

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Planter's Cabin

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, East Baton Rouge

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/29/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 84001279

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**REMOVED
from
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA Remove

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 11.29.16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUL 25 1984
date entered AUG 23 1984

1. Name

historic Planter's Cabin

and or common also known as the Richardson House

2. Location

street & number 7815 Highland Road N/A not for publication

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county East Baton Rouge Parish code 033

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	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 Mrs. E. Leland Richardson

street & number 7815 Highland Road

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of state LA 70808

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

street & number 222 St. Louis Street P. O. Box 1991

city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70821

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1981 ☐ 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 c.1940

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Planter's Cabin (c.1810) is a one-and-a-half story, bousillage, Creole structure located in an affluent suburban area of Baton Rouge. It is set back from Highland Road behind a c.1940 residence, but a screen of lush foliage surrounds the cabin and its lawn and effectively separates it from the newer house. The cabin faces southwest toward Fountain Bayou, but the waterway is not visible from the house. The building was moved a very short distance c.1940 and has received a few minor alterations, but easily retains its National Register eligibility.

The four-room cypress-framed Creole cottage has bousillage walls with clapboard siding on the side and rear elevations. The three-bay facade has exposed diagonal braces, crude wainscotting on one section of the elevation, and chair rails with simple molding across the entire elevation. The batten doors have beaded boards and simple moldings. The porch across the facade features beaded ceiling boards and beaded beams, chamfered columns, and a plain railing. The seven windows in the house are six over six and have batten shutters. The two cabinets each have a door opening onto the back porch, which has the same ceiling treatment as the one on the front. The enclosed stairs to the attic are on the back porch and give the appearance of being a closet.

Renovation work includes the wood shingled roof that was installed in 1980, the flooring on the front porch, and the modern central chimney with fireplaces in each of the two front rooms. None of these changes seriously detract from the historic character of the house.

The Planter's Cabin was moved c.1940 when the house between it and Highland Road was built (see map). Because it was moved only a short distance, it has not been taken out of the area which forms the context for its architectural significance (East Baton Rouge Parish). In addition, the new setting is comparable to the old and the compass point orientation is identical.

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 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.1810 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Planter's Cabin is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of East Baton Rouge Parish. It is believed to be one of only two bousillage cabins remaining in the parish. Of the two, it is the better preserved, the other having lost its columns, mantels, and original roofline.

Although it is unclear exactly when the Planter's Cabin was constructed, architectural evidence indicates that it was probably built in the early decades of the nineteenth century. It is remarkably intact, retaining almost all of its original features, particularly its plan, bousillage walls, gallery, and beaded ceiling boards and beams. Of particular interest are the primitive beveled-point cornerblocks found in the door frames. They appear to be remotely derived from high style Federal cornerblocks with bull's eyes.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, this vernacular house type was common throughout French South Louisiana, but today it is unusual to find such an intact example of a two-room bousillage cabin with cabinets in the rural part of the state and virtually impossible to find one in an urbanized parish such as East Baton Rouge. Most such structures have either been destroyed or extensively altered.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Building Survey, "Planter's Cabin," Baton Rouge, LA Project, 1978.

Research report prepared by applicant. Located in Planter's Cabin Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/10th of an acre

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A 1 5 6 7 9 3 6 0 3 3 6 1 6 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 Please refer to sketch map for description.

Justification: Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. The cabin in effect sits in the back yard of a c.1940 residence; hence we saw no reason to include any more acreage than we did.

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

ASSISTED BY OWNER

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation
State of Louisiana

date March 1981

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

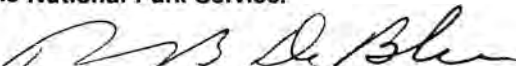
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



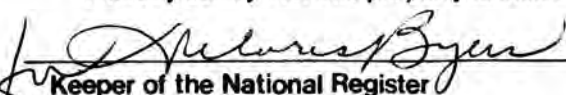
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 17, 1984

