

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spratling - Old Plantation Houses in Louisiana
 Harnett Kane - Plantation Parade
 Lyle Saxon - Old Louisiana
 Overdyke - Louisiana Plantation Homes
 Wesley Cooper - Louisiana
 J. Frazer Smith A.I.A. - White Pillars
 Dorothy and Richard Pratt - Early American Homes - South
 John Desmond A.I.A. - Louisiana's Antebellum Architecture
 Louisiana Guide
 Miriam Reeves - The Felicianas of Louisiana

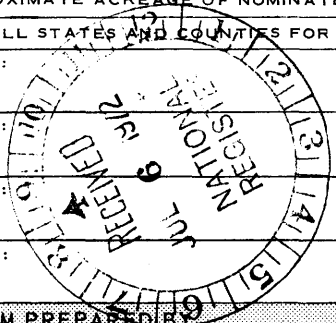
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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° 47' 20"	91° 13' 07"				
NE	30° 47' 20"	91° 12' 48"				
SE	30° 47' 07"	91° 12' 53"				
SW	30° 47' 10"	91° 13' 07"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **51.4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mamie Austin Rouzan and Marcelle Reese Couhig

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Jackson Study Committee** DATE: **25 May 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

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: **George M. Peck**
 Title: **State Liaison Officer**
 Date: **27 June, 1972**

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **11/15/72**

ATTEST:

J. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **Nov 9, 1972**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7/10/72

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lyle Saxon has called Asphodel the "jewel of Louisiana" because it epitomizes an era when great fortunes could be made in the Old Southwest by the cultivation of cotton.

Here in the Felicianas of Louisiana were men of much culture and sophistication. Many designed their own dwellings with great ability not only from their knowledge of art but also from an understanding of the climate in which they built.

Benjamin Kendrick is an example of one of these men who built with much care a house that has some of the finest interior woodwork to be found anywhere. The construction of Asphodel began about 1820 and lasted nearly 10 years. The fine workmanship, the attention to detail, the knowledgeable application of symmetry and elegance were never planned with some future in mind that might turn Asphodel into a museum. It was built as a gift for his wife, Caroline.

The original noun asphodel means any lilaceous plant - daffodils to the 18th century English and French poets and narcissus to their Greek counterparts of a much earlier era. Thus as the builder, he left for posterity a fine example of classicisms, the marriage of language and architecture. The year that construction of Asphodel was completed, Benjamin Kendrick died leaving one daughter, Isabel, who married Col. Robert Fluker.

During the 10 years the house was under construction, John James Audubon painted the portraits of Kendrick's daughter, Isabel Kendrick Fluker, and the first two (sons) of her twelve children by Robert Fluker. These paintings are now in Virginia and bear the inscription "painted at their beloved Asphodel."

The Civil War changed the life style of the Flukers as it did for many other Southerners. During the Battle of Port Hudson, a group of Union soldiers set fire to Asphodel. Miraculously, the fire went out.

After the War, Poverty was the guest who stayed longest at Asphodel as at many of the other great houses in the South. For approximately 40 years until their deaths in 1945 and 1948, the Misses Smith were guardians of the family heritage at Asphodel. In all this time, they never left the grounds, and when they died they were buried in the family plot on the grounds.

Then the John Fetzers bought Asphodel in 1949 and set about restoration. Much of the work was done by John and his sons. Following the death of Mr. Fetzer, the house was sold to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Couhig, in July 1958.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Asphodel is essentially the same as originally built with the exception of the enclosure of the back porch.

The type of architecture may best be described as Greek Revival Cottage. Six doric columns span the front gallery. The symmetrical arrangement of doors and windows across this facade is a little strange because there are two entrance doors leading into the double parlors (one into each) flanked by two windows on either side.

The wings repeat the central theme with two columns, one door and two windows each.

All four entrance doors are to the first (main) floor. The floor above shows two dormer windows repeating the detail of the pediment over the entrance to the wings.

There is absolutely no architectural change on the interior except the enclosure of the porch as stated above and the stairs which were originally into the dining room and were re-routed to the new room.

The house was built into the side of a slope making the main floor at the back on a two story level.

The two end rooms of the enclosed gallery were in existence as a milk room and a morning room. Both are now bathrooms.

Below this area using existing foundation walls have been added six rooms. Only two walls were newly built to achieve this.

Attached is a complete floor plan with notations as to any change and where they occur.

The exterior rear has had an open arm stair and balcony added at the time of the rear enclosure. There are two dormer windows, duplicates of those on the front. The balcony is supported by two doric columns and the stair rail is ornamental cast iron from the Marigny House in New Orleans.

Neither the north or south facade had any windows originally except two each in the upstairs bedrooms. There is now one in the south side main floor level and a utility door on the basement level. The north side has four windows at the basement level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



PH 1009 7417

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 15 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Asphodel Plantation and Cemetery (some original - some moved)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Six miles south of Jackson, Louisiana

CITY OR TOWN:
on Highway 68

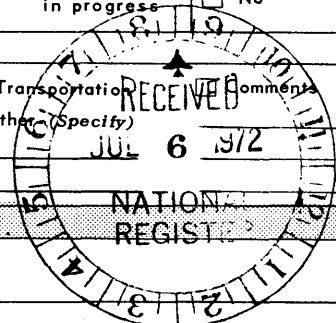
STATE Louisiana	CODE 22	COUNTY: East Feliciana	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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 (Specify)
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Robert Emmet and Marcelle Reese Couhig

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 2 Box 89

CITY OR TOWN:
Jackson

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
East Feliciana Parish Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Clinton

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Map shows a portion of Asphodel Plantation

DATE OF SURVEY: Oct. 16, 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Courthouse - East Feliciana Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Clinton

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

NOV 15 1972

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE