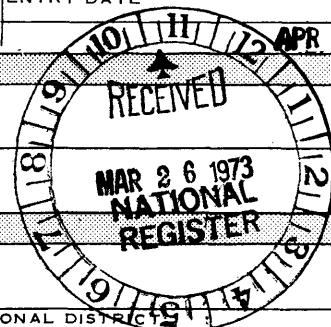


6-1-72

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE



<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON:	Rosebank Plantation House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Rosebank Plantation House

<b>2. LOCATION</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: One-half mile East of Louisiana Highway 66	
CITY OR TOWN: Weyanoke	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth
STATE: Louisiana	COUNTY: West Feliciana

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>	
OWNER'S NAME: Kenneth C. Scullin	
STREET AND NUMBER: 752 Dubois Drive	
CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge,	STATE: Louisiana
	CODE: 70808

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: West Feliciana Parish Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: Ferdinand Street	
CITY OR TOWN: St. Francisville	STATE: Louisiana
	CODE: 70775

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>	
TITLE OF SURVEY: _____ _____	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____ _____	
STREET AND NUMBER: _____ _____	
CITY OR TOWN: _____ _____	STATE: _____ _____
	CODE: _____ _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE APR 13 1973

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rosebank Plantation House is a two-story structure with attic, composed of brick walls on the lower floor and frame construction on the upper story and attic. The brick walls on the lower floor are covered with plaster and are approximately 12 inches thick in some places. The upper level of the house is constructed of cypress with cypress weatherboarding.

The roof has straight lines across the front and rear without dormer windows; its original cypress shingles were replaced with natural colored cedar shakes in 1972. The house faces a southeasterly direction, and the rear is in the northwesterly direction.

The edifice is built directly on the ground and the lower front porch is paved in a herringbone brick pattern, part of which was restored in 1972. The central room on the lower floor, approximately a step higher than the front porch, is floored with cypress. It is believed that the four rooms on either side of the central room originally had brick floors.

The house contains ten rooms--five on the lower floor and five on the second floor. The attic is one large room with cypress flooring and two windows each on the side walls. The roof beams and flooring in the attic and second story are of cypress and the interior walls are either lathe and plaster or cypress boards.

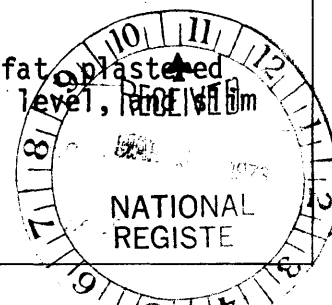
Two brick chimneys of red clay are located in the interior of the house, and another chimney is located in the rear portion of the exterior wall on the Northeastern side of the house. Six fireplaces are attached to the two interior chimneys, three on each floor, the exterior side chimney affords fireplaces for the upper and lower Northeastern corner rooms. Fireplaces in the upper and lower central rooms are made of iron.

The house contains lower and upper front porches, with fat, modified Doric brick columns covered with plaster on large pedestals on the lower level supporting the upper porch. An outside stair at the Eastern corner of the house connects the lower front porch with the upper, and is protected by a brick wall on the lower level and wooden louvres (replaced in 1972) that extend from the floor to the ceiling on the Eastern corner of the second floor porch.

A wrought iron railing topped by a wooden hand rail along with slim iron columns on the second floor front porch are believed to have been placed there during a renovation of the residence in the 1880s. There was probably a wooden railing and wooden columns or shafts on the second floor porch originally.

In the rear the house has a three-bay loggia with fat plastered brick columns similar to the front columns on the lower level, and cypress shafts on the upper loggia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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(Number all entries) Question 7 Continued. Page 2

Aside from the new shingle roof, several brick walls that were restored in 1972, and the 1880 wrought iron balustrade on the second level front porch, much of the structure is believed to be original. Many of the glass window panes, iron mantles in the upper and lower central rooms, moldings and interior and exterior door facings are believed to be original.

The house contains no plumbing. The electric wiring installed in 1940 which furnished light to the upper and lower central rooms has been removed, and the house contains no electricity.

The main house is part of a complex that included a wellhouse made of lattice work with a hexagon shaped shingled roof (replaced in 1972) on the Eastern side of the house; a large water cistern near the rear of the house; a large farm worker's cabin several hundred yards to the rear of the house; and a 6 x 6 foot "outhouse" to the rear.

