

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAR 08 1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saizon House
other names/site number Stuart Woody House

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 414
city, town Jarreau
state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70749

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Date: March 4, 1991

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] 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:)
Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

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 concrete

walls weatherboards

roof metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Saizon House (c. 1830 - 1840) is a small one story frame structure in the French Creole style. It is located in rural southeastern Pointe Coupee Parish, two-and-one-half miles from the southern end of False River. The house stands on elevated ground which was the ancient natural levee of the Mississippi River before that waterway changed course in the early eighteenth century. Although the house has experienced some changes over time, it retains its National Register eligibility.

The Saizon House is an excellent example of the type of simple Creole residence which would have sheltered the majority of Pointe Coupee Parish's French settlers during the first half of the nineteenth century. Its Creole characteristics include: 1) a Class III gabled umbrella roof with central chimney (refer to enclosure), 2) a facade with three irregularly placed openings consisting of two doors and one window, 3) a full length front gallery, 4) a timber frame utilizing mortise and tenon joinery techniques and full length wind braces, 5) bousillage infill, and 6) an asymmetrical Creole floorplan which is a holdover from the colonial period. This plan consists of a large salle on the left front, a smaller chambre on the right, and two cabinet rooms set at the rear corners of the house with a loggia space between them. Other original features include interior plank doors, front gallery posts, and three lite transoms over the facade's window and doors.

Some alterations have occurred to the Saizon House over the years. All are of the type which normally take place as a house ages and the tastes and space needs of its owners change. The alterations include:

1. the enclosure of the rear loggia to create a bathroom and the conversion of one cabinet into a kitchen,
2. changes in the fenestration pattern on the rear and side walls to accommodate the new uses of the loggia and cabinet spaces and installation of twentieth century paired windows on two walls,
3. the replacement of some original windows,
4. the addition of new three inch siding on the structure's facade and rear elevation,
5. the boxing of the bottom of the gallery posts and loss of the accompanying balustrade,

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Saizon House, Jarreau vicinity, Pointe Coupee, Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

6. the lowering of the house a short distance and replacement of its original cypress piers with concrete blocks,
7. replacement of a mantel shelf, and
8. the addition of plywood paneling to interior walls and acoustical tiles to interior ceilings.

Although the number of changes to the house might at first seem significant, in reality the alterations do little to detract from the Creole character and appearance of the structure. The important Creole timber frame and bousillage infill remain intact, the home's massing is unchanged, the original colonial-style floorplan remains, the gallery still has the configuration associated with Creole styling, and the changes to the fenestration pattern are not visible from the front. The home of the average Creole citizen was generally small and unadorned, and early houses illustrating this lifestyle are rare in Pointe Coupee Parish. Thus, the Saizon House is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
c.1830-1840

Significant Dates
c.1830-1840

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Saizon House is locally significant in the area of architecture within Pointe Coupee Parish because it is an old and relatively intact example of a small Creole residence. It is also an example of early French timber frame and bousillage construction, both of which are rare within this parish.

Small Creole residences like the Saizon House were very popular in Pointe Coupee Parish and once dominated its rural landscape. Although a number of post-Civil War houses like the Saizon House survive within Pointe Coupee, few have survived from the antebellum period. In addition, the post war houses are constructed of light timber frames, while the Saizon House has the French timber frame and bousillage infill associated with early French Creole construction. It is probably among the earliest of such houses remaining in the parish. Though not an elegant building, it is typical of the period and of the quality of life of the times. As a old example of an important building type and a rare example of a significant building technique, the Saizon House stands worthy of National Register recognition.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, 1982 Historic Structures Survey of Pointe Coupee Parish.
Site visit by Dr. Jay Edwards, Principal Investigator.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than an acre

multiple property listing--on same map with Austerlitz, Pointe Coupee Parish (original USGS map with Austerlitz nomination form)

UTM References

A

1	5	6	5	4	9	0	0	3	3	8	7	1	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were selected to encompass the significant resource and its immediate setting. They are fixed upon the fences which define the yard of the house to the sides and rear. The front boundary is fixed upon LA HWY 414.

See continuation sheet

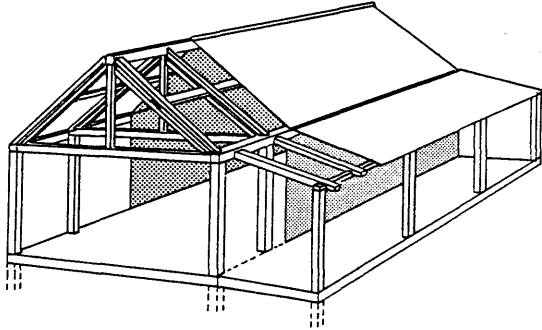
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Jay Edwards, Talal Albagdadi, Donna Abbott (Revised by Div. of Hist. Pres. staf:
organization Fred C. Kniffen Cultural Resources Lab date May 1990
street & number Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU telephone (504) 388-2566
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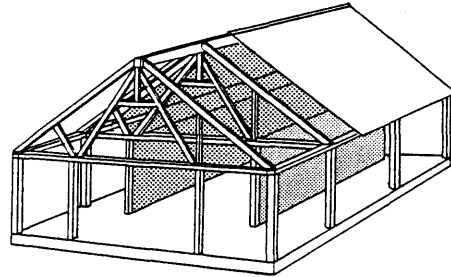
FIGURE 5

