cornices and friezes, ceiling medallions, three marble mantels, faux bois doors, and battered door surrounds.
- (4) The extensive use of ironwork on the porches and front gallery is unusual.
- (5) The six dormers have more elaborate Greek Revival detailing than is commonly found.
- (6) While the Greek Revival influence is prevalent in the house (dormers, gallery, entrance and interior woodwork), the Italianate is also present in the somewhat heavier, more pronounced mantels, ceiling medallions, ironwork, and foliated plaster cornice work. This reveals a clear effort on the builder's part to incorporate the latest decorative elements, which did not gain general favor in Louisiana until after the Civil War, into a classic antebellum Greek Revival plantation house.

Historical Sketch:

Tezcuco was built c.1855 for Benjamin Tureaud. He was the grandson of Emanuel Rons Bringier, who built White Hall (no longer extant), and the son of Augustin Dominique Tureaud, who built Union Plantation House (no longer extant). The plantation remained in the Bringier-Tureaud family until 1950 when it was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Potts. The present owner obtained it in 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Glasgow, Vaughn. "Tezcucó Retains Ante-Bellum Charm." Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, July 31, 1966.
 Miscellaneous newspaper articles located in National Register files in Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge, LA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. .9 acre

Quadrangle name Donaldsonville, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A 1 5 7 0 1 3 2 0 3 3 3 3 2 9 0
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to 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 General and Mrs. O. J. Daigle

organization N/A

date June 1982

street & number 8241 Oak Street

telephone (504) 562-3929 or 865-9716

city or town New Orleans

state LA 70118

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

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 11, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Sandra McClelland

