

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 0 1995  
date entered MAY 9 1990

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

1. Name

historic Clarendon Plantation House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number one mile west of Evergreen on LA 29 N/A not for publication

city, town Evergreen X vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Avoyelles Parish code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Estate of Charles O'Brien, Jr.

c/o Richard F. O'Brien

street & number Route 1, Box 65

city, town Bunkie X vicinity of state LA 71322

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Avoyelles Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address)

city, town Marksville state LA 71351

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

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

Clarendon was built in 1842 and enlarged in 1890. It is a two story Greek Revival plantation house located in a flat rural setting about one mile west of the small community of Evergreen. Despite a few alterations, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility.

Clarendon is typical of early Louisiana plantation houses in that the lower story is constructed of common bond brick while the upper (principal) story is constructed of wood. The original five bay pitched roof portion of the house has a central hall plan, two rooms deep, with a wide front gallery. There is also a single chimney at each end. The exterior detailing is simple with a plain flush board front and six over six windows. There is only the suggestion of an entablature on the front gallery. The central hall of the main story is entered through double doors with a transom and side lights. Each door features a single raised panel. The hall is plastered and features pegboards along the walls and a wainscot of horizontal boards. The major rooms have simple chair rails and heavily proportioned low-key Adams mantels. Each mantel has a shelf formed of planks set one on top of another in a manner similar to corbeling. The lower story has fireplaces, but is unornamented. Presumably it had a dirt or brick floor at one time, but now the floors are concrete.

Clarendon was substantially enlarged in 1890. The original form was extended to the east, which created a very long galleried building. Unlike the original house, the addition was built entirely of wood. Most of the detailing on the addition is fairly standard late nineteenth century stock and not worthy of note. However, one aspect is very interesting. The addition on both floors incorporates a wide dogtrot corridor which is set between the original rooms and the 1890 rooms. Evidently when Clarendon was enlarged all of the upper gallery columns on the original house were replaced to match the new ones on the addition. These 1890 columns are plain square posts with simple box capitals. In all likelihood they are very similar to the original columns. In addition, they continue the rural Greek Revival style of the original house. Evidently the present rear gallery was part of the 1890 enlargement.

Since 1890 the following noteworthy changes have occurred in the house;

- (1) The rear and east galleries have been partially enclosed,
- (2) The 1890 front gallery stairs have been replaced,
- (3) The 1890 rear gallery has deteriorated and is sagging,
- (4) The lower dogtrot has been enclosed with windows and doors,

In our opinion these changes should be regarded as minor given the amount of surviving historic fabric. In any case, the house still retains the features which contribute to its architectural significance (see Item 8).

Clarendon retains two 50+ year old outbuildings which are listed as contributing elements because they help establish its identity as a plantation house,

## 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** 1842;1890      **Builder/Architect** 1842 builder; Jonathan Koen

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

Clarendon is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is of outstanding importance in the architectural heritage of Avoyelles Parish. It is a fine local example of the domestic Greek Revival and represents an unusual use of a well-known vernacular house type.

The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey has recorded 812 buildings in Avoyelles Parish. Most of these are historic structures which either reflect the Victorian era or later styles such as bungalow or Colonial Revival. Many, of course, are vernacular buildings that are hardly styled at all. There is very little pre-Victorian (i.e., Greek Revival and Federal period) architecture left in the parish. According to the survey, Avoyelles Parish contains only eleven mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival residences. (This figure does not include plain "carryover" Greek Revival buildings which date from the post-Civil War period.) Most of the eleven examples are single story cottages, although some are quite large. Clarendon is the only one which is a full two stories high. Hence it has a certain monumentality which other examples lack. Despite the fact that the upper gallery columns date from a later period, Clarendon still retains its form, its mantels, its Greek Revival front doorway, its wainscoting, and all the other relevant details. In addition, the replacement columns continue the original architectural tone of the house. So Clarendon still portrays its original rural Greek Revival style very well.

Clarendon is also significant as an example of the use of the dogtrot vernacular form. Open dogtrot corridors, such as the one on the principal story, are relatively rare in Louisiana.\* Most dogtrot houses have had their corridors enclosed. In addition, the dogtrot building convention is very unusual in a large plantation house, being normally associated with single story farmhouses.

