

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



982

1. Name

historic The Burn

and/or common Same

2. Location

N of Waterproof of LA 65

street & number 3 miles north/northwest of Waterproof, 1/2 mile west of La. Hwy. 65 N/A not for publication

city, town Waterproof vic. vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 parish ~~XXXX~~ Tensas code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unoccupied at present

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Goldman

street & number Rt. 1, Box 105

city, town Waterproof vicinity of state LA 71375

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tensas Parish Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 78 Court Street (no specific no.)

city, town St. Joseph state LA 71366

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana 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 N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Burn (c.1856) is a large rambling Greek Revival country house located in a bucolic setting north of the town of Waterproof. The house has received only minor alterations since it was constructed.

Raised four feet above the ground on brick piers with spread footings, the 1-1/2 story house is constructed of circular sawn cypress with heavy corner posts and sills. The house has an "L" shaped plan consisting of an asymmetrical main block and a rear dining room wing. The main block has an off-center hall with four rooms on one side and a single parlor on the other. Behind the parlor, the rear wing consists of a large bedroom, a nursery, the dining room, and a large cistern room under its own pyramid roof. Both the main block and the rear wing have full front and rear galleries formed of square Doric posts. A continuous gallery of 13 posts encompasses the outside of the "L". The front roofline is asymmetrical with a gable on one end and a slope on the other which connects it with the pitched roof of the rear wing. The roof of the rear wing has an uneven pitch which permits it to merge smoothly with the larger pitched roof in front. There are a total of four chimneys, all of which are set between rooms. At one time there were four white marble aedicule motif mantels, three of which are now in place. The remaining mantels both downstairs and in the finished garret are of wood. In most of the rooms the windows and doors have shoulder moldings surmounted by cornices; however, in the parlor and hall they have full entablatures with drip cornices. Most of the windows are six over six; however, some of those along the galleries are floor-length six over nine. The staircase in the hall has four attenuated turned newels. Doors have four raised panels and some have the original silver plated hardware, which is much tarnished and in some cases painted over. Virtually all the original floorboards remain. The galleries have unusually deep friezes and cyma recta cornices. The two dormers in front are treated with pilasters and pedimented friezes.

Since the house was constructed the following changes have been made:

1. Most of the plaster gallery ceilings were replaced with narrow gauge beaded wainscotting in the early twentieth century.
2. The shutters were replaced in about 1900.
3. Part of the side gallery was screened in (slated for removal).
4. The present owners have installed removable bath and dressing rooms in the rear corner of the main block.

In addition to the changes described above, some of the entablature fascia board has fallen off.

Integrity

The changes which have occurred since the Burn's construction have not affected its architectural importance. The house is significant for its unusual plan, its size, and its Greek Revival details. All of these elements remain more or less intact.

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7. Description (continued)

The only surviving outbuilding is a contemporaneous square clapboard smokehouse with a pyramid roof similar to the cistern room. Wooden bars on the side window suggest that it may also have had another use. It contributes to the Burn's architectural significance because it provides a part of the bucolic setting within which the provincial Greek Revival house is viewed.

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.1856

Builder/Architect Builder - Zenas Preston

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

The Burn is architecturally significant on the local level as an important example of a Greek Revival plantation house. It is one of the few remaining examples in Tensas Parish, where once they must have been quite numerous. Also, among the half dozen or so that have survived, the Burn is noteworthy in several important respects, as described below.

The importance of the Burn, within the context of Tensas Parish, as a Greek Revival plantation house can be graphically illustrated by examining the census schedules of 1860. On the eve of the Civil War, the population of the parish was 91% slaves and there were 118 large slaveholdings (i.e., fifty or more slaves). Of these 118, the average size of a slaveholding was 100. The absentee ownership rate was 34%. Hence of the 118 large slaveholdings in the parish, 78 of them involved individuals who resided there. Given the above, it is clear that there must have been numerous Greek Revival plantation houses in Tensas Parish on the eve of the Civil War. However, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, there are only about a half dozen or so remaining examples. Consequently the Burn is of special importance in the architectural heritage of the parish.

In addition, among those few Greek Revival plantation houses that do survive, the Burn is noteworthy in the following respects:

1. It is unusually large.
2. Its plan is considerably more complex than the usual central hall, double parlor plan with a rear dining room.
3. Its gallery arrangement is most unusual.

History:

The property on which the Burn was built was opened as small tracts of land by U. S. patent dating back as early as January, 1831. The name "Burn" was in use by March 8, 1839, when in an act of sale it was referred to as the "Burn tract." Zenas Preston bought the major portion of the Burn Plantation May, 1853. He is generally accepted as the builder of the house, and documents of the time seem to bear this out. The Tensas Parish Tax Records show that the assessment of the property in 1856 was \$29,950.00 and in 1857 was \$33,940.00. This increase would indicate that he had finished the house by this time. The April 13, 1979 issue of The United Methodist Reporter tells of the meeting of the Louisiana Annual Conference at the Burn in 1857.

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title, Tensas Parish Courthouse.

United Methodist Reporter, Louisiana United Methodist edition, April 13, 1979.

Overdyke, W. Darrell, Louisiana Plantation Homes, Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1965.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2.3 acres

Quadrangle name Waterproof, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	5	2	7	6	0	3	5	2	3	7	0	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

See attached sketch map.