date 2/3/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrus*

date 3/3/83

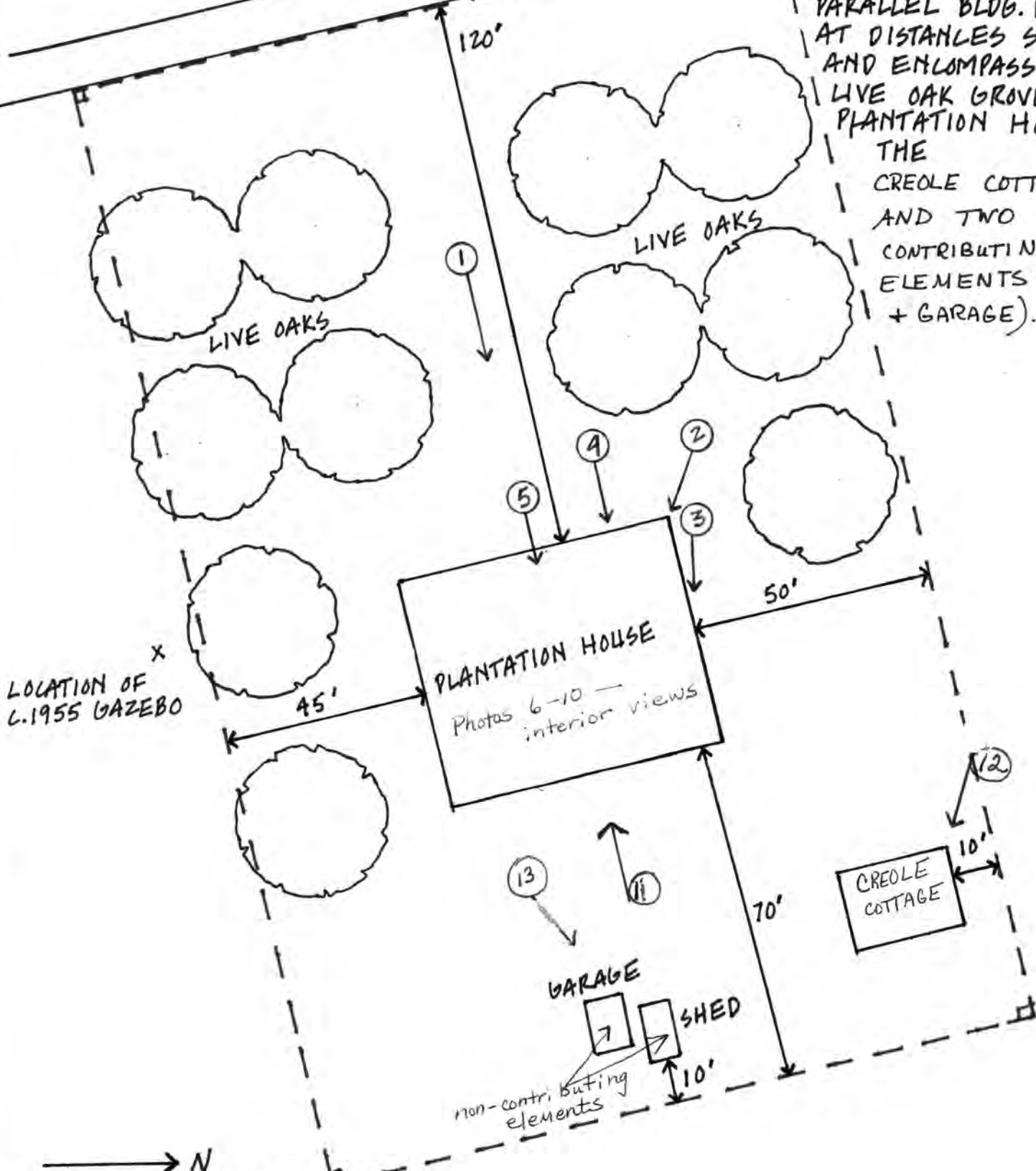
Chief of Registration

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

TEZCULO
BURNSIDE VICINITY, LOUISIANA

RIVER ROAD (RT. #44)

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES AT DISTANCES SHOWN, AND ENCOMPASS THE LIVE OAK GROVE, THE PLANTATION HOUSE, THE CREOLE COTTAGE, AND TWO NON-CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS (SHED + GARAGE).



LOCATION OF 6.1955 GAZEBO

PLANTATION HOUSE
Photos 6-10 - interior views

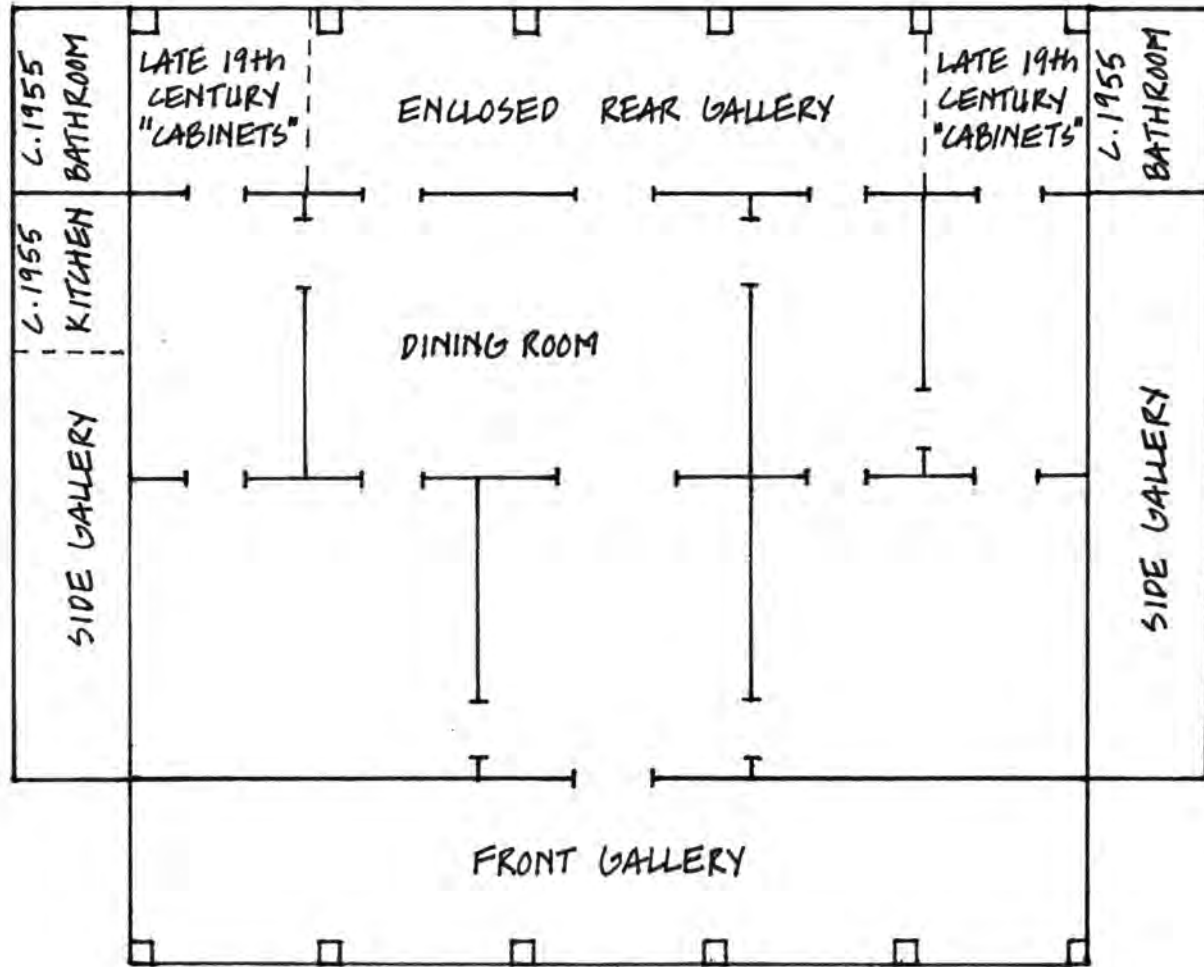
CREOLE COTTAGE

GARAGE SHED

non-contributing elements

→ N
SCALE 1"=30' APPROX.