For NPS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

PROCESSED BY
NATIONAL REGISTER

date

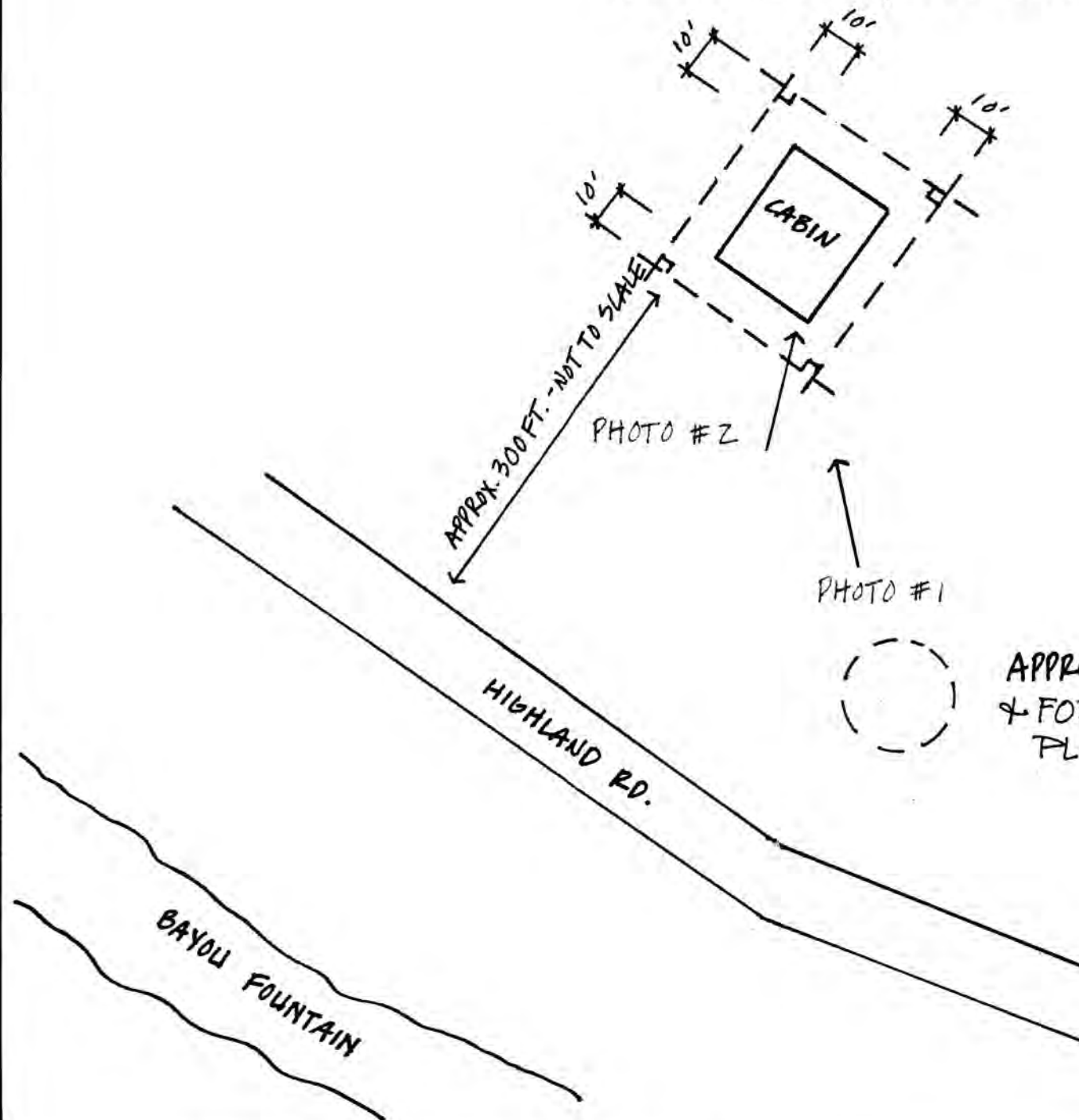
8-23-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

PLANTER'S CABIN (RICHARDSON HOUSE)
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL
BLOC. FACADES AT DISTANCES
SHOWN. CABIN FACES
HIGHLAND ROAD.

PHOTO #2

PHOTO #1

APPROX. LOCATION OF C. 1940 HOUSE
& FORMER LOCATION OF
PLANTER'S CABIN



SCALE 1" = 50' APPROX.



