

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only  
received APR 8 1980  
date entered JUN 9 1980

**1. Name**

historic Henri Penne House  
and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number W of Breaux Bridge not for publication  
city, town Breaux Bridge vic. Anse-La-Butte X vicinity of congressional district 7th-John Breaux  
state La. code 022 county St. Martin code 099

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Robert Edward Smith  
street & number Route 2, Box 1220  
city, town Anse La Butte vicinity of Breaux Bridge state La.

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Martin Parish Courthouse  
street & number  
city, town St. Martinville state La.

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1979  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office  
city, town Baton Rouge state La.

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>October 30, 1974</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Henri Penne House (c. 1830) was moved in 1974 in order to preserve it. However, the present setting, at the edge of a natural ring of live oaks, is similar to the original. So the boundaries of the nominated area were drawn to include enough acreage to encompass the oaks.

The house itself is a story and a half raised dwelling of "briquette-entre-poteaux" construction measuring 44 feet square with a main portion and rear wing which go to form an "L" shape. Stylistically the house is a melange of 90% Anglo-Saxon and 10% French Creole architectural features. Anglo-American features include: its center hall with two rooms each side, its exterior chimneys, its "cross and bible" raised panel doors and shutters, its Sheraton turned colonnettes, its gable end roof, its 6 over 6 windows, and its symmetrical facade with emphasis upon the center given by a transomed sidelighted front door. The only distinctive French feature is the direct access given all front rooms on the front gallery. Other features include the exterior stair, the finished "garconier" in the attic, beaded beams, chair rails, and a handsome molded entablature. The two mantels feature composite pilasters under a molded entablature.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Henri Penne

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** criterion C

The Henri Penne House is significant in the area of architecture because it represents an Anglo-American raised cottage--a type of early Louisiana architecture once common but now greatly diminished in numbers.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Mary Parish Courthouse Records  
Stahls, Paul F., Plantation Homes of the Teche Country, 1979  
Rushton, William F., The Cajuns From Acadia to Louisiana, 1979  
Lafayette Advertiser, September 16, 1979

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 8.961 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert E. Smith

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 1979

street & number Route 2, Box 1220 telephone 318-332-2852

city or town Anse La Butte state La. 70517

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*E. Bernard Lamar*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/27/80

For HCRS use only

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

*Sally G. Oldh*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/9/80

Attest: *Beth Grosvenor*  
Chief of Registration

date 6/3/80

CHAIN OF TITLE

Sale of Land:	Jean Louis Hebert	1797 to 1812
Inheritance:	Ann Celeste Hebert Penne	1812 to 1841
Inheritance:	Henry Penn, Jr.	1841 to 1845
Sale of land with house:	Nicolas Loisel	1845 to 18??
	William Prescott Dillon	
	John Bussy	1890's
Inheritance:	Nancy Raider Bussy	
Inheritance:	Robert Burleigh	to Dec. 26, 1973
Inheritance:	Ruth Jackson Burleigh	Dec. 26, 1973 - April, 1974
Sale of house only:	Robert Edward Smith	April, 1974 until present

Significant features of:

A.The Structure:

- 1) Its archeologically based restoration.
- 2) Its unusual architectural style.
- 3) Its high state of originality.
- 4) Its unusually intact paint restoration.

B.The setting of 9 acres:

- 1) 50 large live oak trees forming a circle in front of the house. (The original site had a smaller circle of oaks so situated)
- 2) A newly planted live oak alley of 12 trees.
- 3) A parterre modeled after the c. 1830 original parterre of the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau.
- 4) A bottomlands woods of approximately 3 acres.
- 5) A swamp, and ponds of approximately 2 acres.
- 6) Planting of only those plants documented to have been in use in Louisiana in the early 19th Century.

C.The furnishings:

- 1) Collection of Early Louisiana Creole furniture c. 1790-1835.
- 2) Collection of Early Louisiana, Canadian and Acadian furniture (c. 1750-1835).
- 3) The largest collection of Louisiana Acadian homespun materials extant. (approximately 100 articles).
- 4) Imported decorative and utilitarian objects known to have been of the type used in Louisiana in the Colonial period. (i.e., glassware, silver, wrought iron, brass, books, prints, porcelain, etc.).
- 5) A Louisiana Indian basket collection (approximately 50 baskets).
- 6) A reference library of Louisiana materials.

Educational Objectives: The goal is to bring into focus a clear well-documented picture of material culture in Louisiana during the colonial period. In doing this, one answers such questions as: What cultures have contributed to our regional heritage and history? What unique qualities did each contribute? What kind of acculturation has taken place? How do these diverse elements conjoin and contribute to the unique character of our state?