TEZCUCO
FLOOR PLAN



SCALE 1" = 10' APPROX.



Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Northeast - front facade

Photo # 1



2
Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Southeast - entablature & brackets

Photo # 2



3

Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

East - side porch

Photo # 3



4

Tezcuco
Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana
Photographer: Jessica Kemm
Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge
Date taken: June 1982
Northeast - front gallery railing
Photo # 4



5
Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

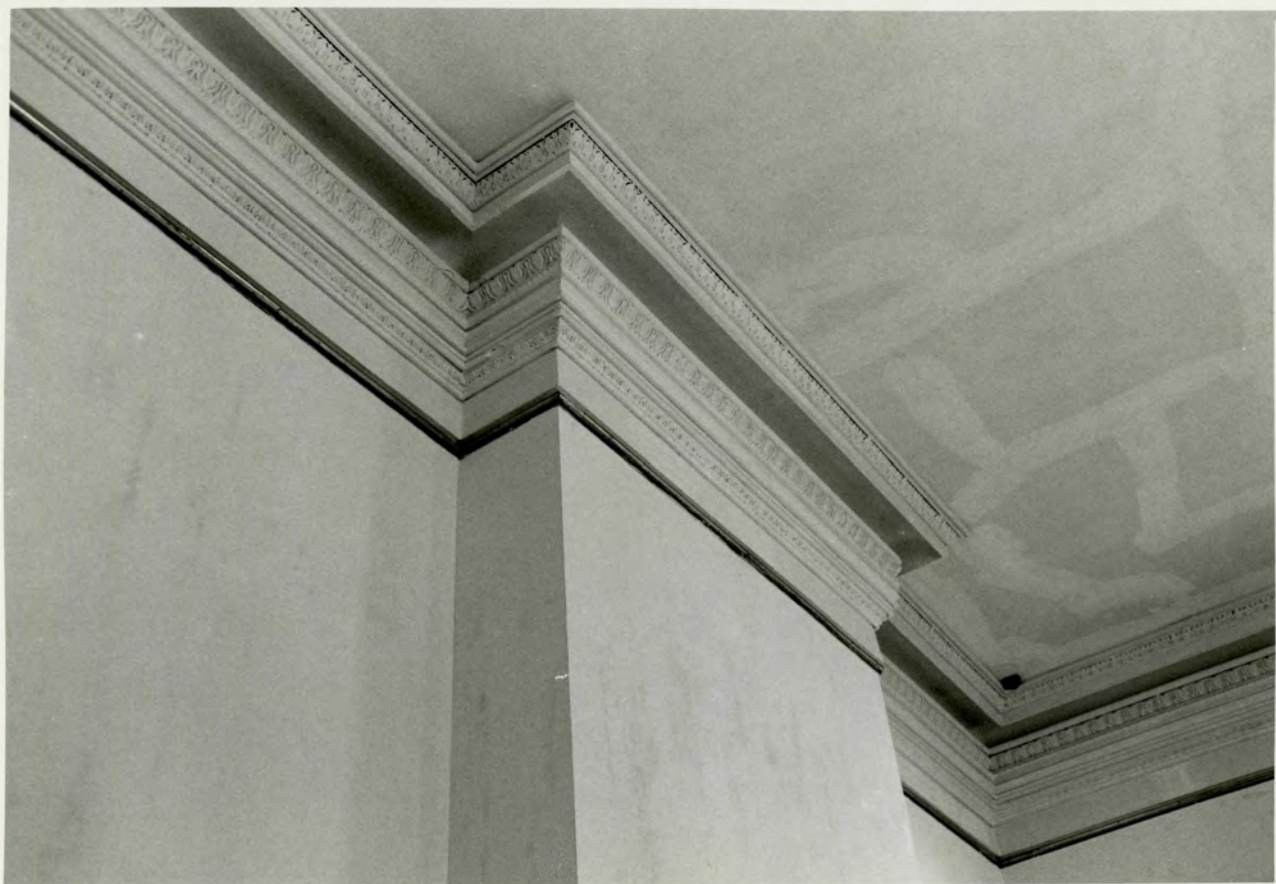
Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Northeast - front entrance