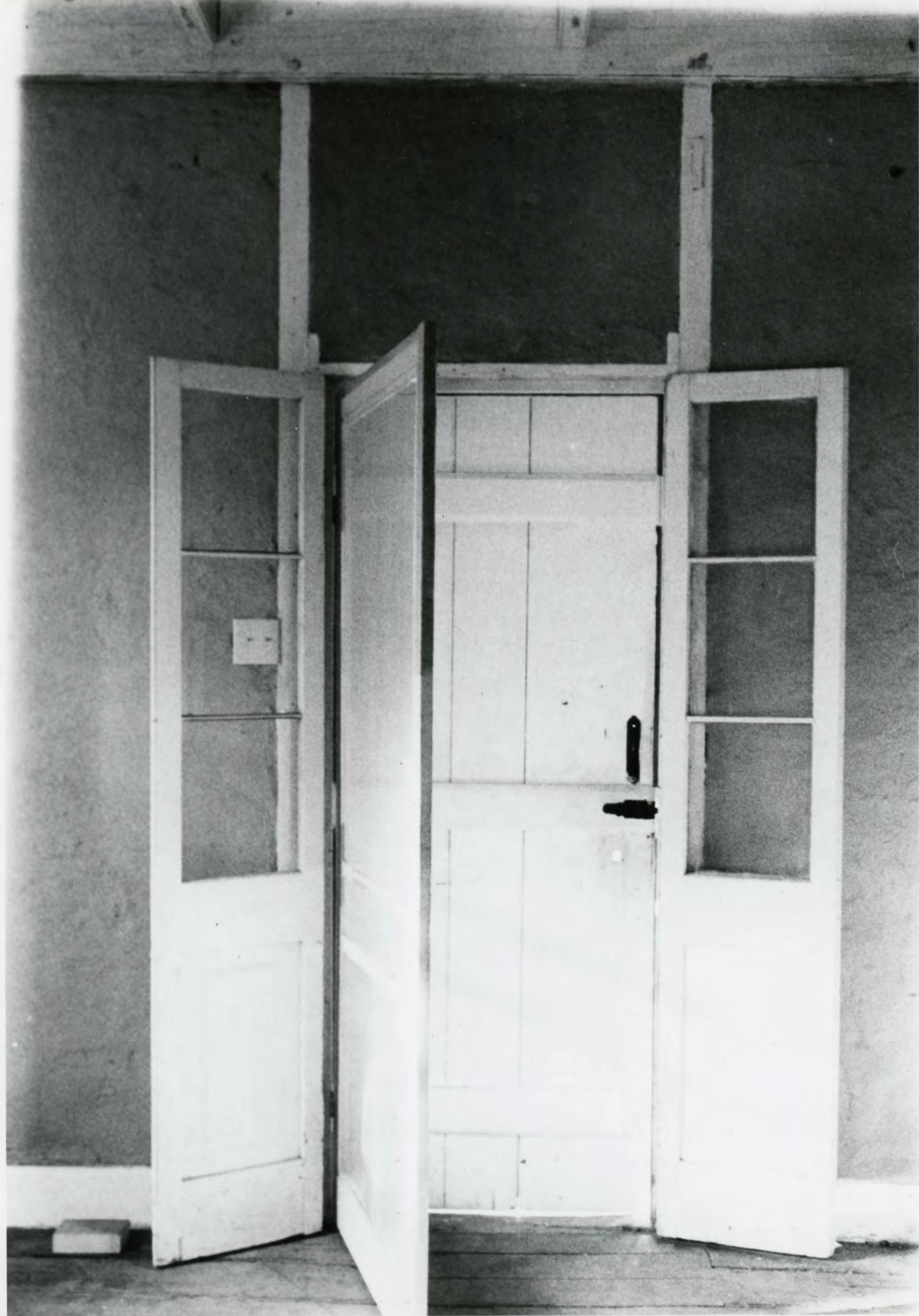
Planter's Cabin
Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish
Scott Purdin
April 1983
7815 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA
North-northwest
Photo #1