As in the case of the main dwelling, the exact construction dates of these outbuildings are unknown, however, Miss Roberta Towles, a native of St. Francisville who has resided in New Orleans for many years, and who was born in 1880, stated on March 1, 1973, that the cabin and cistern have been at the site for as long as she can recall. Miss Towles is related to Rosebank's former owners and spent much time there on visits during her lifetime.

In addition, the cistern is partially composed of bricks and cypress similar to that used in the main house and the construction of the farm worker's cabin has many antebellum characteristics such as hand-hewn beams under the cypress flooring, random-width cypress flooring, extensive use of pegs and chimney bricks of soft, red clay with sandy mortar, similar to those found in the main house.

The cabin is occupied by a farm family.

Rosebank is in the center of several acres surrounded by old live oak trees and many shrubs and annuals planted by early inhabitants.



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

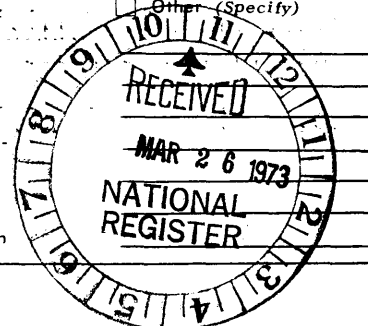
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rosebank is architecturally significant because its design with the continuous upper and lower front porches and enclosed stair, and its upper and lower, three-bay rear loggias, forms a prototype for later, more refined versions of Louisiana Plantation houses such as "Shadows-on-the-Tech" in New Iberia, Louisiana.

Historically, the house is significant for two primary reasons, it is built on land granted by the Spanish government in 1790, and it served as a dwelling place for several generations of slave-owning cotton planters who industry helped form the economic basis of the antebellum South.

According to legal instruments at the West Feliciana Parish courthouse showing the chain of title of the land on which the house is constructed, a man by the name of John O'Connor (this is sometimes spelled O'Conner) received 2,932 arpents of land from the Spanish government on March 24, 1790. O'Connor served as Alcade (magistrate) of the Feliciana district of Southern Louisiana in what was then known as West Florida during the later years of the Spanish rule of this section of the country.

The Exhibit of Private Land Claims, State of Louisiana--Greensburg District from the State Land Office shows that O'Connor and/or his heirs "cultivated and habitated several large tracts extending from Little Bayou Sara to Big Bayou Sara from 1789 to 1814." The report, dated in 1814, indicates the tract, later Rosebank, was originally granted by Estevan Miro, Spanish governor of Louisiana in 1789.

According to the abstract, or chain of title to the property as recorded in the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse, the plantation, 37 slaves "and all improvements" were sold August 22, 1818 by Ann O'Connor "et al" to Bennett Barrow, who had recently arrived in West Feliciana from Tarboro, North Carolina. The act of sale was made in Philadelphia, in 1818, witnessed by Robert Wharton, mayor of Philadelphia, and was recorded in the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse in March, 1819. Barrow paid the O'Connor heirs \$76,525.00 for the land, slaves and "improvements".

Following the initial sale of the property on which Rosebank is located, the land has been sold 13 times, including the most recent sale to its present owner in 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Floyd, William Barrow. The Barrow Family of Old Louisiana. Lexington, Kentucky; Transvania Printing Co. 1963.

Hansen, Harry. Louisiana, A Guide to the State. New York, Hastings House, 1963.

Overdyke, Darrell. Louisiana Plantation Homes: Colonial and Antebellum. New York, Architectural Book Publishing Co. 1965.

Reeves, Miriam G. The Felicianas of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, Claiborne, 1967.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	30° 55' 30"	91° 26' 32"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kenneth C. Scullin**

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: **March 2, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**752 Dubois Drive**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baton Rouge** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **70808**

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: **John R. Bruns**  
State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Title: **Director, Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation**

Date: **March 22, 1973**

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

**Robert M. Utley**  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **APR 15 1973**

ATTEST:

**John R. Bruns**  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **April 9, 1977**

UTM  
15/648830  
3422660  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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The exact date of the construction of the house is difficult to determine because the acts of sales recorded between the O'Connor heirs and Bennett Barrow, and those recorded in the 1840s and 1850s fail to describe what is referred to as "improvements" on the plantation. However, four books written about plantation homes in Louisiana place the date of construction at between the years of 1790 and 1808, although the authors fail to give specific documentation as to the reason these dates are mentioned other than to say the building design has a "Spanish influence". An architectural examination of the house indicates that the house may have been constructed in the 1830s or even as late as the 1840s.