Photo # 5



6
Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Interior - cornice & freize

Photo # 6



7

Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Interior - faux bois door

Photo # 7



8
Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

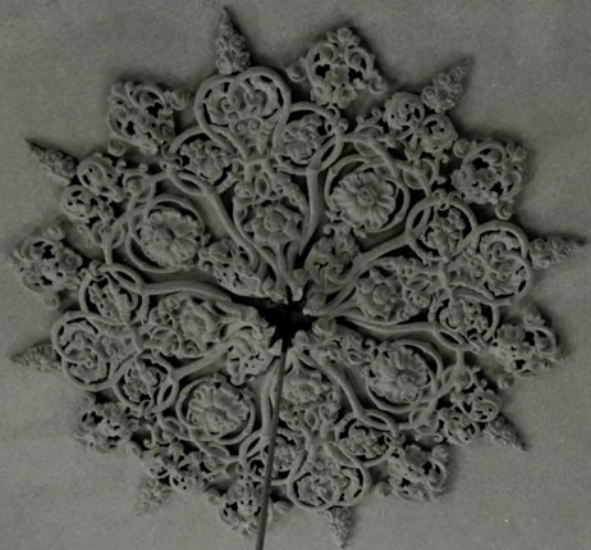
Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Interior - door detail

Photo # 8



9

Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Interior - ceiling medallion

Photo # 9



10

Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Interior - marble mantel

Photo # 10



Tezuco

Burnside vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: LA State Historic Preservation Office