17

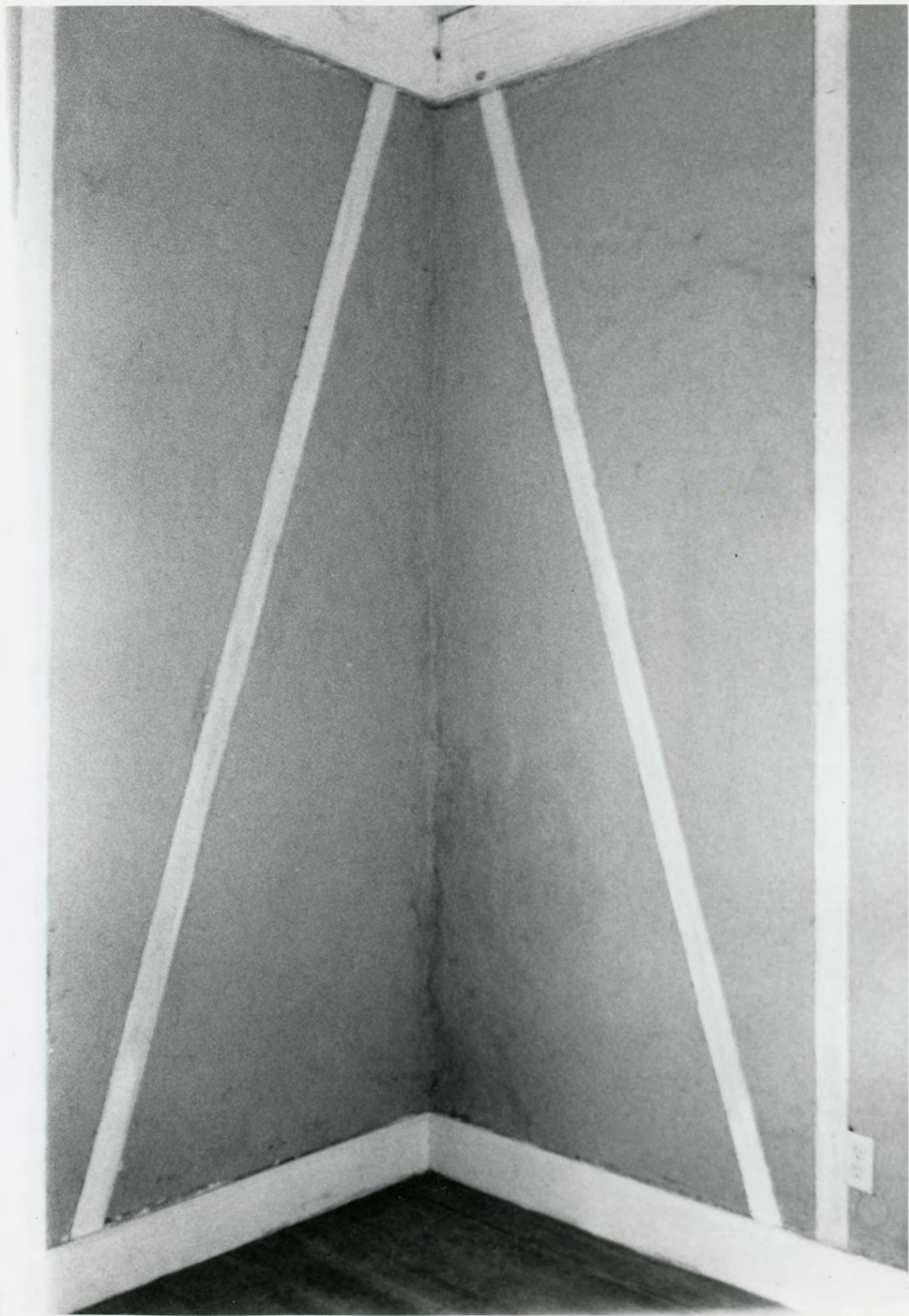


Planter's Cabin
Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish
Scott Purdin
April 1983
7815 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA
North-northeast--front gallery
Photo #2

7



Planter's Cabin
Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish
Scott Purdin
April 1983
7815 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA
door detail
Photo #3