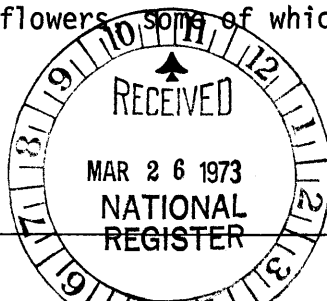
The most complete information concerning the early history of the plantation house and those who lived there is a geneology book written about the Barrow family--one of Louisiana's most prominent agricultural families of the 19th century. The book was written in 1963 by a Barrow descendant, William Barrow Floyd of Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. Floyd contends the house was constructed in 1808, basing his assertion on the fact that Bennett Barrow bought his property between Big Bayou Sara and Little Bayou Sara immediately after his arrival in West Feliciana in 1818 from the heirs of O'Connor (as shown in the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse records). A reference in a travel book by an Englishman visiting West Feliciana in 1808 stated that he visited with O'Connor and that O'Connor was at the time "Building a very large and commodious house." Mr. Floyd contends that the house under construction in 1808 by O'Connor is the same house purchased ten years later by Bennett Barrow.

Mr. Floyd cites the reference to O'Connor from a book by Fortesque Cuming entitled Cuming's Tour to the Western Country (1807-1809), which was re-published by a Cleveland, Ohio publisher in 1904 as a part of a series of volumes on early American travel.

The exact date of construction notwithstanding, it is obvious that the house was built as the dwelling place for the family who owned and operated the large plantation, and that the land was used for farming purposes by the Bennett Barrow family. Barrow made a partition of Rosebank and his other holdings in 1831, two years before his death, naming his youngest son, Robert J. Barrow as heir to Rosebank and its lands.

After Robert Barrow's marriage to Mary Eleanor Crabb they made their home at Rosebank. It is she who, according to Barrow family tradition as cited in Floyd's book, gave the home its name of Rosebank, and who planted the grounds with shrubs and flowers, some of which still grow on the grounds surrounding the house.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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The U.S. census of 1850 reveals that the Robert J. Barrows were living at Rosebank, a plantation of 550 improved and 300 unimproved acres. This place was farmed in conjunction with Bay Wood Plantation by Robert Barrow. His real estate was valued at \$129,000.00, and he owned 57 slaves. However, Robert suffered financial reverses in 1885 and his wealthy cousins came to his assistance so that he could buy a plantation near Livonia in Pointe Coupee Parish.

The property changed hands within the family several times during the early 1850s, possibly as a result of Robert J. Barrow's unsettled financial situation, but remained in the ownership of Bennett J. Barrow from 1856 until 1869 when it was sold at a sheriff's sale, according to the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse records.

The 1869 purchaser was Dr. R. H. Ryland, who was connected with the Barrow family, and Rosebank remained in the hands of his descendants and their heirs until the present owner acquired the house in August, 1972. The house was used as a residence during most of the 20th century, and portions of what was once a part of the plantation are still under cultivation.

Mr. Floyd states that a number of legends surround the early days of Rosebank. The most persistent one states that the house once served as an inn, but no documentary evidence of this has been found. If the place ever was a hotel there is no record as to whether this transpired during the O'Connor ownership or during the period after the death of Bennett Barrow's wife, Martha in 1845.

In addition to the ravages of time the house was seriously damaged when its upper floors were flooded as part of a scene in the Hollywood motion picture "Blood Kin" filmed on location by Sidney Lumit Productions in 1969.

The restoration work performed in the fall of 1972 was of an emergency nature to stabilize the structure and to prevent further deterioration.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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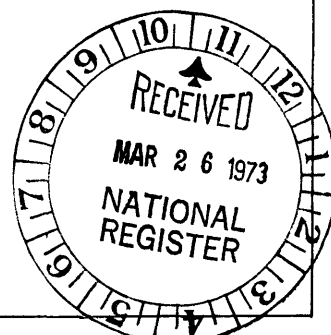
STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1973

(Number all entries)

Question 9 Continued Page 2

Exhibit of Private Land Claims, State of Louisiana, Greensburg District,  
State Land Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