Date taken: June 1982

West--rear elevation

Photo #11



Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

Date taken: June 1982

Southeast - Creole cottage

Photo # 12



13
Tezcuco

Burnside vic., Ascension Parish, Louisiana

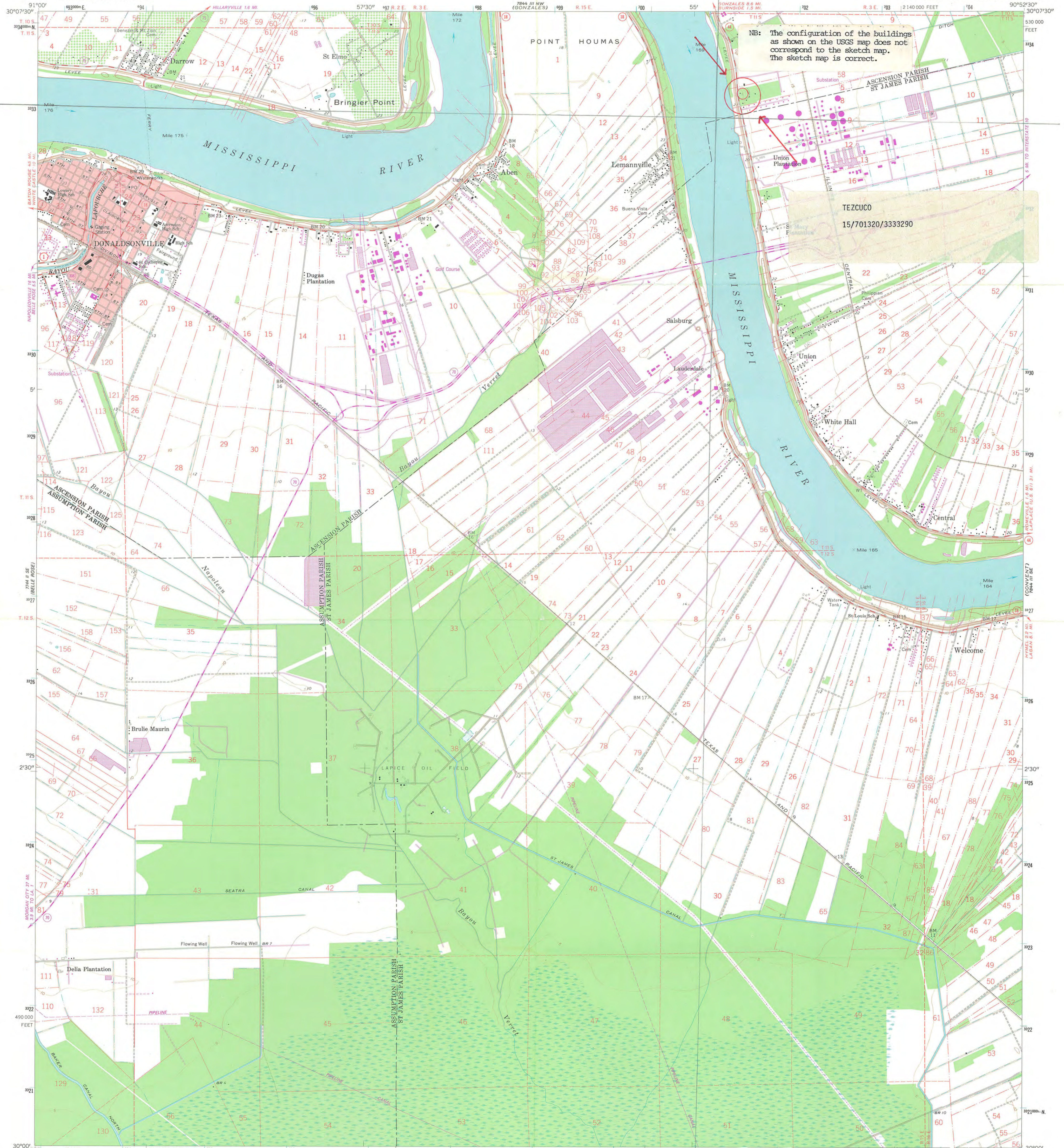
Photographer: Jessica Kemm

Neg. at: State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge

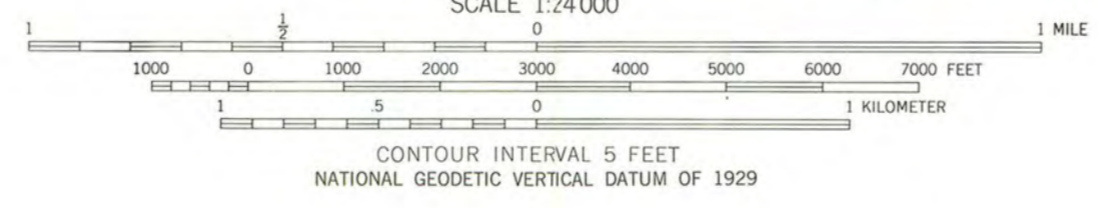
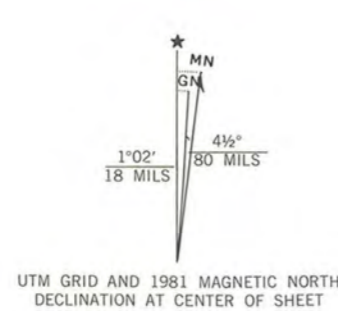
Date taken: June 1982

Northeast - garage & shed

Photo # 13



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey.
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Topography by planetable surveys 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Louisiana coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 19 meters south and
10 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
All or part of this quadrangle lies within a subsidence area



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978. Map edited 1981
This information not field checked

DONALDSONVILLE, LA.
SW/4 DONALDSONVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3000-W 9052.5/7.5
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7844 III SW-SERIES V885

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Ref. # 83000465

Tezcuco
Ascension Parish
LOUISIANA

Working No. JAN 17 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/17/83 - 3/3/83
Action: ACCEPT 3/3/83
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

of state level of significance for architecture

Recom. / Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Patrick Andrews
Discipline Historian
Date 3/3/83
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

- 1. Name
- 2. Location
- 3. Classification
Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition Accessible
- 4. Owner of Property
- 5. Location of Legal Description
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



DAVID C. TREEN
Governor

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. DeBLIEUX
Assistant Secretary

MRS. LAWRENCE H. FOX
Secretary

January 11, 1983

Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the completed and signed nomination
for for Tezcuco, Ascension Parish, with maps and photographs.

Please be advised that this property is being rehabilitated
under the 25% ITC provision of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

If any additional information is required, please contact
our office.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/JF/bc

Enclosure



National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Correspondence related to removal

Plantation home burns

Early morning fire destroys Tezcuco house

By **JOSH NOEL**
jnoel2theadvocate.com
 Advocate staff writer

DARROW -- As word spread that the 147-year-old Tezcuco plantation home near the banks of the Mississippi River was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, the calls began pouring in. It was hard to know what to say.

"It's the kind of thing that, until you see it, it just can't be described," Jan Clyburn, Tezcuco's operations manager, said Sunday afternoon.

Moments later, one of the people who had called -- Clyburn's 27-year-old daughter, a former Tezcuco employee -- walked up. She gasped, cried a little and hugged another former employee.

"Once you've worked here, it just becomes a part of your heart," said Clyburn as her 7-year-old grandson picked up pieces of slate from what used to be the building's roof.

The 4,500-square-foot house, the centerpiece of a former plantation that is now a bed and breakfast, was just a blackened skeleton after burning for more than 21/2 hours Sunday.

