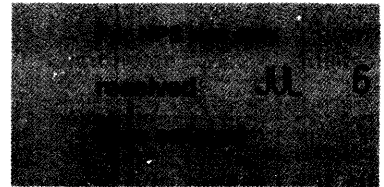


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

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

1. Name

historic Frozard Plantation House

~~historic~~ common Olivier Plantation

2. Location

street & number 3 miles east of Grand Coteau off LA Highway 93 N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Coteau X vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ 8th - Gillis Long

state Louisiana code 22 parish ~~county~~ St. Landry code 097

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John Olivier, et. al.

street & number 654 Napoleon Avenue, P. O. Drawer E

city, town Sunset N/A vicinity of state LA 70584

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 750 Court and Landry Streets (no specific address)

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate           N/A          

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

Frozard Plantation House is a c.1842 Creole raised cottage which was substantially enlarged in 1901. The house still enjoys its original rural setting on a spacious partially treed tract three miles south of Grand Coteau. The features for which the house is considered architecturally significant survive intact. Hence, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, there is no integrity problem.

The house began in 1842 as a bousillage Creole house with two large rooms, a central chimney, two rear cabinets, beaded beams, and wraparound mantels. The only American features were the transomed side lighted door which led from the front gallery into one of the front rooms and the crudely cut diamond and disk shapes in the mantel entablatures which appear to be remotely derived from Eastern federal mantels.

This early house survives complete with the roof structure within a larger turn-of-the-century frame house, some of which was "cannibalized." First a rear dining room was added with a mantel which was taken from one of the old attic rooms. (Its twin is still in place in the other attic room.) Secondly, another two room house was placed alongside the old house with a breezeway between. This yielded an "L" shaped house with a new all encompassing system of pitched roofs and dormers and an Eastlake gallery on the north and east facades. The new two rooms had oak Colonial Revival mantels and beaded beams. Apparently this was part of an old house which was moved from Grand Coteau.

### Integrity

Since 1901, the breezeway has been enclosed, a small rear porch has been filled in (photo 7), and a kitchen was added in 1927 on the back of the 1901 rear wing (see sketch map). None of these changes have affected any of the house's significant c.1842 or 1901 features.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c.1842; 1901      **Builder/Architect** c.1842 builder: Virgil Frozard  
 1901 builder: Agricole Olivier

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

Frozard Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture in the following respects:

- (1) Its surviving c.1842 features make a substantial contribution to St. Landry Parish's antebellum architectural heritage.
- (2) As enlarged in 1901, it is an important example of turn-of-the-century architecture within the context of St. Landry Parish.

### C.1842 Features:

Frozard Plantation House is important because its surviving c.1842 features make a substantial contribution to St. Landry's antebellum architectural heritage. The parish's early architecture derives much of its character from the transition from the French Creole influence to the Anglo-American Greek Revival influence. The c.1842 portion of Frozard is almost pure Creole except for its Greek Revival door and mantel ornamentation. This particular combination of Greek Revival and Creole features is very unusual and makes Frozard a local landmark in the progression from one style to the other. This extreme in the spectrum (i.e., a French Creole house with only two Greek Revival features) is significant because it helps to define the nature and scope of the transition between the two influences. As a result, Frozard Plantation House is an important part of St. Landry Parish's architectural identity. (NB: It is the transition itself rather than the particular styles which is important.)

In addition, Creole domestic architecture is known for the wide variety and great eccentricity of its mantel styles. Many of the extant mantels represent simplified versions or interpretations of the Adams type mantel. The pair of crude mantels downstairs at Frozard, with their wide entablatures and simply cut diamonds flanked with disks, represent a local and possibly unique design variation. This gives Frozard an important place in the architectural history of the area.

### Turn-of-the-Century Features:

St. Landry Parish is known primarily for its Creole and provincial Greek Revival architecture. However, the parish has a much larger body of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture. As one might expect in a rural area, many of these later buildings followed the basic form of the earlier buildings but with fashionable details. In the case of St. Landry Parish, the basic traditional form was the raised cottage. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the basic raised cottage continued to be built but with Eastlake, Queen Anne Revival, or Colonial Revival details. There are many examples of this in the parish.

Frozard Plantation House, as enlarged in 1901, is an architectural landmark within this context for two reasons:

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Research report compiled by Mrs. Oscar Olivier, located in Frozard Plantation House National Register file, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.  
 Rushton, William Faulkner, The Cajuns, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1979  
 Numerous newspaper clippings on Louise Olivier, copies located in Frozard Plantation House National Register file, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

## 10. Geographical Data

CONTINUED

Acreeage of nominated property 3.6 acre

Quadrangle name Arnaudville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	5	9	6	1	4	0	3	3	6	4	4	8	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

See attached sketch map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Oscar O. Olivier and John L. Olivier

organization N/A

date September 1980

street & number c/o John Olivier  
P. O. Drawer E

telephone (318) 662-5242

city or town Sunset

state LA 70584

## 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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

*William H. Aronson*

date 9.12.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attach:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Frozard Plantation House

Item number 8

Page 2

Significance (cont'd)

- (1) The State Comprehensive Standing Structures Survey reveals that Frozard Plantation House is the parish's largest example.
- (2) Of all the examples in the parish, Frozard, with its impressive fourteen bay gallery encompassing the north and east facades, makes the most extensive use of Eastlake galleries. Most of the other examples have a simple gallery of five bays or less across the front.

