

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Samson House

other names/site number Samson-Claiborne House

2. Location

street & number 405 Richey Street N/A not for publication

city or town New Roads N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70760

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 10/29/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
M. S. M. Ray 12/19/97

Samson House
Name of Property

Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard
roof metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The Samson House (c. 1835) is a one-and-one-half story frame cottage in the French Creole style. It stands on a corner lot in a residential neighborhood of the Pointe Coupee Parish seat of New Roads. Although it has been moved twice and has received additional alterations, the house retains its important Creole features and its National Register eligibility.

The Samson House was built at a small rural community known as Waterloo, located on the Mississippi River just east of New Roads. The house remained on its original site until 1884, when residents abandoned Waterloo due to two recent serious floods which had broken the levee. The move was accomplished by rolling the house on logs pulled by mules. The home's new location was on the residential portion of New Roads' Main Street which, like many towns, has both commercial and residential sections. The building remained there until 1984, when a new owner moved the structure to its current Richey Street location before beginning its restoration. It was necessary to cut the building in half to accomplish this second move, and the seam can be clearly seen in the center of the home. Although the two moves are regrettable, the home remains within a small town residential setting similar to that it has occupied for over one hundred years.

The Samson Home's Creole characteristics include:

- 1) a class III umbrella roof with gabled ends (see attached figure) and two central chimneys. (This follows the roof classification system of Dr. Jay Edwards in his multiple property cover form on Creole architecture.)
- 2) a facade decorated as a room in the Creole tradition. It features tall molded baseboards, a more simply molded cornice, and flush board siding.
- 3) three rare French wraparound mantels. All are similar and combine Greek Revival style pilasters and entablatures with Federal style molded and layered mantel shelves. All also feature paneling on their sides.
- 4) French doors.
- 5) exposed ceiling beams in several rooms.

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Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

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The home's floor plan illustrates how Anglo-American architectural practices gradually influenced the Creole building tradition as the nineteenth century progressed. This plan features two rooms on either side of a central hall. However, the hall is treated in a formal manner, reflecting the earlier Creole tradition of placing a room in this central space. Indeed, one of the home's French wraparound mantels stands in the hall. Other features of interest found in the home include:

- 1) an entablature with molded cornice encircling the front gallery,
- 2) original batten shutters flanking openings on the rear elevation,
- 3) transoms over the facade's French doors,
- 4) interior cornices, some of which are molded. Others are composed of simple wide boards.
- 5) interior walls composed of flush boards approximately six inches wide, and
- 6) several sets of interior, four panel, double doors. Most of these sets feature molded doors. However, one features beveled panels, suggesting that this set may be a replacement.

In addition to these doors, other alterations to the home include the following:

- 1) the construction, using the old bricks whenever possible, of new piers and chimneys on the Richey Street site. The piers are slightly higher than the Main Street piers they replaced.
- 2) the reconstruction, based partly on conjecture, of the front gallery and its accompanying wooden gutters. This space had previously been engulfed by a screened porch and a jalousied area which effectively obliterated the original gallery. Therefore, the present gallery's floor, balustrade, columns and gutters are new. The columns are based upon what was typical of the time and the gutters upon architectural evidence pointing to their existence. However, the gallery ceiling, encircling entablature, and decorated facade wall mentioned above are original. The rear gallery is also a reconstruction. The building's wide gauge metal roof dates to approximately 1915-1920.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 3

- 3) the replacement of the home's siding and shutters, the thickening of a small section of the rear wall by only a few inches to provide a space for utility pipes, the removal of the transom formerly located over the rear central French door, and the replacement of one rear French door with another French door several inches smaller than the original.
- 4) the subdivision of both of the two rear rooms into two spaces each.
 - a) The north rear space now contains a kitchen and walk-through pantry. To accomplish this change, the original ladder/stair formerly located in this room was removed and a new staircase was constructed on one side of the central hall. The French doors between the pantry and the central hall are not original.
 - b) The south rear room now contains a large bath with three sheetrock covered walls and a smaller utility room with toilet. A large walk-in closet has been attached to an outside wall of the bath. It is entered through a door which was formerly a window.
- 5) the finishing of the formerly unfinished attic, which now holds a hallway, two bedrooms and two baths.

Despite these admittedly numerous alterations, the Samson House retains its architectural importance within Pointe Coupee Parish because a significant number of its defining Creole features remain intact. Its overall massing, French doors, exposed ceiling beams, wraparound Greek Revival mantels with Federal mantel shelves, and umbrella roof all mark the dwelling as a Creole house. For this reason, the Samson House is worthy of National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Elements

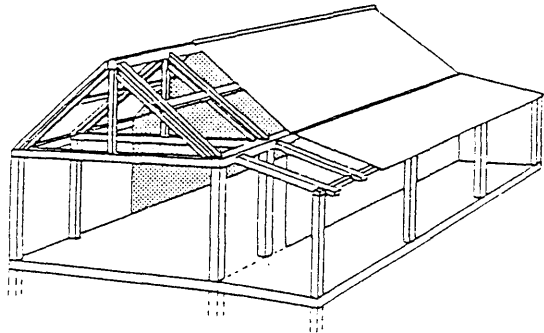
Three modern structures (a carport/storage building, an entertainment pavilion, and a bathroom resembling an outhouse) stand on the Richey Street site very close to the Samson House. All are being counted as non-contributing elements.