Planter's Cabin

Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish

Scott Purdin

April 1983

7815 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA

bousillage walls and exposed braces

Photo #4



Planter's Cabin

Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Scott Purdin

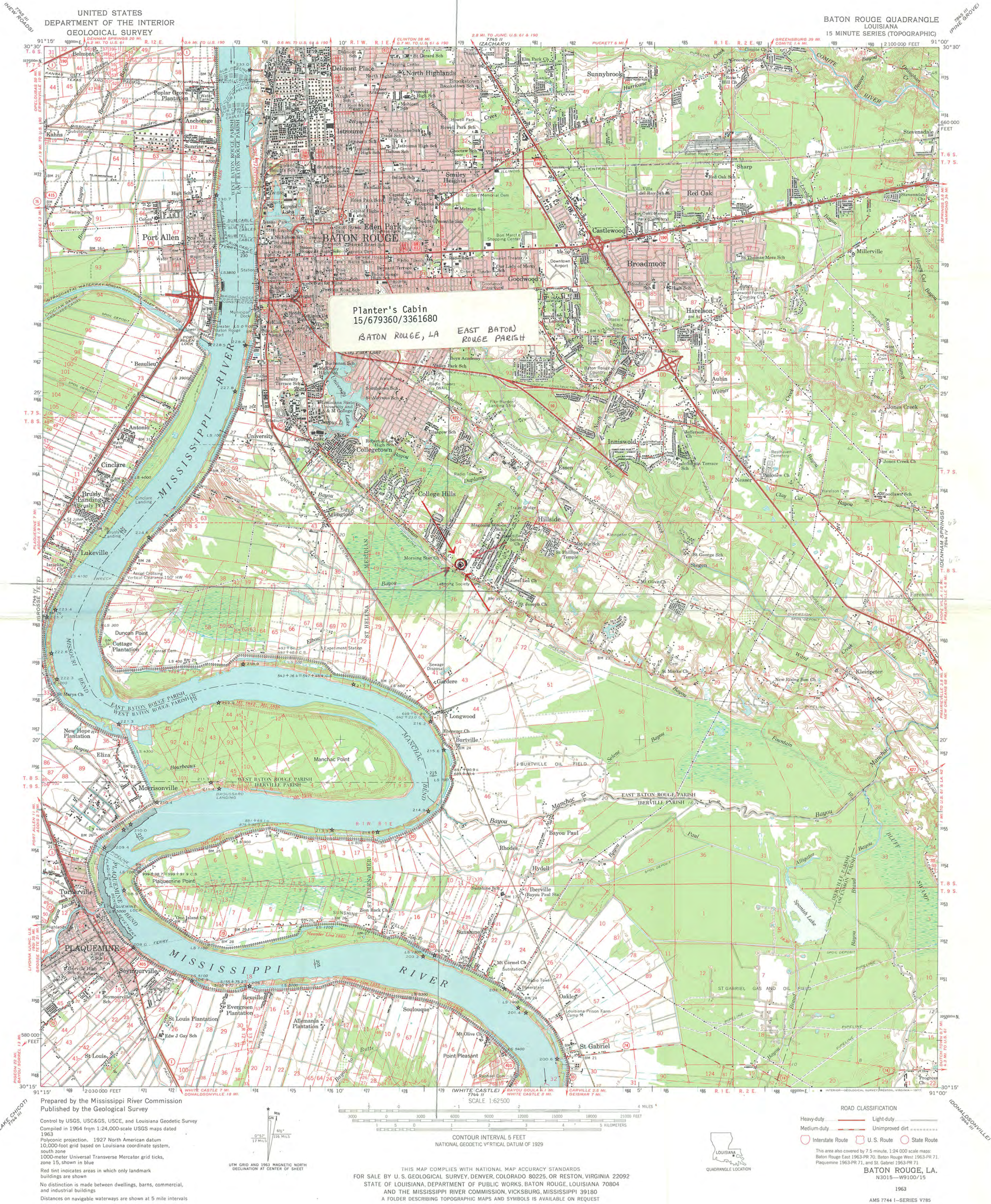
April 1983

7815 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA

beaded ceiling and beams detail

Photo #5

5



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Planter's Cabin
East Baton Rouge Parish
LOUISIANA

Working No. JUL 25 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 7-15-85
Date Due: 8/23/84 - 9/8/84
Action: ACCEPT 8-23-84
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



EDWIN W. EDWARDS

GOVERNOR

NOELLE LEBLANC

SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. DEBLIEUX
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 17, 1984

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY
KATHLEEN BYRD, DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF THE ARTS
ALBERT B. HEAD, DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ANN REILEY JONES, DIRECTOR

FOLKLIFE PROGRAM
NICHOLAS R. SPITZER,
PROGRAM MANAGER

Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the completed and signed nomination form for the Planter's Cabin, East Baton Rouge Parish, along with maps and photographs.

If additional information is required, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/DF/bc

Enclosure

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Correspondence related to removal



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RENNIE S. BURAS, II
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PHIL BOGGAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 29, 2016

The Honorable Melvin L. "Kip" Holden
PO Box 1471
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1471

RE: Delisting of Planter's Cabin, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Dear Mayor Holden:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to petition for the removal of the above referenced property from the National Register of Historic Places, a process known as delisting. This step is important as we strive to maintain an accurate record of properties in our state that are listed in the Register, still extant, and maintain integrity per National Register Criteria. In many cases, buildings were destroyed many years ago and the official delisting paperwork was not completed. We have made this task a priority for 2016.


The Planter's Cabin was listed on the National Register on 8/23/1984. According to the Federal National Register regulations [36 CFR 6-.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Per correspondence with a local historian and a 2012 *Country Roads* article, the building burned in the 1990s. Because the building, and its qualities that caused it to have been listed, are destroyed, this property will be proposed for removal from the National Register. The final delisting decision will be made by the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service.

