

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 25 1984  
date entered AUG 23 1984

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

## 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street & number 7815 Highland Road N/A not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<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 ☒ no

date 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records LA 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  
☒ moved date c.1940

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**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
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6	7	9	3	6	0
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3	3	6	1	6	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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**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	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 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

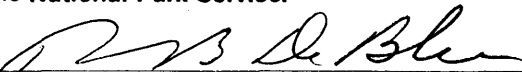
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



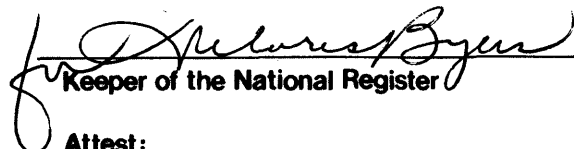
Robert B. DeBlieux

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

8-23-84

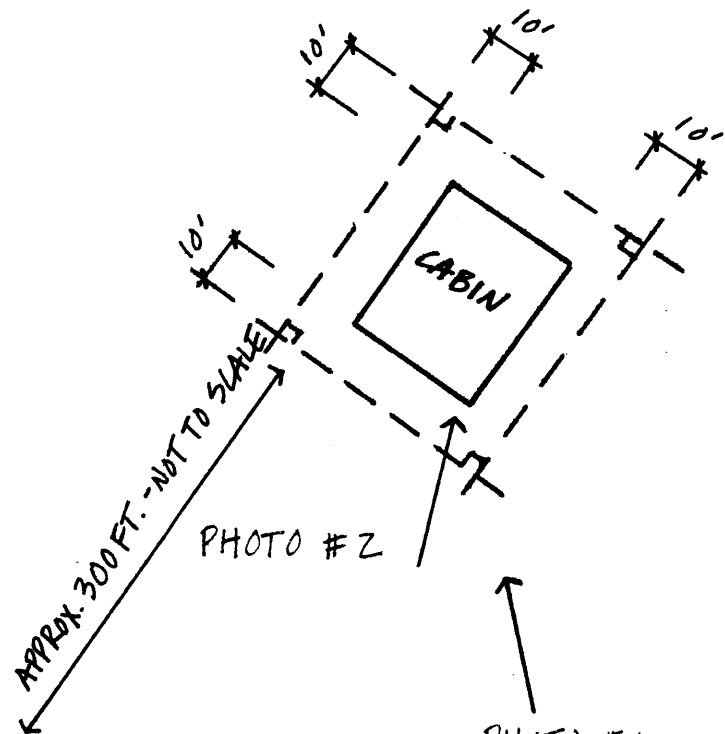
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# PLANTER'S CABIN (RICHARDSON HOUSE)

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL  
BLDG. FAÇADES AT DISTANCES  
SHOWN. CABIN FAÇES  
HIGHLAND ROAD.

PHOTO #1



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

HIGHLAND RD.

BAYOU FOUNTAIN



SCALE 1" = 50' APPROX.