An Abstract of title for Rosebank

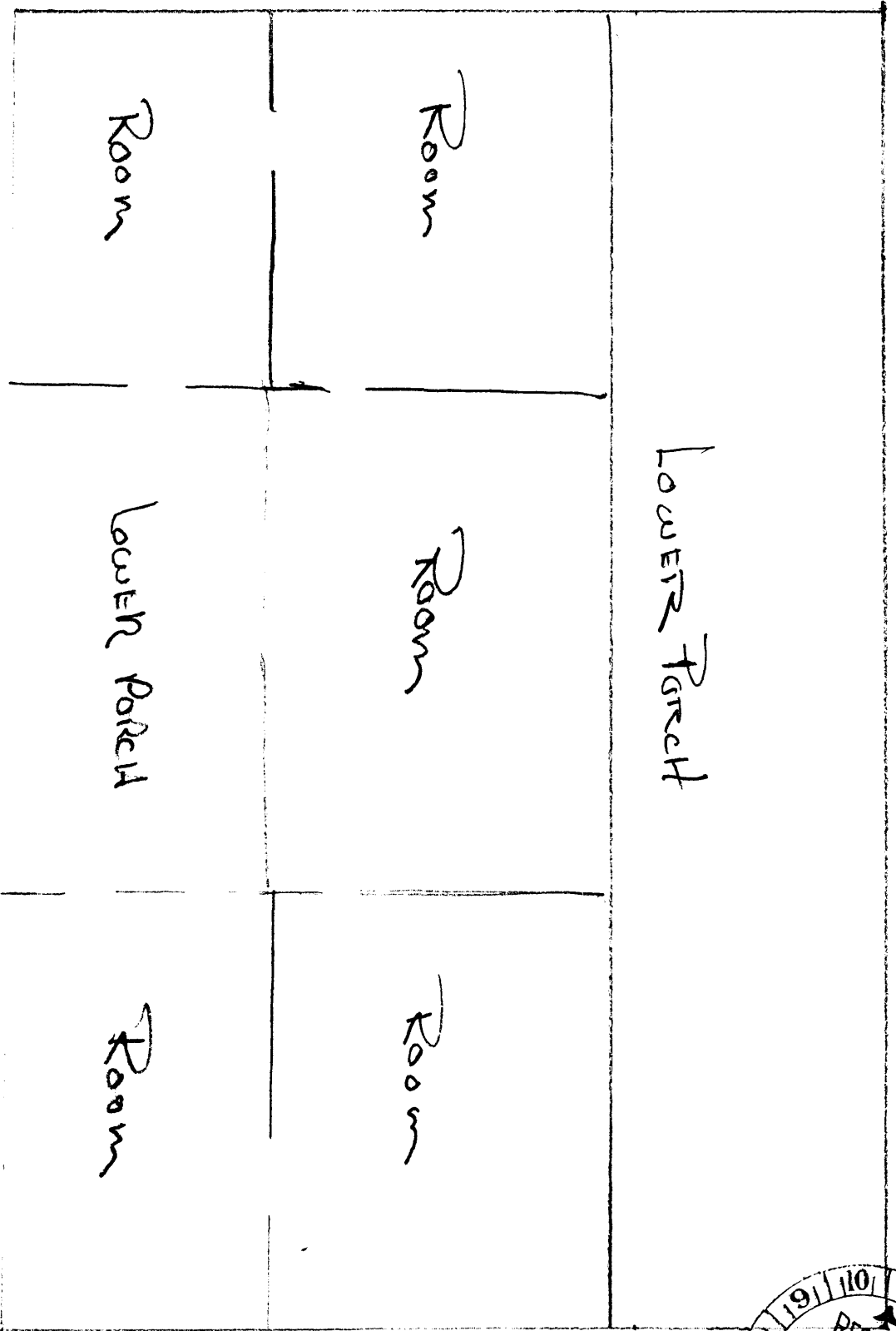




EAST

FRONT

South




NORTH


GROUND LEVEL

REAR WEST

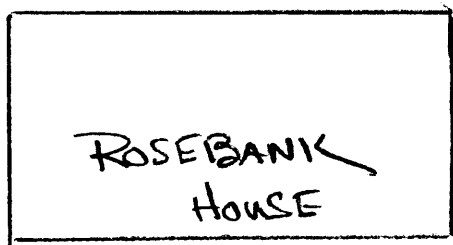
W  
↑

N  
↑

OUTHOUSE  


SLAVE CABIN  


CISTERN  


ROSEBANK  
HOUSE  


WELL HOUSE  


S  
↑

E  
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