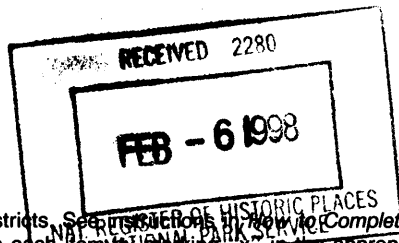


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LaFleur House

other names/site number Maison LaFleur

2. Location

street & number 753 Hwy. 748 N/A not for publication

city or town Grand Prairie vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Landry code 097 zip code 70586

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Jon Fricker 1/29/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 3.5.98

LaFleur House
Name of Property

St. Landry Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLaFleur House, St. Landry Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The LaFleur House is a French Creole cottage of *bousillage* construction located in a rural setting near the small community of Grand Prairie. The house is set back from Louisiana Highway 748, with its rear facing the road. The front looks toward Bayou Carron, which is several hundred feet in the distance. The side and rear elevations of the house are sheathed in weatherboards, while the facade has a plaster finish below a chair rail and flush boards above. Although the LaFleurs occupied the land in question in the 1780s, and family tradition indicates that part of the house dates to this period, the architectural evidence is inconclusive. For the purposes of this nomination, a date of c.1830 will be used for the house one sees today. The most noteworthy alterations since construction have been a late-nineteenth century addition and the replacement of the front porch columns.

The LaFleur House has various important French Creole features. Its hall-less floorplan consists of two rooms in the front and three across the back. Although one is tempted to think of the rear rooms as the type of *cabinet-loggia* range typical of French Creole cottages, the middle room is very narrow in relationship to the size of the end rooms. As noted above, the house is of *bousillage* construction. The walls are very irregular (rather than the more typical fairly smooth walls). They were meant to be plastered over and are presently being re-plastered as part of an in-progress rehabilitation project. Because some of the rooms are not yet re-plastered, it is possible to see the steep angle braces reflecting the French joinery tradition. Other French Creole features include exposed ceiling beams on all the rooms and the front gallery and a central chimney with a mantel that wraps around the flue in the French fashion. The rather homemade-looking mantel has molding profiles typical of the 1840s. Typically, a central chimney would have had a mantel on each side. Because this one does not, it lends some credence to the notion that one of the front rooms is the original house on the site, although it is not conclusive. The front room not serviced by the central chimney has an interior chimney on its end wall with the remains of a simple mantel. Other features of note include six over six windows with the upper sash fixed in place, a chair rail on the front gallery and in the two front rooms, and beaded board shutters and doors with strap hinges on all facade openings. The facade openings consist of a window and door for each room.

Also of interest is the staircase on the front porch, a feature typically seen on Acadian style houses where the attic was inhabited. (Acadian houses have been identified as a subtype of the French Creole tradition.) However, the attic at the LaFleur House is unfinished. One, of course, can only speculate, but perhaps the builder intended to use the attic and hence built a staircase to access it. The present staircase has been modified over the years. Some of it appears

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaFleur House, St. Landry Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 2

to be very old, while other parts do not.

Alterations since construction include:

(1) At some point fairly early in the house's history its side and rear elevations were fitted with new weatherboards (as evidenced by the relationship between the window frames and the boards). This occurred sometime before c.1880 because square nails were used.

(2) The house received a board and batten kitchen addition to the side in the late-nineteenth century.

(3) When the present owner acquired the house within the last year the original columns were gone, and the replacements were beyond repair. The present ones are simple wood posts.

(4) Some of the gallery ceiling beams are beaded and some are not, which is very unusual. One wonders if some of the beams (the unbeaded ones) are replacements.

(5) Simple wooden shutters have been fabricated to cover the windows on the side and rear elevations.

(6) Originally the two wooden double leaf doors on the facade would have protected glazed French doors. The French doors were no longer there when the present owner acquired the house.

Assessment of Integrity:

The two integrity issues are the kitchen addition and the porch column replacement. The former, of course, is a historic addition (late-nineteenth century). Importantly, it is set back, and the Creole cottage is clearly dominant. In regard to the columns, while clearly not original, they are at least simple, low-key replacements. In any event, the important point is that the LaFleur House retains a wealth of Creole features and early details, as explained above.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1830

Significant Dates

c. 1830

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

LaFleur House
Name of Property

St. Landry Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
---	---

5	8	0	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	9	4	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting

Northing

3

--	--

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

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

Zone Easting

Northing

4

--	--

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1997

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John A. LaFleur II

street & number 753 Hwy. 748 telephone 318-363-0273 (h)
318-826-5008 (w)

city or town Washington state LA zip code 70586

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLaFleur House, St. Landry Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1
9 1

The LaFleur House is of local architectural significance because it is one of relatively few surviving French Creole houses in a parish where once they would have been quite numerous. It is particularly important because of its *bousillage* construction and because it is a typical small-to-medium French Creole house.

The region where the LaFleur House is located is one of Louisiana's earliest settled areas. The parish of St. Landry was one of the state's original parishes, having been established in 1807. And, like the rest of southern Louisiana, St. Landry, of course, was settled by the French. French Creole houses would have been the norm from the colonial period through roughly the 1830s and 1840s. In the later years of this period, the tradition was being influenced and in some cases supplanted by the American Greek Revival.

Given the foregoing, it is clear that St. Landry Parish, for example, in about 1850 would have been a showcase of French Creole architecture, with examples numbering in the hundreds. And while St. Landry today is known for a handful of French Creole landmarks, the actual number of buildings remaining to represent this native tradition is rather small, especially when one considers the number that once existed. As is typical in the state, the vast majority of St. Landry's historic buildings date from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. A "high probability area" survey of the parish combined with Louisiana SHPO staff knowledge reveals that there are probably less than 20 to 25 French Creole houses remaining in St. Landry. (This number does not include seriously altered examples or late-nineteenth century cottages that have an overall Creole shape and maybe a detail or two.) Of these survivors to represent the parish's earliest architectural tradition, the LaFleur House is noteworthy because of its *bousillage* construction, which was once the norm in rural French Louisiana. Also, it is important as an example of a typical small-to-medium size Creole house -- a type that has tended not to survive as well as larger examples. The LaFleur House, along with a few others of its size, enables the parish to illustrate the full range of French Creole architecture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic Structures Survey, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaFleur House, St. Landry Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description: Boundary lines parallel the house's four elevations, each at a distance of 100 feet.

Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the house and its immediate setting. To have followed property lines would have meant including over one hundred acres, much of which is dense woodland.