The rest of the 20-acre plantation -- including a dozen small cottages, two museums, a gift shop, a gazebo, a restaurant, a chapel, the office and dozens of 200-year-old oak trees -- were spared. So were a pair of metal hitching posts and a bell at what was the bottom of the stairs.

Tezcuco was a surviving piece of history beside the Mississippi River. The area, about 20 miles south of Baton Rouge, is dotted with spacious, newly constructed houses and sprawling refineries.



Advocate staff photo by Patrick Dennis

□ Members of the state fire marshal's investigative team rest Sunday afternoon in front of the ruins of the Tezcuco plantation home.

Gregory Greco, a state fire investigator, said the cause of the blaze has not been determined, but no scenarios have been ruled out. Most Tezcuco employees will be eagerly awaiting the result of the investigation.

"I just want to know that it was an accident," said Meg Madere, who led tours through the home.

Mike Lambert, chief of the volunteer Sorrento Fire Department, said more than 120 firefighters from nine departments battled the blaze, which began shortly before 3 a.m. Lambert said the fire was so intense that it melted the lights atop a fire truck more than 200 feet away.

He said firefighters spent an hour cooling the blaze with water cannons before trying to extinguish it with hand-held hoses.



Advocate photo by Tom McElroy
 □ Fire consumes the 147-year-old Tezcuco plantation house on La. 44 early Sunday morning. Two women were sleeping inside the building, a bed and breakfast, when the blaze began. They escaped uninjured. Investigators don't know what caused the fire.

"That old cypress wood burns extremely hot," he said.

Lambert, who spent more than 12 hours at the scene, said the single fire hydrant just south of the former plantation didn't provide enough water, so firefighters were forced to improvise. He said eight fire trucks shuttled 1,000 gallons of water a minute from a nearby aluminum plant while a fire brigade from a neighboring refinery pitched in.

Lambert said four firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion.

Two women from New York City who had recently attended a conference in New Orleans were sleeping inside the building's converted second-floor attic when the blaze began. Lambert said that after they were awakened by fire alarms, the women ran to their car and laid on the horn to rouse other guests.

Robbie and Angela Jenkins of Ruston, who were staying in the cottage directly behind the home, ran to their porch after hearing the horn.

"The house was just engulfed," Robbie Jenkins said. "Flames were leaping over the tops of the oak trees."

Robbie Jenkins' 31-year-old sister was married in front of Tezcuco on Saturday. On Sunday, his 26-year-old sister was to be married there as well.

The younger sister was married instead at the home of a nearby justice of the peace. The chairs for Sunday's wedding at the plantation -- some singed -- were still set up in front of the house.

"After seeing all the antiques and beautiful things in there, it's hard to believe it's gone," Robbie Jenkins said.

Dozens of locals showed up Sunday afternoon and stood against the plantation's white picket fence, shaking their heads and snapping photos.

Paul and Paige Robinson of Lutcher were married at Tezcuco on May 12, 2001. They had planned to visit Sunday on the occasion of their one-year anniversary to eat pieces of their wedding cake. After hearing about the fire, they ate the cake at home but still decided to make the drive.

"When I heard I thought, 'What are we going to show our children?'" said Paige Robinson. "You always want to go back and show them wherever you got married. It's gone."

The property's owner, Annette Harland, who bought the plantation in 1991, was visiting her mother Sunday in Michigan but has booked a flight to return home early, Clyburn said.

The Greek revival plantation house was completed in 1855 for Benjamin Tureaud, a veteran of the Mexican wars. It was named after a lake near Mexico City, where the Aztec ruler Montezuma fled to escape the Spanish conquistador Cortez, according to The Pelican Guide Plantation Homes of Louisiana. Tezcuco means "resting place" in the Aztec language.

The plantation was opened to the public and became a bed-and-breakfast in 1983, Clyburn said.



Advocate staff photo by Mark Saltz
 □ The Tezcuco plantation home in 1998. The building became a bed and breakfast in 1983 and has been a popular wedding spot.

Nancy Jensen, 56, is a member of the last family that lived in the home. She moved in the early 1950s when she was 5 and left when she was 24. She now lives in Baton Rouge.

Her father was a country doctor whose office, which stood between the house and La. 44, burned in the spring of 1969. As firefighters battled that blaze, she said, they also kept the trees wet so the house wouldn't also catch. She said the cause of the fire was never determined.

The last time Jensen saw Tezcuco was a year before her parents sold the building in the late 1970s. She said she never wanted to visit -- and she certainly won't now.

"I've always just wanted to remember it as it was," she said.

nps.gov National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Explore the History and Culture of
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
A NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES TRAVEL ITINERARY

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TEZCUCO

Please Note: Unfortunately, Tezcuco Plantation was completely destroyed by fire in May 2002. We have retained this page as a source of historical information.