CHANGE OF LOCATION:

Original site name: Chicot Noir.

Present name for original site: Jeanerette.

Location description: At the intersection of old Highway 90 and the city limit boundary on the west side of town. The house was situated between said highway and the Bayou Teche, with its front being parallel to both means of transportation. The house, therefore, faced southwest. The house was situated just behind a distinct circle of large oak trees, which still exists.

Original property size: "2-1/2 arpents front on each side of the Bayou Teche by forty arpents on the west side and eighty arpents deep on the East side." (see attached sale 20 March 1845 Henry Penn, Jr. to Nicolas Loisel)

Present Property Size: 10.589 arpents, or 8.961 acres.

Date of change of location: October 30, 1974.

Distance between sites: 20 miles.

Present location description: Anse La Butte, near Breaux Bridge in Section 72, Township 9 South, Range 5 East, St. Martin Parish. Bounded by E. Alexis Voorhies or assigns, North by Arthur Hinckley or assigns, West by Ivy Kiblinger and South by Mathilde Cormier or assigns.

Similarities in setting the house on new location:

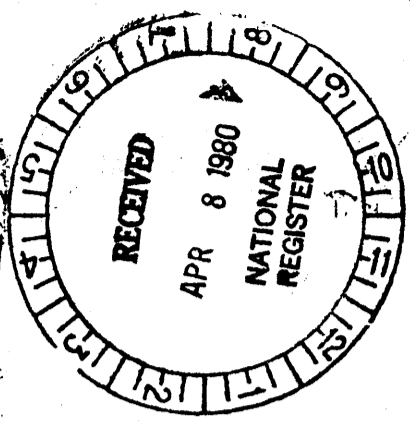
1. Same orientation to cardinal directions.
2. Same distance above ground.
3. Same situation of being set behind a large circle of live oak trees.
4. Same orientation to arpent division lines.
5. Same orientation to Bayou Teche.
6. Same orientation to access road.

Reason for availability for purchase of house only to be moved from its original site:

The house had deteriorated severely and was inhabited by a family of approximately seventeen "squatters", who were further damaging and endangering the structure in various ways. The owner who was opposed to selling any of the land involved agreed to sell the house to be moved with the agreement that buyer would preserve its architectural integrity. She saw this as the only workable situation which would make possible the preservation of the structure.



PRESENT SITE OF HENRI PENNE HOME  
ALEXIS VOORHIES OR ASSIGNS



LA. HWY. NO. 94 TO BREAUX BRIDGE

Found I. Pipe N27°44'54"W 349.32' Found I. Pipe

BOUNDARY

N32°37'W 552.6  
S50°08'W  
N18°05'W 507.5

2302.08'  
1064.62'  
10.509 ARPENTS  
8.961 ACRES  
1276.7'  
2274.60'

PHOTO 2

PHOTO 1

AUTHOR HINCKEY OR ASSIGNS

WELL ROAD 50' R/W  
S5°25'24"E 133.76'

S14°09'18"W 133.76'

MATHILDE CORMIER OR ASSIGNS

10.349 ARPENTS  
8.758 ACRES

S50°05'37"W 1237.46'

997.89'  
N50°18'36"E

S32°01'38"E 336.05' Found I. Stake

EDMOND BERGERON OR ASSIGNS

MAP OF SURVEY SHOWING PROPERTY OF

JULES TROSCLAIR & EDNA T. BELLAIRE

LOCATED IN SECTION 72, T 9 S - R 5 E ST. MARTIN PARISH, LOUISIANA.

SURVEYED BY:

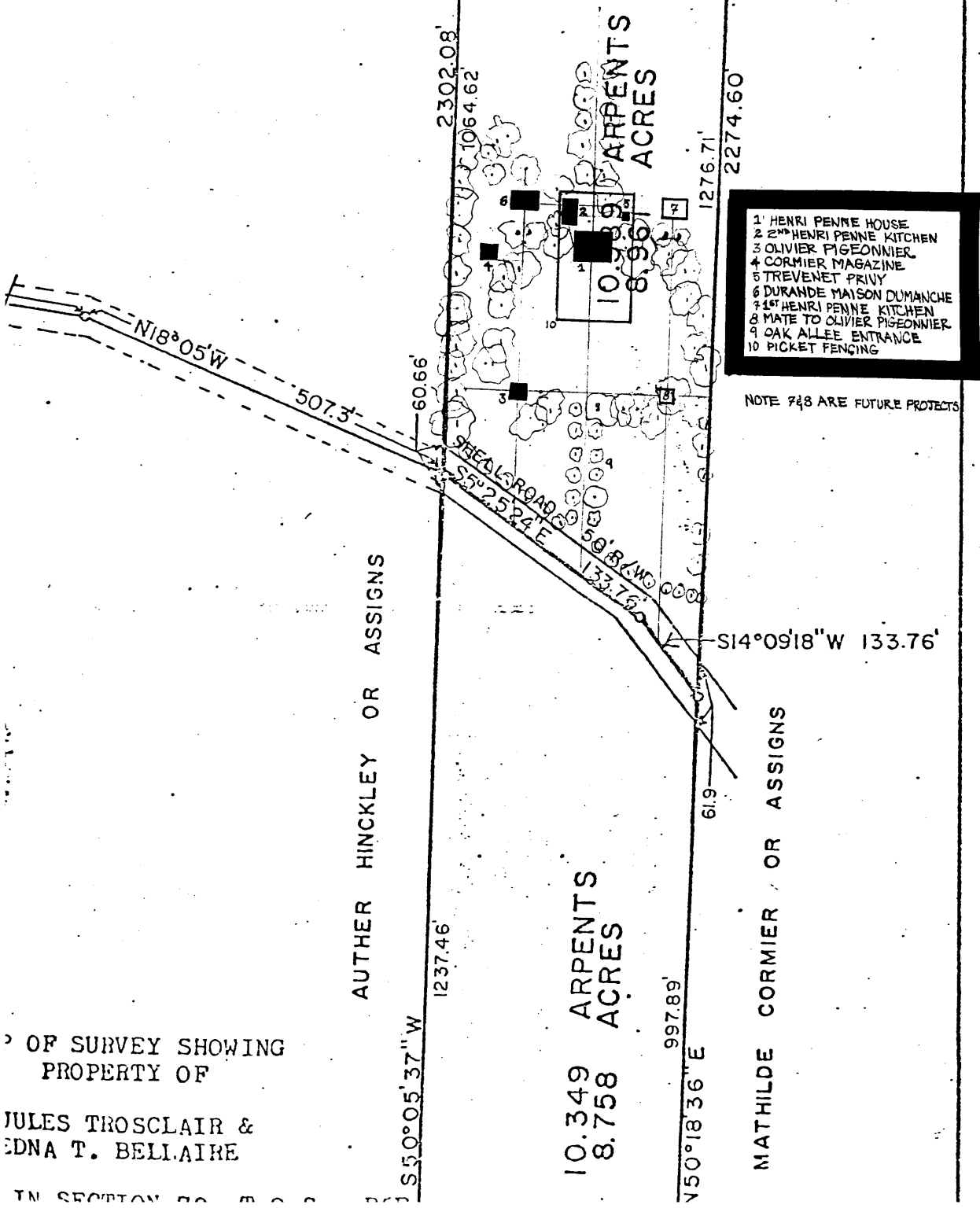
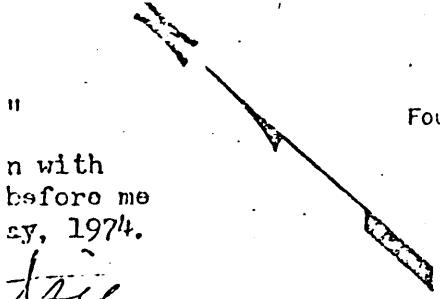
*Edmond E. Dupre, Jr.*  
EDMOND E. DUPRE, JR.  
LAND SURVEYOR  
LA. REG. NO. 1317

SCALE 1" = 200' May 6, 1974

ALEXIS VOORHIES' OR ASSIGNS

n with  
before me  
ay, 1974.  
*[Signature]*  
ary Public

Found I. Pipe - N 27° 44' 54" W 349.32' Found I. Pipe



- 1 HENRI PENNE HOUSE
- 2 2<sup>ND</sup> HENRI PENNE KITCHEN
- 3 OLIVIER PIGEONNIER
- 4 CORMIER MAGAZINE
- 5 TREVENET PRIVY
- 6 DURANDE MAISON DIMANCHE
- 7 1<sup>ST</sup> HENRI PENNE KITCHEN
- 8 MATE TO OLIVIER PIGEONNIER
- 9 OAK ALLEE ENTRANCE
- 10 PICKET FENCING

NOTE 7&8 ARE FUTURE PROTECTS

AUTHOR HINCKLEY OR ASSIGNS

MATHILDE CORMIER OR ASSIGNS

OF SURVEY SHOWING  
PROPERTY OF

JULES TROSCLAIR &  
EDNA T. BELLAIRE

IN SECTION 20 T 5 S 20 R 10 W