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

name/title Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Goldman

organization N/A

date December 1980

street & number Rt. 1, Box 105

telephone (318) 749-3283 or 749-3301

city or town Waterproof

state LA 71375

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 June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

William H. Mamm
Director of the National Register

date 8.11.82

Attorney
Chief of Registration

date

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8. Significance (continued)

Preston owned ninety-one slaves. In 1856 he raised 476 bales of cotton on 600 acres of land and 5000 bushels of corn on 200 acres. He used 44 yoke of oxen,

In Tensas Parish Mortgage Book "B", page 769, we find that Preston mortgaged the property and slaves in the amount of \$43,725.00. This was in 1858. We know he was living here at the time because this record states: "The plantation on which he now resides known as the 'Burn Plantation'."

Preston went bankrupt in 1868. In 1870 George Carneal Goldman I bought one-half interest in the Burn and brought his bride of two months here to live. She died in August of that year, and Goldman sold his interest in December, 1870. Though he bought the property a second time in 1902, it is said he never went in the house again because of the sad memories. Managers lived in the house until about 1912 when G. C. Goldman II moved there. He lived at the Burn until his death in 1946. The present owner, G. C. Goldman III was born here in 1919.

Between 1870 and 1898, the Moss family owned the property. During this time it was known as "Moss Grove."

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

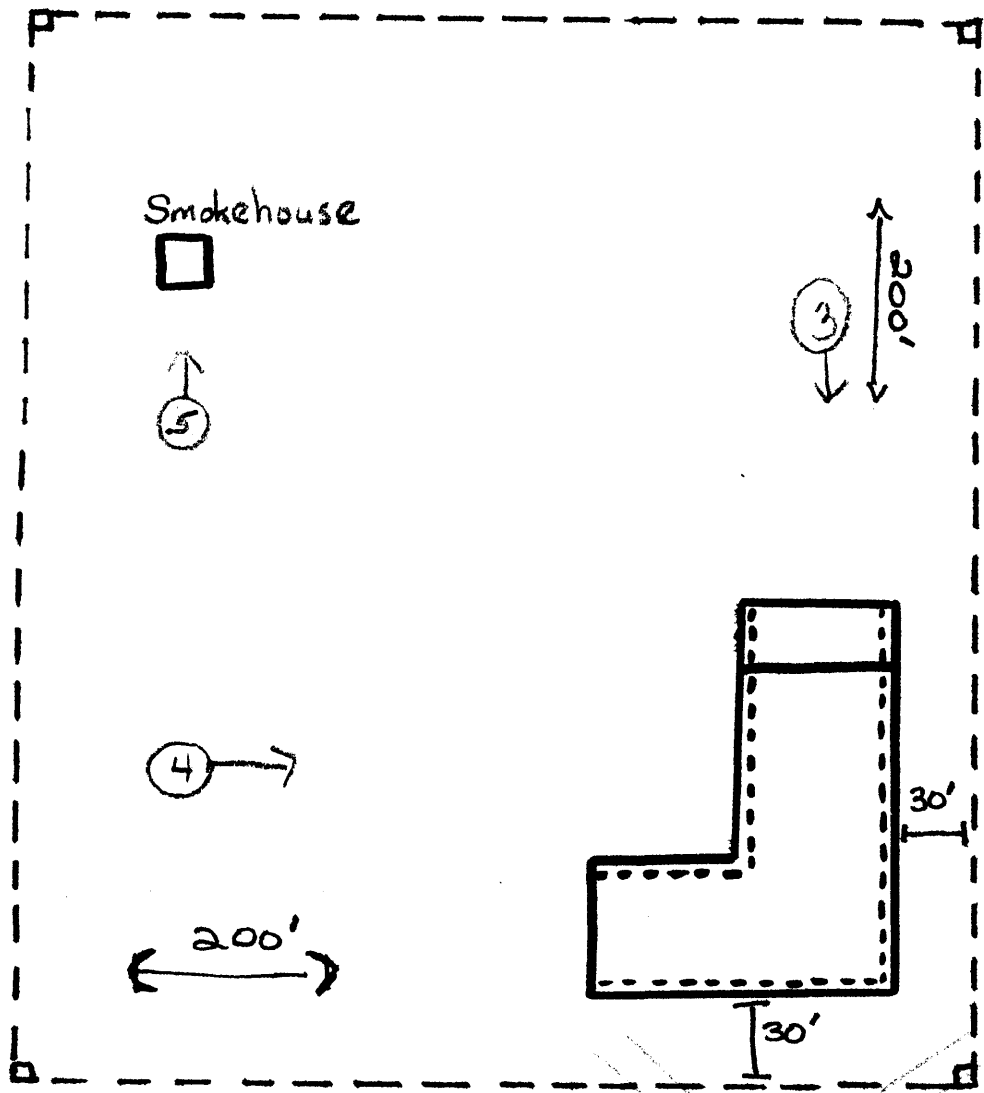
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DATE ENTERED

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BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued)

Research Report Submitted by Owners, located in The Burn National Register file,
La. State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

The Burn



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES AT DISTANCES SHOWN.

Private driveway does not appear on USGS map.



N ←

SCALE 1/2" = 30' APPROX.