Tezcuco was a one-story, frame, Greek Revival plantation house located on the east bank of the Mississippi River about a mile and a half south of Burnside. Except for a few alterations, the residence retained its original c.1855 appearance on both the exterior and interior, until destroyed by fire in 2002. The grounds also included a contemporaneous Creole cottage, which echoes the architecture of the main house. Tezcuco was built for Benjamin Tureaud around 1855. He was the grandson of Emanuel Bringier and the son of Augustin Dominique Tureaud, both plantation owners. The plantation remained in the Tureaud family until 1950 when Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Potts purchased it. The present owner obtained it in 1982 and restored Tezcuco and furnished it with antebellum antiques, some of which included pieces by the famous New Orleans cabinetmakers, Mallard and Seignouret. Tezcuco contained a number of details that

distinguish it as an exceptional example of the raised Creole cottage, including the ironwork in an elaborate grape and vine pattern found on the two side porches and of the railing on the front porch. The raised house rested on a stuccoed brick basement with similar piers under the galleries and porches. The hip roof had gabled, pedimented dormers with entablatures and pilasters.

Tezcuco's plan amounted to an enlarged and developed version of the traditional Creole plantation house plan. The traditional form has a hall-less plan, three rooms wide and one room deep with rear cabinets flanking a gallery. Tezcuco's plan was similar in concept, but was more enlarged. Its floor plan was more elaborate and developed than that of the typical

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Tezcuco-front entrance
Courtesy of Lagniappe Tours, Foundation for Historical Louisiana



Tezcuco's exterior extends to the restored landscape
Courtesy of Lagniappe Tours, Foundation for Historical Louisiana

plantation house of the period. The 15-foot ceilings gave the rooms an unusual grandeur and spaciousness. While the Greek Revival influence was prevalent in the house, the Italianate style was also present in the somewhat heavier, more pronounced mantels, ceiling medallions, ironwork and foliated plaster cornice work. Around 1955, a small room was added to the rear of each of the side porches in order to install modern bathrooms. A modern kitchen, housed in a sunporch, was added on the side porch on the upriver elevation. A vestibule entry to the basement was also constructed next to the front steps.

Tezcuco was located at 3138 State Hwy. 44 in Darrow.



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SEB





BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

October 19, 2018

Equilon Enterprises, LLC
PO Box 4369
Houston, TX 77210-0000

RE: Delisting of Tezcuco, Ascension Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to petition for the removal of the above referenced property from the National Register of Historic Places, a process known as delisting. This step is important as we strive to maintain an accurate record of properties in our state that are listed in the Register, still extant, and maintain integrity per National Register Criteria. In many cases, buildings were destroyed many years ago and the official delisting paperwork was not completed. We have made this task a priority for 2018. Per information from the Ascension Parish Tax Assessor, you are the current owner of the land where the listed resource once stood. As part of this process, we are required to notify the current owner of this action.

Tezcuco was listed on the National Register on 3/3/1983. According to the Federal National Register regulations [36 CFR 6-.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Per a 2002 newspaper article, the building was destroyed by fire and is no longer standing. Because the building, and its qualities that caused it to have been listed, are destroyed, this property will be proposed for removal from the National Register. The final delisting decision will be made by the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service.

The regulations [36 CFR 60.15 (g)] require that the property's owner be given an opportunity to comment and the chief elected official notified of the proposed action. If you choose to comment, please respond via letter by **November 26, 2018** to the following address:

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

If you have questions concerning the delisting petition or any other National Register issue, please contact National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson, by email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov, or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Sanders".

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
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RICHARD H. HARTLEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

October 19, 2018

Kenny Matassa, Parish President
Ascension Parish Government
PO Box 1659
Gonzales, LA 70707

RE: Delisting of Tezcuco, Ascension Parish, LA

Dear Parish-President Matassa:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to petition for the removal of the above referenced property from the National Register of Historic Places, a process known as delisting. This step is important as we strive to maintain an accurate record of properties in our state that are listed in the Register, still extant, and maintain integrity per National Register Criteria. In many cases, buildings were destroyed many years ago and the official delisting paperwork was not completed. We have made this task a priority for 2018.

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The regulations [36 CFR 60.15 (g)] also require that the property's owner be given an opportunity to comment and the chief elected official notified of the proposed action. If you choose to comment, please respond, via letter by **November 26, 2018** to our office.

Kristin P. Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

If you have questions concerning the delisting petition or any other National Register issue, please contact National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson, by email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov, or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin P. Sanders".