The regulations [36 CFR 60.15 (g)] also require that the property's owner be given an opportunity to comment and the chief elected official notified of the proposed action. If you choose to comment, please respond via letter by **October 7th, 2016** to the following address:

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

If you have questions concerning the delisting petition or any other National Register issue, please contact National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson, by email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov, or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,



Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RENNIE S. BURAS, II
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PHIL BOGGAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 29, 2016

Frank J., Jr., and Sadie Marie Ferrara
7815 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Delisting of Planter's Cabin, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ferrara:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to petition for the removal of the above referenced property from the National Register of Historic Places, a process known as delisting. This step is important as we strive to maintain an accurate record of properties in our state that are listed in the Register, still extant, and maintain integrity per National Register Criteria. In many cases, buildings were destroyed many years ago and the official delisting paperwork was not completed. We have made this task a priority for 2016. Per information from the East Baton Rouge Parish tax assessor, you are the current owner of the land where the listed resource once stood. As part of this process, we are required to notify the current owner of this action.

The Planter's Cabin was listed on the National Register on 8/23/1984. According to the Federal National Register regulations [36 CFR 6-.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Per correspondence with a local historian and a 2012 *Country Roads* article, the building burned in the 1990s. Because the building, and its qualities that caused it to have been listed, are destroyed, this property will be proposed for removal from the National Register. The final delisting decision will be made by the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service.

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Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

If you have questions concerning the delisting petition or any other National Register issue, please contact National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson, by email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov, or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Jessica G. Richardson

From: David W Floyd <dfloyd@lsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 8:01 AM
To: Jessica G. Richardson; David Nicolosi
Subject: Re: Planter's Cabin

Jessica,

This house burned about 10 years ago. Hope this helps.
David Floyd

From: Jessica G. Richardson <jrichardson@crt.la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 3:26:08 PM
To: David Nicolosi
Cc: David W Floyd
Subject: Re: Planter's Cabin

Thanks David!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2016, at 3:18 PM, David Nicolosi <dnicol1@lsu.edu<mailto:dnicol1@lsu.edu>> wrote:

I am sure that we do not have this cabin/house.

David Nicolosi

Registrar / Conservator

Department of the Rural Life Museum

(225)-765-2437 ext: 212

(225)-765-2639 Fax

dnicol1@lsu.edu<<mailto:dnicol1@lsu.edu>>

From: Rural Life Museum
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 14:16
To: David W Floyd; David Nicolosi
Subject: FW: Planter's Cabin

From: Jessica G. Richardson [mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Rural Life <rulife1@lsu.edu>[mailto:rulife1@lsu.edu]>
Subject: Planter's Cabin

Hi,

I am the National Register Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office and am working on updating our database to reflect if some properties have been moved or destroyed. From what I can tell, and based on an article I found, I believe the above property, formerly on Highland Road just to the west of Rodney Drive, burned down in the 1990s. Before I filed official paperwork, I wanted to verify that the house had indeed burned and not been moved to the Rural Life museum. I know that you have a good collection of historic buildings that are similar in age to the Planter's Cabin and just wanted to be sure.

Here is what it looked like when it was listed:

<image006.jpg>

Thanks in advance!

Jessica Richardson

Jessica G. Richardson, MSHP

National Register Coordinator

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation | P.O. Box 44247 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804

225-219-4595 (O) | 225-219-9772 (F)

www.louisianahp.org<<http://www.louisianahp.org/>>

<image007.jpg>

<image008.png><<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Louisiana-Office-of-Cultural-Development/158464124239849>><image009.png><<https://twitter.com/LaStateCulture>><image010.png><<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTrSXSJJIBodaNIC9AkZtrJA>>

#laSHPO

#LABuildingSelfie



LE VIEUX VILLAGE/FARMERS MARKET PAVILLION
FRIDAYS FROM APRIL 22 - MAY 20
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
FREE LIVE MUSIC! LAWN CHAIRS WELCOME!

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THE CULTURAL LIFE

November 2012

Written by Ruth Laney

The Kleinpeter Connection



Restoring a 200-year-old house, Sid Gray discovers more structures built by the Kleinpeter family in Baton Rouge.

Sid Gray first saw the Willow Grove house back around 1984. It sat in solitary splendor on Perkins Road just past Bluebonnet, the sole structure on an original Spanish land grant of 220 acres. He turned onto a dirt road and drove about a half mile. It was surrounded by trees, with nary another structure in sight. "You couldn't even see it from Perkins Road," says Gray.

Gray wanted to check it out because he was just beginning work on another Kleinpeter house. "I looked at the doors and mantels in particular, to use in the restoration of Robert's house," says Gray.

"Robert" was Baton Rouge attorney Robert Hodges, who had just bought the Joseph Kleinpeter house on Highland Road near Bluebonnet. It was slated for demolition when Hodges moved it west on Highland Road to its present site near Lee Drive. He hired Gray to oversee the moving and to restore the 1796 house.

