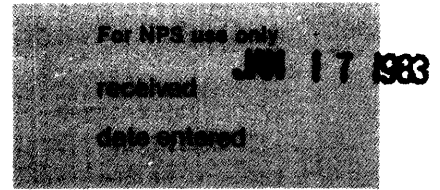


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Tezcuco

and/or common Same

2. Location S of Burnside on,

street & number S River Road (no specific address) N/A not for publication

city, town Burnside vicinity X 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 type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <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 X no

date 1982 ___ federal X 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date <u> N/A </u> |

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 paneled 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, brique-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**



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/ 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.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. "Tezcuco 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

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .9 acre

Quadrangle name Donaldsonville, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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

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

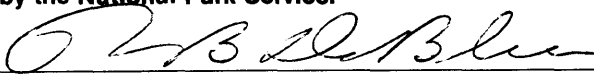
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 January 11, 1983

For NPS use only

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



Specialist of the National Register

date 3/3/83

Attest: 

Chief of Registration

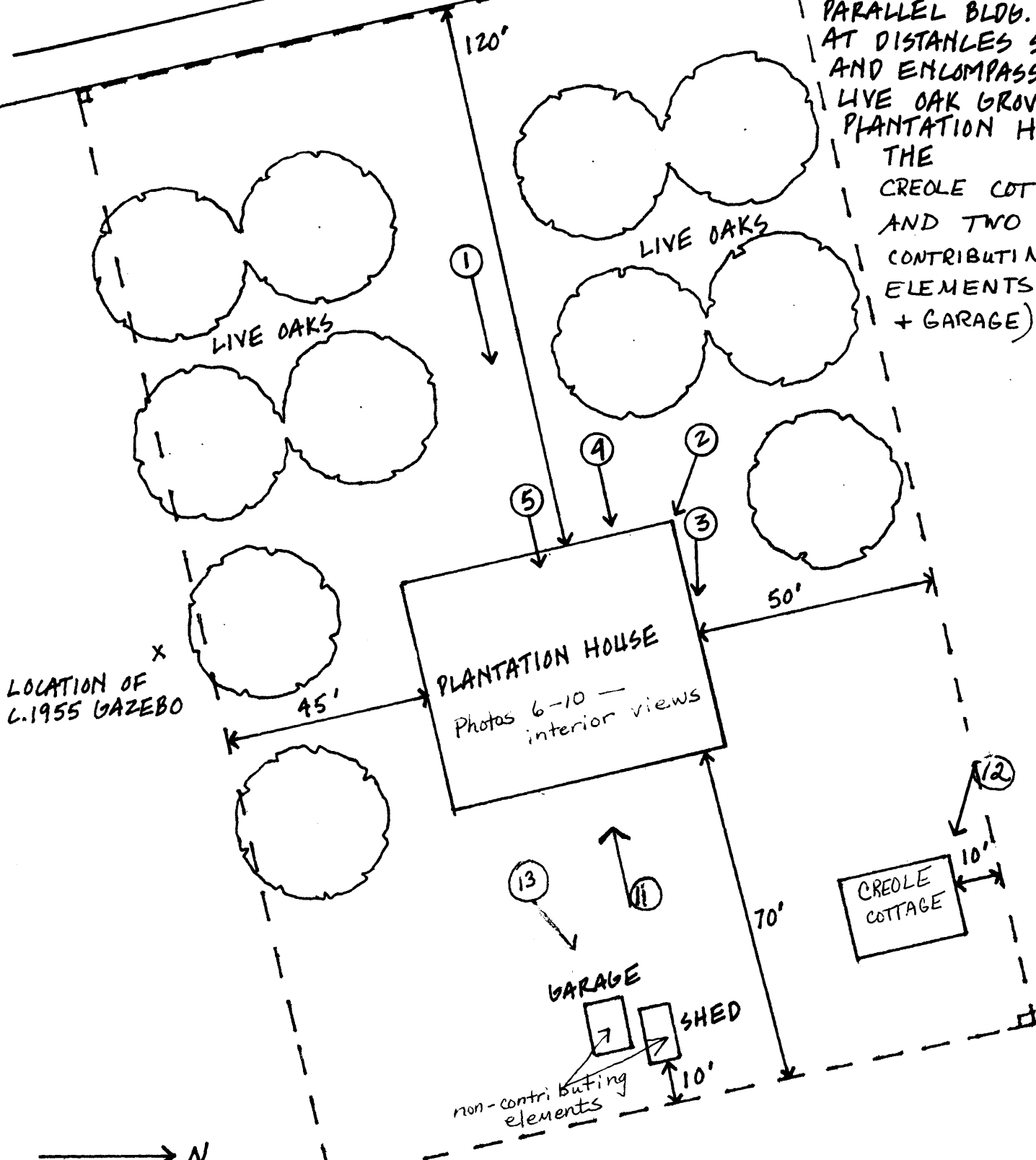
date 3/3/83

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

TEZCUCO
BURNSIDE VICINITY, LOUISIANA

RIVER ROAD (RT. #44)