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



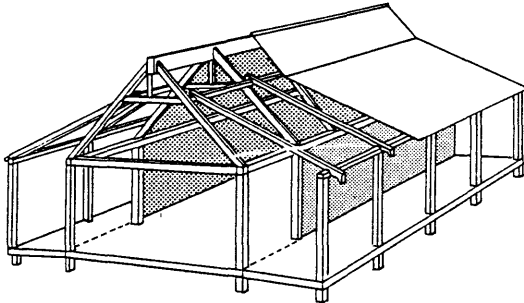
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



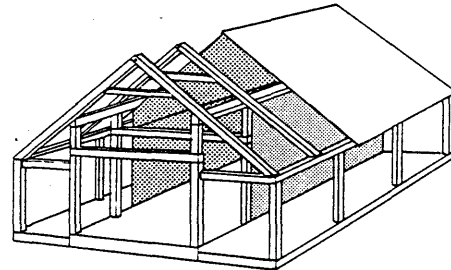
CLASS IIIa

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



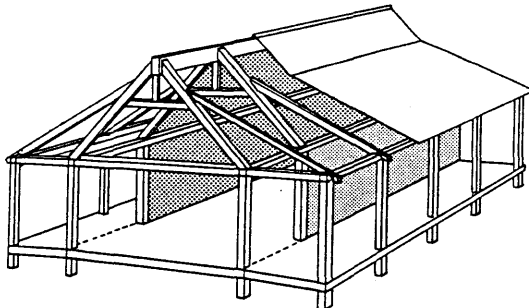
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



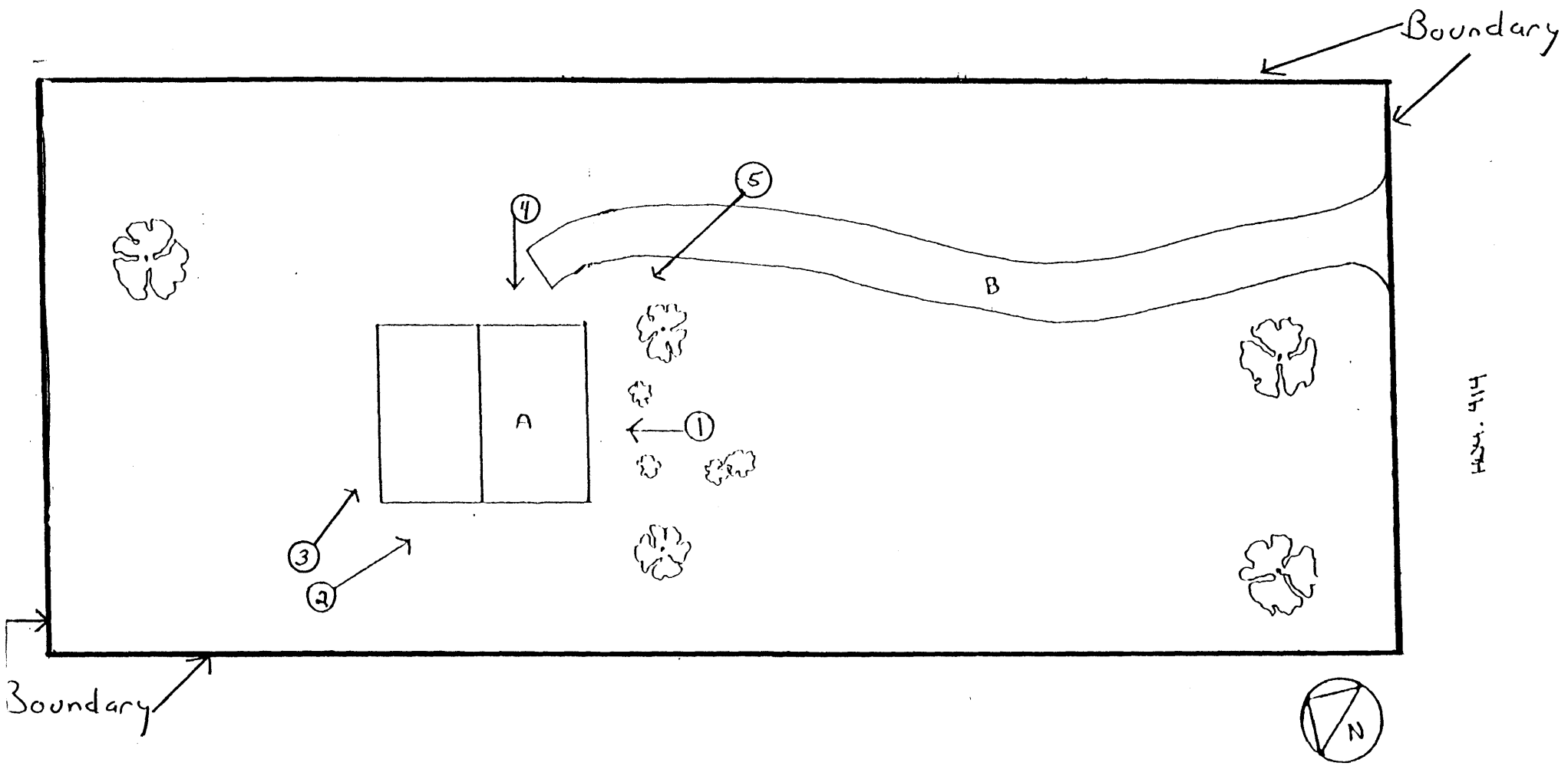
CLASS IIIb

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.




CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.



MAP FOR SAIZON HOUSE
 LOCATED IN JARREAU VICINITY, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA
 BOLD LINES INDICATE SITE BOUNDARIES

- A - HOUSE
- B - GRAVEL DRIVE

SCALE:  0 10 20 ft.