In 1989, the Kleinpeter House won the grand prize from the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the first winner of the Great American Home award. Gray had reconstructed the original hip roof, removing gables that had been added later. He rebuilt the bousillage walls

(mud and moss covered with plaster), uncovered the original grassy floors, and reconstructed

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The Mystery of the Wild Mouse

How an infamous Baton Rouge

roller coaster became the subject of an

(and mud moss covered with plaster), uncovered the original cypress floors, and reconstructed windows and doors to their original configuration.

In 2006, Gray was contacted by members of the Kleinpeter family who were developing the Settlement at Willow Grove. The property, near Perkins Rowe, now has dozens of houses under construction on the original Spanish land grant. The family retained ownership of the house, now known as Willow Grove, and of an acre of land and oaks surrounding it. Gray, whom the family hired to research the house's construction and submit suggestions for restoration, estimates that the house was built between 1811 and 1820.

Gray was familiar with Kleinpeter history from years of research on the Hodges house. In 1995, he bought a copy of Lynette LeBlanc Kleinpeter's exhaustively researched genealogy *The Kleinpeter Legacy*. His well-thumbed copy bristles with sticky notes.

He knew that Johann Georg Kleinpeter, his wife Gertrude, and their ten children had arrived in Louisiana in 1774. Catholics, they probably left Alsace-Lorraine in search of freedom from religious persecution. [i]

They went first to Hagerstown, Maryland, and then to what is now Pittsburgh. From there they took a flat-bottomed boat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, traveling by night and hiding by day to avoid Indian attacks. They eventually settled at Manchac Point in what is now Iberville Parish. They traveled with members of the Sharp and Ory families, with whom they would later intermarry.

Johann and Gertrude settled on the west bank of the Mississippi above Plaquemine Point, while their children settled on the east bank.[ii] By 1784, when Louisiana was under Spanish rule, the Kleinpeter, Sharp, and Ory families had procured land grants from the king of Spain. The area is commonly called the Dutch Highlands, but Gray prefers "Kleinpeter Hills."

"The terrain is hilly," he says of the land mass roughly bounded by Perkins on the north, the river on the south, LSU's south gates on the west, and Bluebonnet on the east. He theorizes that the Kleinpeter family "had money," which allowed them to pay a surveyor to draw a map of their land; once the map was filed with the proper officials, he believes, the property belonged to the owner. Those who couldn't afford to pay the surveyor, he thinks, had to become virtual squatters. After ten years of "habitude and cultivation" of a plot of land, they owned it.

The hardworking Kleinpeter family prospered in the new world, cultivating indigo, then cotton, then sugar cane—and eventually taking up ranching and dairy cows. They and allied families procured great swaths of land—the acreage Gray calls the Kleinpeter Hills—and later expanded their holdings all the way to what is now the Country Club of Louisiana.

Gray thinks the Kleinpeters were also involved in building the St. Gabriel Church.[iii] Construction began in 1774, coinciding with their arrival, and was completed two years later. It has been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest Catholic church in the Mississippi River Valley. Among those buried in its cemetery are Gertrude, progenitor of the family now known mainly for Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, which opened in 1913.

As he continued his research, Gray—who estimates he has examined hundreds of south Louisiana houses—tentatively identified seven that he believes were not only built for members of the Kleinpeter family but were possibly constructed by the same builder.

They include Hodges's house; the Planter's Cabin on Highland between Staring and Kenilworth (which Gray examined around 1985 before it burned down in the 1990s); the Hughes house on Highland near Kenilworth; Mount Hope Plantation on Highland near Staring; the Bennett house on Highland near Gardere; the Willow Grove house on Perkins; and the Ory house on Highland near Fulwar Skipwith Road.

He points out that Mount Hope, built around 1830 as the Sharp family home, differs from the other six. "It's an Anglo style house with a floor plan built around a central hall." The others have "a classic Creole floor plan—two rooms wide and two rooms deep, with no hall.

"It's obvious these people had money when they got here," says Gray. "Robert's house is the best that money could buy for its time." Among its amenities he lists beaded woodwork, paneled doors and shutters, and elaborate truss work in the attic.

Since beginning work on Willow Grove, Gray has learned that two persons who came to Louisiana with their families in 1774 were John Baptiste Kleinpeter and Catherine Sharp. They married in 1781 and eventually had ten children. Catherine's brother, Joseph Sharp, built Mount

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Ardoyne Plantation

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Richard Lipsey was a recent LSU graduate when he attended the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy

Hope Plantation.