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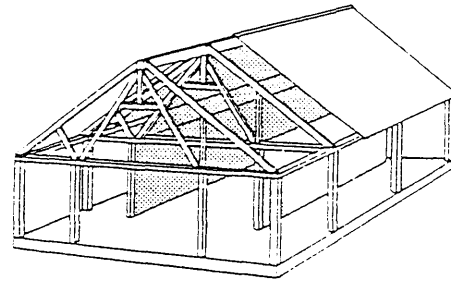
Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
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SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



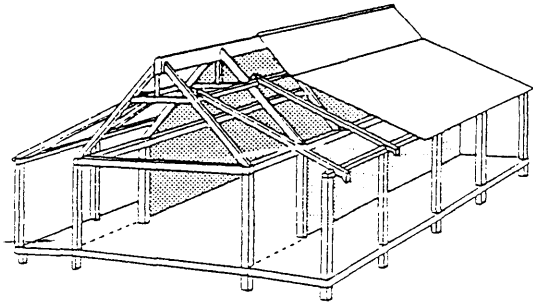
CLASS I

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.



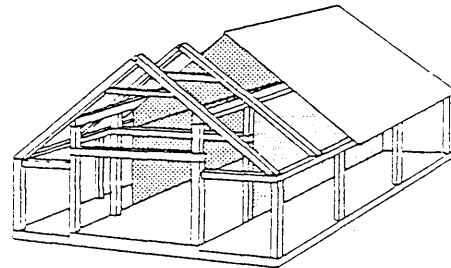
CLASS IIIa

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.



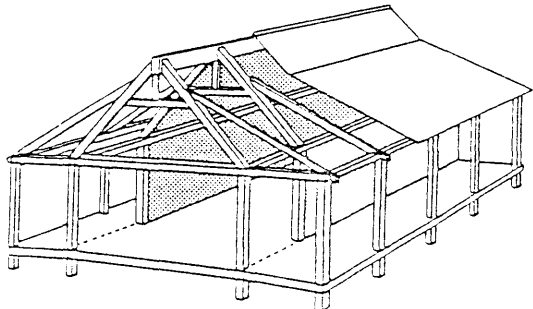
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal rafter 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.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1835

Significant Dates

c. 1835

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Samson House
Name of Property

Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

3

Zone	Easting							Northing						

4

Zone	Easting							Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1997

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. & Mrs. James McVea

street & number 405 Richey Street telephone 504-638-6254

city or town New Roads state LA zip code 70760

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

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The Samson House is locally significant because it represents a now rare house type--the Creole cottage of moderate size--within Pointe Coupee Parish. The house is also important because its c. 1835 date ranks it as an early example in a parish where much of the older architectural patrimony has been lost.

Although Pointe Coupee is justifiably recognized as an important area of early French settlement and architecture, much if not most of the parish's building stock dates, in fact, from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. And while the parish is known for a handful of landmark examples of the Creole style, the number of houses with stylistic features pre-dating the Greek Revival is actually limited, especially when one considers the early settlement of the area. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey verifies this evaluation of the parish's architectural heritage. It has identified 799 50+ year old buildings surviving in the parish. Of these, only approximately twelve to fifteen retain enough integrity in their stylistic and/or construction features to justify their recognition as old and noteworthy examples of Creole architecture. Many of these survivors are landmark examples illustrating the absolute apex of the style. However, during the historic period the more typical Creole house would have been one story in height and small to moderate in size. The Samson House is especially important as a representative of this now rare early house type. In addition, the presence of wraparound mantels with Federal style layered shelves reinforces the home's importance as one of the parish's earlier Creole homes.

Historical Note

The house was built by members of the Samson family, who first settled in Pointe Coupee Parish around 1760. Other Creole houses in Pointe Coupee built by the family include Wickliff and the LeJeune House, both of which are listed on the National Register. The residence stayed in Samson family hands for many years before coming into the hands of the Claibornes, another prominent Pointe Coupee family which produced at least two judges. The home's restoration was completed by the next owner, Mrs. Miller Armstrong. It now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. James McVea, who operate the residence as a bed and breakfast inn.

Many dignitaries have been entertained in the home, including former U. S. Congresswoman Lindy Boggs and deLesseps Story Morrison, three times mayor of New Orleans and former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

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Continuation Sheet

Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation. Historic Standing Structures Survey of Pointe Coupee Parish.

“Historically Speaking . . . About Our Area.” Typescript; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Samson House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Legal Boundary Description:

A certain lot of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and all rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the City of New Roads, in the Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana, being the northern one-half (1/2) of a lot of land designated as Lot No. Six (6) on a plat of survey made by John H. Glanton, C.E., a copy of which plat is filed at original number 21,861 of the official records of Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. Said northern one half of Lot No. Six being designated as LOT 6B on a plat of survey made by Charles R. St. Romain, R.L.S., dated May 28, 1995. Said Lot 6B having a front of 96 feet on the west side of Richey Street, a depth on its north side of 200.13 feet along the south right of way limit of 5th Street, a west side of 96 feet along the east right of way limit of St. Mary Street, and a south side of 197.04 feet along the remainder of said Lot 6 (shown on the aforesaid plat as Lot 6A).

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.