

1064

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 1

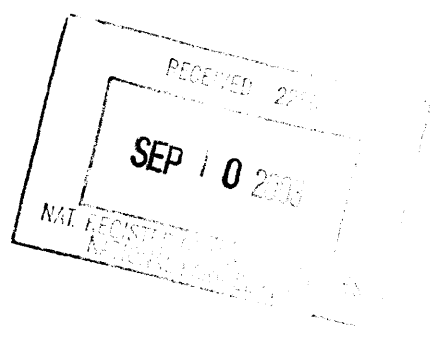
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Pegram Plantation House

Other Name/Site Number:



2. LOCATION

Street & Number 881 Chickamaw Rd.

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Lecompte

Vicinity: X

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Rapides Parish Code: 079

Zip Code: 71346

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: ___ Statewide: ___ Locally: X

Joe Frick
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Deputy SHPO
Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

9/9/03
Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

10/24/03
Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Non contributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current: work in progress (for use as single dwelling)

Sub:

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Greek Revival

Materials:

Foundation: brick

Walls: weatherboard

Roof: asphalt

Other:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Located in a rural setting on Bayou Boeuf near the small town of Lecompte, the Pegram Plantation House is a one story galleried wood frame residence in the Greek Revival style. Based upon the molding profiles, the house is being dated to c.1850. The well preserved residence retains almost all of its Greek Revival details on both the exterior and interior.

The house has the standard central hall with two rooms on each side, but also has a small room at each rear corner which extends beyond the main core. A broad hipped roof encompasses a gallery that spans the façade and then continues down the sides to end at the aforementioned small rooms. The small rooms each have their own door opening onto the gallery. Simple boxed Doric pillars feature molded capitals. They have an unusual configuration at each corner -- almost as if two pillars abutted -- see photo. The gallery's entablature is paneled on the interior.

The many openings onto the gallery are either doors, six-over-nine sliphead windows (façade), or six-over-six windows. Their surrounds feature a handsome cornice with a cove molding and a pediment shaped top (be it ever so slightly). The central hall's front and rear entrances have the typical transom and side light treatment. The front side lights are unusual in that they are filled with red and green glass (some replaced).

The quite generously proportioned hallway is notable for its fully developed Greek Revival door surrounds. Each has pilasters with molded capitals, a smooth entablature, and a cornice with cyma reversa molding (but no pediment shape to the top). The same surrounds can be found in the home's two formal rooms: on the pocket doors between the two rooms, the doorways leading into the hall, and a shallow cupboard in the rear room. Openings elsewhere in the house are either plain or feature a fairly heavy molding profile. All of the original four panel doors survive; they too have a fairly heavy molding. The two surviving wooden mantels (also heavily molded) are typical of the period. They feature pilasters with molded capitals and bases, a smooth entablature with a pronounced cornice, and a plain mantel shelf. The home also retains its original high baseboards in the four main rooms. Windows in the two most formal spaces feature molded panels below.

The Pegram Plantation House has received the following modifications since construction:

- 1) The loss of the original balustrade.
- 2) The central hall's wainscot, with its medium gauge boards and heavily molded top, seems out of character for the space. Undoubtedly it dates from a later period (late 19th century).
- 3) There have been two additions. One is a small bathroom off a rear room. Spanning the rear elevation is a fairly shallow addition under its own hipped roof (partly enclosed; partly glassed in). The architectural evidence indicates there was never a rear gallery. (The entablature extends across the rear of the house above a clapboarded wall.) There are three original doors on the rear (including the central hall); they had to have stepped out onto something. One suspects there were small stoops for each door.
- 4) Some of the column shafts have been replaced.
- 5) The interior has been modernized with plywood paneling and tile ceilings (but not dropped). These cosmetic alterations will be removed as part of an in-progress restoration by new owners.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 5

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

- 6) The two surviving chimneys have been removed at the roofline and two chimneys and mantelpieces have been lost.
- 7) Two small closets have been added (by furring out into the rooms).

