

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 6 1979

**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 Robert H. Babington ^{House} ~~Home~~

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 608 Main Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Franklinton

— VICINITY OF

6th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE
022

COUNTY

Washington

CODE
117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

—OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

—YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Chester Green

STREET & NUMBER
Rt. 6 Box 11

CITY, TOWN
Franklinton

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Franklinton

STATE
Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1979

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN
Baton Rouge

STATE
Louisiana

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Babington House is set upon three acres in the residential section of Franklinton. The large, treed lot provides a pastoral setting for the house - though there is no formal landscaping.

The house itself is more or less symmetrically planned around an "L" shaped central hall which has a long staircase set slightly off to one side in a shallow alcove. Despite the fireplace, the room is too narrow to function as a living hall. The front parlor has a semi-octagonal bay as does the dining room, which is set in the rear wing. Major rooms connect by means of sliding doors. There are four chimneys, all of which have been taken down to the roofline. The house is constructed of long leaf yellow pine frame with exterior clapboards, scalloped shingles, and interior wall boards.

Babington House represents the transition from the Queen Anne to the Colonial style. The main block is a symmetrical, pyramid roof mass, punctuated by seven oversized dormers, the largest of which marks the center. This central dormer surmounts a two tier entrance pavilion which has a great elliptical archway in both the upper and lower levels. There is a twelve-bay curving porch which encompasses the entire main block of the house. It is interrupted only by the central entrance arch.

The multiplicity of gables, eight in all, is attributable to the Queen Anne influence as is the scalloped shingling and the paneled wainscotting inside. The "Colonial" influence can be seen in the elliptical arches, the heavy square pillars and posts, the overall symmetry, the Palladian window in the upper portion of the entrance pavilion, and in the catalogue-ordered mantels.

Most of the original wallpaper survives intact and in good condition. Designs consist mainly of Rococo inspired patterns executed in strong colors - reds, golds and browns.

The only intrusion on the property is a mobile home near the rear of the house. Because it is set back, it is not readily noticeable.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 1906 BUILDER/ARCHITECT P. H. Weathers, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Babington House is the grandest and most elaborately articulated of all the old residences of Franklinton. It stands therefore as a local landmark. In its day it represented the most advanced stylistic thinking in the area - the first evidence of the growing enthusiasm for the Colonial Revival.

Babington House is significant in the area of art, specifically decorative arts, because it retains much of its original wallpaper intact, something quite rare in the state.

The Babington House is also significant in the area of commerce due to its associations with the Babington family, who included a number of businessmen prominent in the history of Franklinton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The home was built in 1906 by Robert H. Babington, and its architect was P. H. Weathers of New Orleans (see home's original blueprints, dated 1905-1906, in the possession of the present owners; also photograph of the "Residence of R. H. Babington" in the promotional booklet W. Sanford, Franklinton, the Parish Seat of Washington Parish, Louisiana: The Garden Spot of the South (New Orleans: Merchants Printing Co., 1907?), unpaginated).

According to Sanford's Franklinton, as of 1907 Babington was "manager of the Standard Land Co., Ltd., as well as prominently connected with the various Babington enterprises." The Standard Land Company was organized in 1906 "to do a general real estate business, buy and sell timber lands, farms, etc." As of about 1910 it was "one of the largest realty concerns in South Louisiana" and had "invested heavily in timber holdings in Southeast Louisiana" (see Sanford's Franklinton and another promotional booklet, Along the Line of the New Orleans Great Northern Railroad (New Orleans: The Southern Manufacturer, 1910?), p. 19).

Another major business firm of the Babingtons was Robert Babington, Ltd., which Along the Line of the NOGN Railroad described as "the leading mercantile concern in Washington Parish." Although it is not certain that the home's builder was a major figure in this company, his father was its founder in 1855 and his son, also named Robert Babington, was president of it in 1910. As of about 1910 it sold \$125,000 worth of merchandise annually, including "general merchandise, plantation supplies, timber and logging supplies, feed stuffs, hardware, farming implements, ... furniture, wagons, 8 wheel log wagons, and buggies" (see Along the Line of the NOGN Railroad, p. 18).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Along the Lines of the New Orleans Great Northern Railroad. New Orleans: The Southern Manufacturer, 1910? (Promotional booklet)
 Sanford, W. Franklinton, the Parish Seat of Washington Parish, Louisiana: The Garden Spot of the South. New Orleans: Merchants Printing Co., 1907? (Promotional booklet)
 Weathers, P. H. Plans for the Robert H. Babington House. In possession of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Green, Franklinton.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1-1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 771850 3416100
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached sketch map

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Victory Carter Green

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE August 1979

STREET & NUMBER RFD 6, Box 11 TELEPHONE (504) 839-2113

CITY OR TOWN Franklinton STATE Louisiana 70438

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/20/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE Dec 6, 1979

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/4/79

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Robert H. Babington Home

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

8. Significance (cont'd)

The home's builder, Robert H. Babington, died only about a year after construction was finished, and his wife Ada Magee Babington continued to live there. Their son Bannon Babington (b. 1906) lived in the house until 1970, at which time it was purchased by a cousin, the present owner (see Al Wright, "Many Gables, Many Splendors," Franklinton Enterprise, 15 Feb. 1978).

9. Bibliography (cont'd)

Wright, Al. "Many Gables, Many Splendors," Franklinton Enterprise, 15 Feb. 1978.

BABINGTON HOUSE (NOT TO SCALE)