In 1811, Catherine and John's son John Kleinpeter Jr. married Amelia Sharp, the daughter of Joseph Sharp.^[iv] Gray believes that John and Amelia built the Willow Grove house. "Marriage was often the occasion for building a house," he says. "The fact that they married then is a good reason for placing the construction at that time."

Willow Grove is a brick and cypress timber-frame raised Creole house that contains rare federal woodwork, bousillage walls, beaded ceiling beams, and an exterior stairway in front.

Later, with indoor plumbing, two baths were added, as well as a two-story rear addition that housed two kitchens—one on the ground floor and one on the second story.

"This is clearly a transitional house between the earlier Creole style and the later Anglo-style house like Mount Hope," he says. "It is raised up on a masonry base one whole story, and instead of one central chimney, which was common in the eighteenth century, it has two chimneys located opposite each other on outside walls. I think it's a generation later than Robert's house, because it's a full story off the ground, while Robert's house was raised on piers."

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house was top of the line. Robert's is the best built house I've seen for its five more that are exactly the same. I would use the word *typical*. That floor over south Louisiana, even for people who didn't have a lot of money."

Gray has approached old buildings from many other angles. He taught an class called "Old Houses of Louisiana," complete with field trips. He has buildings, including the Clinton Courthouse and the Pointe Coupee Parish and sells paper models of houses he has worked on, including slave cabins, that can be cut out and assembled into three-dimensional structures. Last summer at the Bluebonnet Library, he exhibited a fraction of the research he has done since the 1970s, when he was newly arrived from his native Rhode Island.

Gray relishes the detective work of wading through the detritus and figuring out all he can about the Willow Grove house. "I'm doing the architectural archaeology now," he says. "I'm creating a construction chronology, removing the layers just like an archaeologist does to discern the different periods of the house. What was done when?" He makes drawings and photos and takes samples for paint and mortar analysis.

"Once you do all that, you determine what the finished product will be," he says. "I don't automatically assume I'll present it as an 1811 house. It might be best to turn it into a nineteenth- or twentieth-century house, somewhere between 1880 and 1920."

What with the down and dirty physical work, and time spent examining both primary and secondary written resources, Gray, who has an architecture degree from LSU, jokes, "If I was an academic, this would earn me at least a Ph.D."

"I'm not aware of anybody ever connecting seven buildings to the same family, let alone to the same builder," he says. "And these houses are specific not just to Baton Rouge but to the Kleinpeter Hills."

Editor's Note: After this article was published in the November 2012 issue of *Country Roads*, we were contacted by members of the Kleinpeter family, and provided with supplemental details about the family's history by Laurie Kleinpeter Laville. They appear below.

[i] A The Kleinpeters settled first in Frederick County, Maryland, and established themselves. However Maryland, being under British rule, was also a place where Catholics were persecuted, and they found themselves amongst other Germans facing similar difficulties. These German immigrants learned of the religious freedom being offered to exiled Acadians in Spanish-ruled Louisiana. The Germans requested permission from Antonio de Ulloa, the first Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, to send an envoy to verify the Acadians' accounts. With a good report, Germans from Maryland began settling in Louisiana. Thus began the adventure that eventually brought the Kleinpeter family to Louisiana in 1774.

[ii] Although Johann Kleinpeter died shortly after the journey to Louisiana, Gertrude and their children were given a land grant in Iberville Parish above Plaquemine Point. However, after years of flooding by the Mississippi River that inundated their crops, the young men of these early families searched for higher ground and relocated to the east bank of the river. By 1784

new land grants had been obtained from the king of Spain, and the Kleinpeter, Sharp, and Ory families settled in the area commonly called the Dutch Highlands.

[iii] The book *The Kleinpeter Legacy* by Lynette LeBlanc Kleinpeter includes the transcript of a letter dated 1774 that reveals that George Petitpierre (Johann Kleinpeter) had already died and that Gertrude and their seven children had settled on the west bank of the Mississippi, in Iberville above Bayou Plaquemine. The letter further states that the settlers began building a church in November of that year and gives the dimensions of the church. Lynette LeBlanc Kleinpeter established that Gertrude Kleinpeter is buried at St. Gabriel. Images of this letter, in Spanish and French, are preserved on microfilm at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette. The Kleinpeter family retains ownership of some of the original land grants, and letters requesting the land grants on Highland Road—evidence that they settled first in Iberville and later sought higher ground.

[iv] Joseph Sharp had a son named Joseph Sharp, who was brother to Amelia. Both father and son died in 1819 of yellow fever. The Willow Grove house could have been built by either Joseph.

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