Assessment of Integrity:

There are no integrity issues. With the exception of two mantels, the house retains all of its abundant Greek Revival character-defining details.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C X D__

Criteria Considerations NA (Exceptions): A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1850

Significant Dates: c.1850

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Pegram Plantation House is a superior Greek Revival residence among a limited number of examples surviving in Rapides Parish, a large area that once would have had many more.

On the eve of the Civil War Rapides Parish was about twice as large as it is today. It consisted of approximately 2800 square miles and possessed some of the richest cotton and sugar producing land in Louisiana. The 1860 census shows eighty-nine major slaveholdings in the parish, with only six involving absentee owners. (Major slaveholdings are defined as fifty or more slaves.) The average size of a slaveholding was 125, which was the highest in the state. Then there were numerous holdings of less than fifty. Of course, some of the best land was along the parish's various waterways, including Red River and bayous Boeuf and Rapides.

Given the foregoing developmental patterns, it is clear that there must have been over 100 plantation houses in Rapides Parish on the eve of the Civil War, most of which would have been in the wildly popular Greek Revival style. In addition, the parish seat of Alexandria would have had various examples of the style. But today there are only about a dozen in present-day Rapides Parish that retain sufficient integrity to convey their original character. (For the record, even if one took into consideration the larger area that made up Rapides in 1860, the number would be only one or two higher. The portions of the parish that were carved away in the late nineteenth century did not have much settlement prior to the Civil War.)

Surprisingly, given the obvious wealth of the area, all evidence points to Rapides planters building on a rather modest scale for the most part. Exceptions are Kent House (French Creole), Walnut Grove (Federal), and Lloyd Hall (Greek Revival-Italianate). Of the roughly dozen Greek Revival survivors, all but Lloyd Hall are galleried one story wood frame homes comparable in size to the candidate, or smaller. Most of these are quite simply detailed (i.e., plain mantels, plain door and window frames with no cornices, shoulder molds, etc.). The parish's most impressive Greek Revival woodwork is found at the candidate, China Grove (which has lost much of its original exterior character), Hardtimes Plantation House, Inglewood Plantation House, and Lloyd Hall (the latter being transitional Greek Revival/Italianate). As a particularly well-preserved, particularly good expression of the rural Greek Revival taste within Rapides Parish, Pegram Plantation House easily meets Criterion C at the local level.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 8

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rapides Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- ___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
___ 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other (Specify Repository):

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 9

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 7.78 acres

UTM References: **Zone** **Easting** **Northing**
 15 554420 3440480

Verbal Boundary Description:

Legal property description: A certain piece, parcel or tract of land, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and all rights, ways and privileges thereto appertaining, being, lying and situated in Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 1 West, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commence at a 1/2 inch iron rod in the southwest corner of Lot 7 of Louisa Carnal Partition as depicted on that plat of survey recorded at Conveyance Book II, Page 394, records of Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Thence proceed South 60°45'13" West a distance of 7,545.13 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the tract described herein.

From said POINT OF BEGINNING proceed South 27°39'40" East a distance of 400.56 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod; then proceed South 61°45'33" West a distance of 914.32 feet to a point lying on the eastern bank of Bayou Boeuf; thence North 02°49'00" West a distance of 36.61 feet; thence North 21°16'02" West a distance of 109.19 feet; thence North 01°01'59" East a distance of 25.22 feet; thence North 09°43'11" West a distance of 180.58 feet; thence North 20°56'50" West a distance of 52.02 feet to a set railroad spike; thence proceed North 60°45'13" East a distance of 813.22 feet back to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said tract of land being depicted as Tract 1 on a Plat of Survey by Willis Engineering, Inc., dated December 16, 2002, containing 7.783 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow current property lines. Pegram Plantation has been subdivided over the years; hence it is impossible to follow historic property lines.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Pegram Plantation House, Rapides Parish, LA

Page 10

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: July 2003

PROPERTY OWNERS

James C. and Maureen S. Downs
881 Chickamaw Road
Lecompte, LA 71346