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



LOCATION OF C.1955 GAZEBO

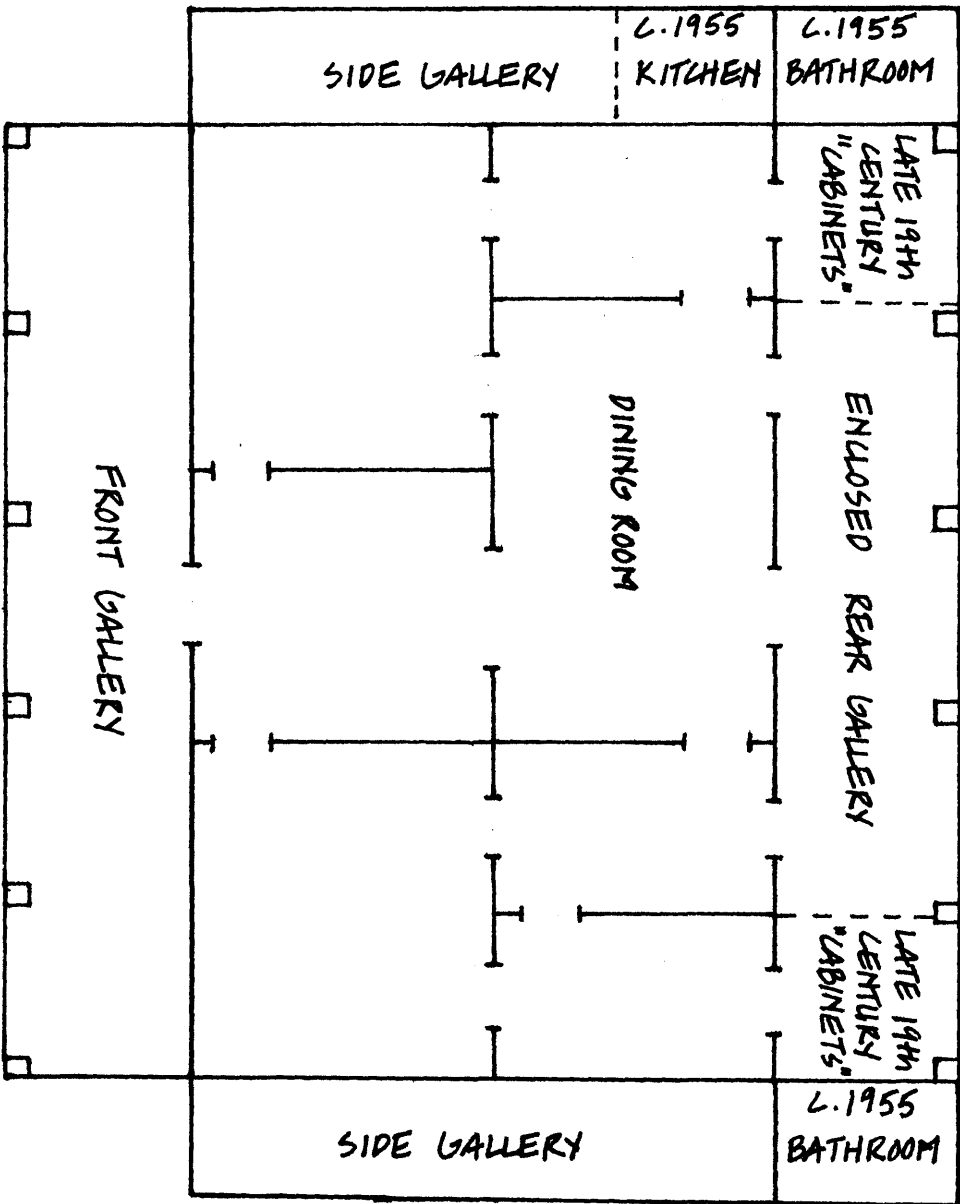
PLANTATION HOUSE
Photos 6-10 - interior views

CREOLE COTTAGE

GARAGE
SHED
non-contributing elements

→ N
SCALE 1"=30' APPROX.

TEZCULO
FLOOR PLAN



SCALE 1" = 10' APPROX.