\*The state staff does not feel that it has the survey data to make a well-documented case for the dogtrot aspect of Clarendon on the state level. The fact that it appears to be very unusual in the state definitely qualifies it as a noteworthy feature in the parish.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey, Avoyelles Parish,

Historical sketch submitted by owner. Copy in Register file,

La Commission des Avoyelles, Avoyelles: Crossroads of Louisiana, Baton Rouge: Moran Publishing Company, 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1 acre

Quadrangle name Bunkie, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	8	3	1	5	0	3	4	2	4	3	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries follow property lines. See attached property plat map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff  
Division of Historic Preservation  
organization State of Louisiana

Assisted by Carlos Mayeux, President,  
La Commission des Avoyelles, PUB 26,  
Hamburg, LA 71339 (318-253-5982)

date January 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

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  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 March 28, 1985

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-9-85

Keeper of the National Register

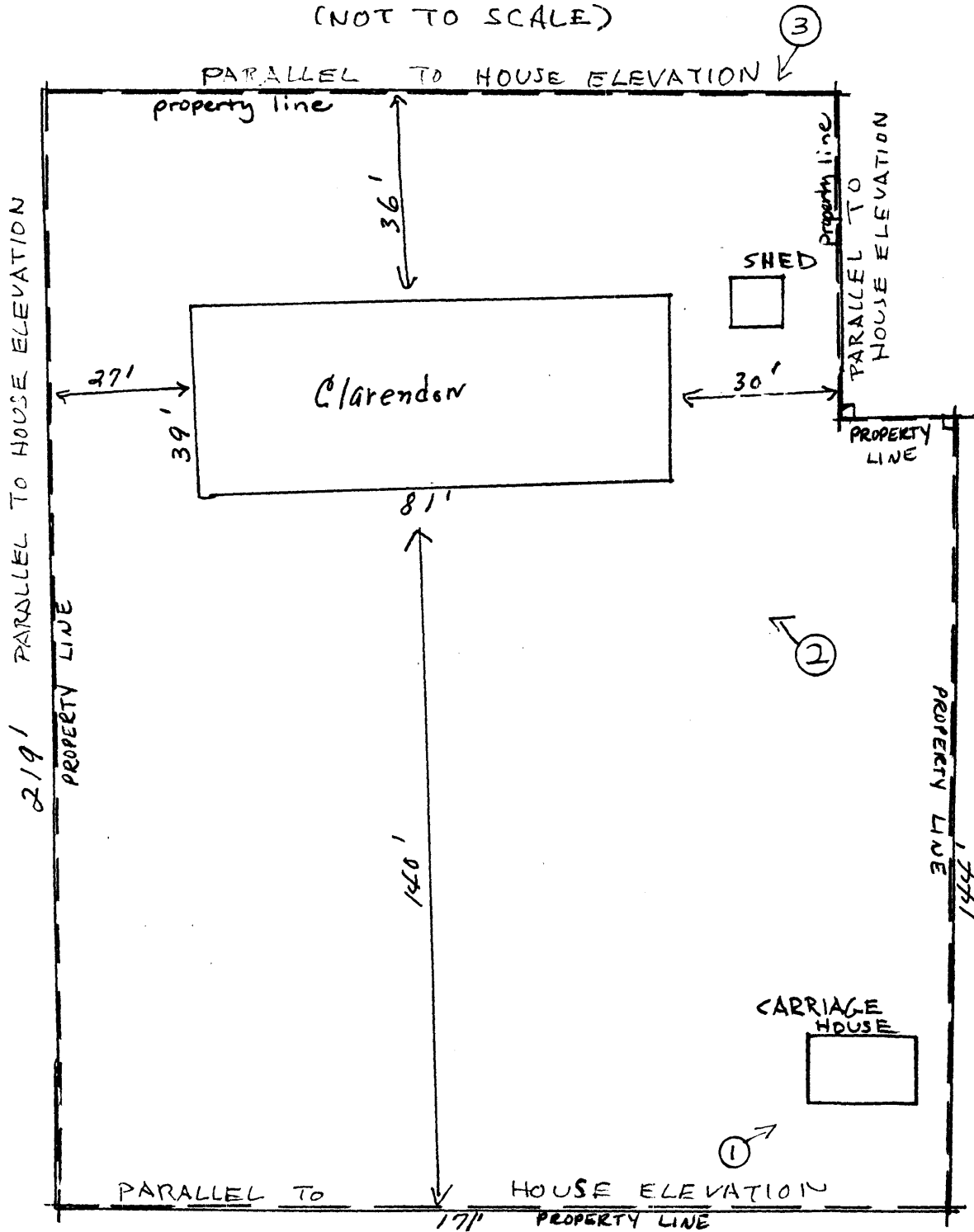
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

Plat

# CLARENDON AVOUELLES PARISH, LA.

(NOT TO SCALE)



To Evergreen } ← E

LA Hwy 29

→ W (To Bunkie)

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BOUNDARY