Kristin P. Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer

They are:

delist

- Gracelane Plantation, East Baton Rouge: my initial hunch is this site is likely far too disturbed to remain eligible under D; it's the site of a new neighborhood at 14444 Perkins Rd in Baton Rouge. It was where Ruelle De Grace Dr is. I think this one is pretty straight forward. From what I can tell, it was subdivided in 2003. There are no existing site forms associated with this site.

If there has been no investigation of the property, there is no way to assess eligibility. It can certainly be delisted for the structure, but nothing can be said whether an archaeological component exists or not. And even if a site form exists, the level of investigation often does not provide sufficient data for our office to make a recommendation of eligibility. IN those instances, we consider the archaeological component "undetermined" and requiring further work before a determination of eligible or ineligible can be made.

- Acadia Plantation, Lafourche: Building was torn down in 2014. Site has had one new house built to the southeast of the original house, but a large piece of the land is still open as it was historically. I imagine there was some site disturbance but not sure how much is too much, etc. I didn't see anywhere on the site form that said it is eligible under D or not (the NRHP eligibility database just says listed b/c the house technically still is)

Based on what is stated in the NRHP form, I would consider the archaeological site(s) to be eligible under D. they found sufficient intact deposits in several places back then; whether they still exist today is unknown, but based on available data, we would assume parts of the site are eligible.

*delist house, look at keeping listed under D
- figure out research questions*

- Land's End Plantation, DeSoto: No site form associated with this site; house burned in 1989. There were ruins still there at least in 2006. I have one name I can try to contact to see if the site has been disturbed.

Like for Gracelane, no archaeological investigation so no assessment is possible.

delist

- St. Maurice Plantation, Winn: No site forms associated with this site; house burned down in 1981 and chimneys and a foundation remained; it now appears that all of that is gone as well based on the current property description of "marked by a rock." It's a heavily wooded area.

delist

See Gracelane and Land's End

- **Tezcuco Plantation**, Ascension: site form 16AN30 – says the site is disturbed and that there is no research potential. House burned in 2002 and foundation and chimneys remain as well as oak allee. 16AN31 also covers the area where the house was and site form says Monroe Plantation. 16AN31 says unknown research potential and notes disturbance. This would make me think it can't say listed under D.

delist

The specific data for Tezcuco is that it is currently undetermined for its archaeological eligibility. The one recent site form only addresses the location of a cell tower which is only a small part of the site. There hasn't been any good systematic survey and testing of the house grounds to assess eligibility.

delist

- Darby Plantation, Iberia: 16IB120 – said it was highly vandalized at the time in 1976 (house burned in 1979 just before a rehab project started), form says that the site was potentially significant at the time, but didn't have a recommendation. It is now a golf course with houses and such so I'd err towards too disturbed to be archaeologically significant for NR.

Like the others, we don't have enough archaeological data to assess its eligibility.

Based on what I know about the NR and Criterion D, there needs to have been some sort of actual excavation done at the site or even shovel tests that have revealed any sort of importance, which is documented through site forms. So for those above that have been disturbed or do not have any site work associated with them, they would not be individually eligible under D. Would you concur on that? If at a later date, site work was done and artifacts found, they could potentially be relisted at a later date.

You are correct that there has to be some level of survey and then test excavations (in most cases) for a determination of eligibility to be made. In those cases where we lack those investigations, our office does not make an eligibility assessment other than to say "undetermined" (i.e., needing work to make an assessment). For these properties, they can certainly be delisted if the original nomination was based principally on the structure; it appears in most cases that the archaeology was not considered a contributing element to the nomination. The one exception is Acadia, where there has been enough work to recommend the archaeological component of the site eligible.

Thoughts? Advice? Am I on the right track in thinking these are all not eligible under D? I wanted to at least get your input before starting the paperwork.

Thanks!

Jessica

Jessica G. Richardson, MSHP

National Register Coordinator

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation I PO Box 44247 I Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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RICHARD H. HARTLEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 11, 2018

James Gabbert
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C., 20240



RE: Delisting of Tezcuco, Ascension Parish, LA

Dear Mr. Gabbert:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to delist the above property from the National Register of Historic Places. Originally listed on the Register on 3/3/1983. A 2002 newspaper article confirms that the building was destroyed by fire and is no longer standing. Per 36 CFR 60, Sec. 60.15 (a)(1), we are requesting that the above property be officially delisted based on the fact that the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been destroyed. We have included several articles to support this claim. We have also included an email with comments from our state archaeologist about whether the property has archaeological significance.

We have notified the property owner and the chief elected official and have included copies of those letters with this submission. No responses were received.

If you have any questions concerning our request, please contact our National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson via email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/17/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date Jan 31, 2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.