History:

Frozard Plantation House is of historical interest as the home of Louise Olivier, a woman who achieved prominence for her crusade to save the French culture and language of the people of South Louisiana. She could be considered a pioneer in what is now a widespread and popular movement. She began her work in the 1930's and continued until her death in the early 1960's. Miss Olivier traveled throughout South Louisiana combing the countryside for older people who remembered the old Acadian songs and dances. She recorded them and then had programs at which the songs and dances were presented by participants of the local community. In this manner the younger generation was encouraged to learn of their distinct culture and be proud of it. She then turned her attention to the preservation of Acadian handicrafts such as weaving. In addition, she never gave up her devotion to the preservation of the French language and therefore regularly visited parish schools to teach French songs and conversation. She was well-known for her efforts in all these areas and in 1955 was decorated by the French government for her work in preserving and promoting the French language in Louisiana.

(NB: Significance was not claimed for the house's association with Louise Olivier because it would have been difficult to prove "exceptional significance.")

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet    Frozard Plantation House    Item number    9

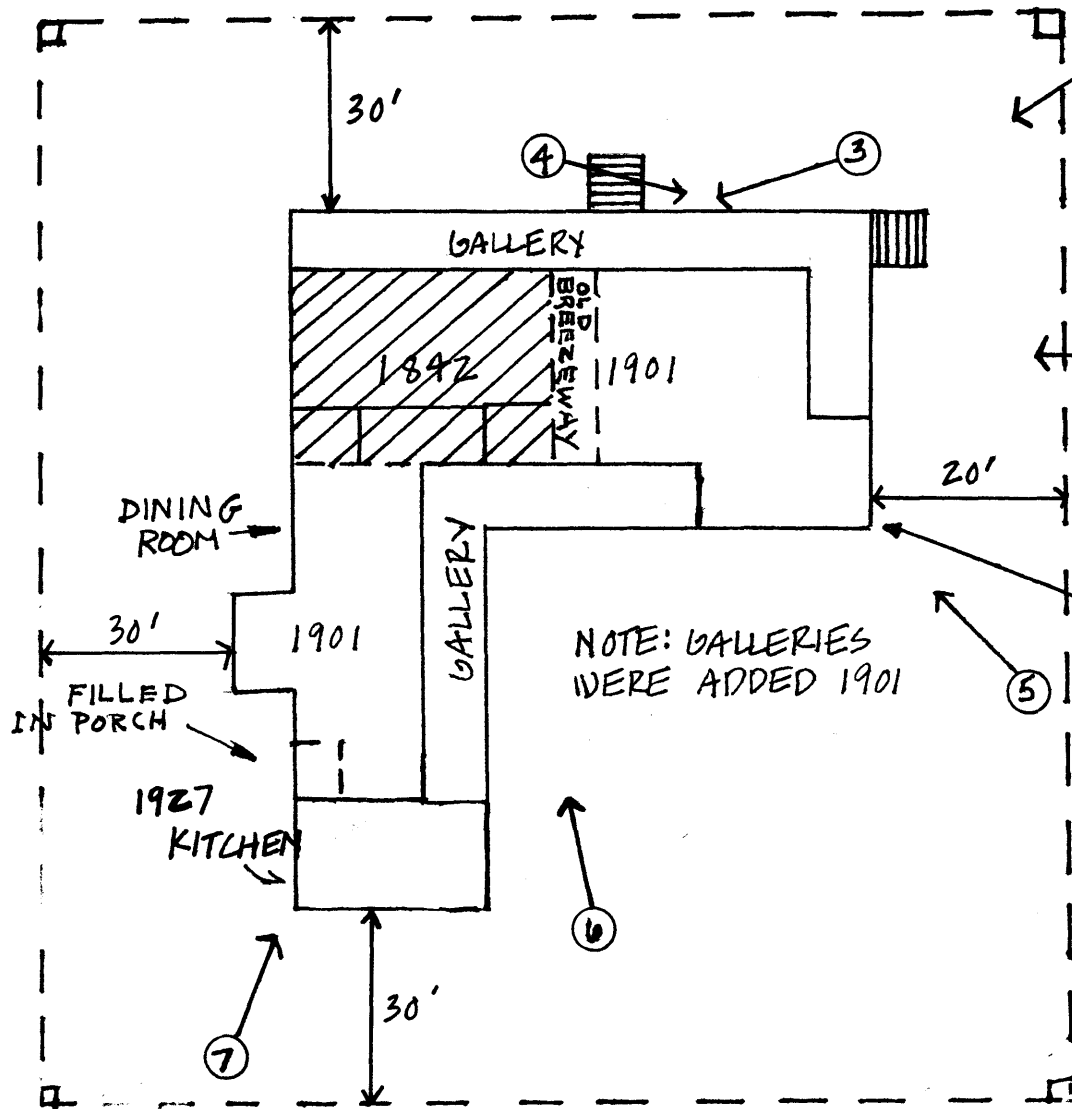
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Bibliographical References (cont'd)

St. Landry Parish Records, St. Landry Parish Courthouse, Opelousas  
Louisiana Comprehensive Standing Structures Survey, St. Landry Parish

FROZARD PLANTATION HOUSE  
GRAND COTEAU, LOUISIANA



↑  
TO BAYOU  
BOURBELX

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES  
PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES  
AT DISTANCES SHOWN, &  
WERE DRAWN TO  
ENCOMPASS THE HOUSE

THIS PART WAS  
ENCLOSED IN  
1901 SEE PHOTO  
#5  
TO HWY. 93



SCALE 1" = 30' APPROX.