

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 13 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ransonet House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 431 East Bridge Street N/A not for publication
city, town Breaux Bridge N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. Martin code 099 zip code 70517

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Leslie P. Tassin April 10, 1990
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date
Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 5/10/90
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival
Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboards; shingles
roof asphalt; tin
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ransonet House (1898) is a large two-story frame Queen Anne style residence with Eastlake trim both inside and out. Raised several feet above the ground on brick piers, the house stands on the front corner of a large, shaded urban lot on a busy Breaux Bridge thoroughfare. However, the property's side boundary extends to the banks of Bayou Teche, making the home's surroundings simultaneously urban and pastoral. The house remains surprisingly intact, for its only major changes include the very early attachment of a smaller two room house to the rear of the larger structure to form a kitchen ell and the addition of bathrooms. Minor alterations include such items as a change in the front door and the loss of the building's chimneys and porch balustrade. None of these modifications is serious enough to impact the home's basic integrity or National Register eligibility.

The house displays a variety of features which clearly mark it as an example of the Queen Anne style. These characteristics include 1) a steeply pitched and truncated hipped roof with cross gables which project over angled bays, 2) one square and two hexagonal bay windows, 3) a wraparound gallery terminating in an entrance pavilion with gable end returns, 4) a decorative bargeboard located at the tip of the large front facing gable, 5) a small second floor porch, and 6) a series of textured exterior surfaces. These include the building's clapboard covering, a band of fishscale shingles between the first and second floors, the board and batten treatment of the entrance pavilion's gable peak, and the beaded board panels used as decorative elements below the bay windows. These panels also display different textures, for the boards in some of them run vertically while the other panels are diagonal.

The building's Eastlake characteristics include 1) a horizontal spindlework band outlining the gallery roof, 2) turned porch columns with scroll sawed ornamental brackets, 3) spindlework bands and scroll sawed brackets outlining the squared roofline above the projecting hexagonal bays, 4) certain decorative features of the entrance pavilion, which include coupled columns, a horizontal spindlework band, and a semicircular sunburst-like spindle band piercing the gable itself, 5) the decorative treatment of the second floor porch, which has its own turned columns, scroll sawed brackets, and spindlework band, and 6) a large and elaborate interior Eastlake grille which divides the entrance space from the rear stair hall. This grille is highlighted by horizontal and sunburst-like spindle bands, wheels, and a set of scroll sawed brackets terminated by pendants.

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The home is entered through a small vestibule which fronts the main entrance. Otherwise, the building's floorplan is simple and consists of four major rooms organized around a hallway on each floor. The mantels, pocket doors, and other woodwork of the interior are all typical of late nineteenth century Victorian homes.

Assessment of Integrity

Although the building has suffered a few changes and losses of material over its ninety years of life, the Ransonet Home's present appearance still greatly resembles that of the building after its construction was first completed. Most of the alterations which have taken place were the result of natural evolution as tastes and technology changed. These alterations include the following:

1. the early attachment (as mentioned above) of a one-story, two room house previously on the property to the rear of the larger home to serve as a kitchen ell.
2. the early addition of two bathrooms, one in space taken from a porch at the rear of the first floor and the other carved from a large second story room which occupied a rear corner of the home. The latter is noteworthy for its ornamental pressed tin ceiling and walls decorated by a band of glazed terra cotta tiles displaying classical plant motifs.
3. the replacement of the original single front door with a pair of doors displaying oval glass inserts,
4. the removal of the home's chimneys from the roof,
5. the loss of the original Eastlake gallery balustrade and a second interior Eastlake grille which appears to have hung in the opening between the entrance hall and the left front room,
6. a slight lowering of the fourteen foot ceilings in the dining room and parlor, and the addition of a coved ceiling to the latter,
7. the installation of tile on the ceilings in the upper hall and some downstairs rooms,
8. the loss of a piece of decorative sculpture which once stood atop the stairway's newel post,
9. the loss of interior shutters which once shielded some of the home's windows,

CONTINUED

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10. the alteration of one of the home's tall downstairs windows,
11. the removal of the screen doors which protected the vestibule, and
12. the installation of two Italianate doors to dress up the kitchen wing.

None of these changes seriously impacts the integrity of the home. The residence's cross gable roof, wraparound gallery, angled bays, decorative bargeboard, second floor porch, and textured exterior surfaces clearly identify it as a noteworthy example of the Queen Anne style. At the same time, the spindle bands, turned porch columns, scroll sawed brackets and interior grille found on and within the home emphatically reinforce its status as a fine example of the Eastlake decorative motif. Both the kitchen and bathroom additions are historic alterations. The kitchen ell is not visible from the street, and the decorative features found in the upstairs bath give this room architectural merit in its own right. Although the change in the front entrance from a single to double doors has altered the shape of the entrance in relation to the vestibule, the change is basically inoffensive and does not impact the home's more important architectural characteristics. The building's other losses and changes, such as the removal of the chimneys and porch balustrade, are relatively minor and can easily be replaced or reversed. Thus, the Ransonet House is well qualified for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Contributing Element

Also standing on the property is an old washhouse which is contemporaneous with the larger residential structure. For this reason, and because urban outbuildings are rare, the washhouse is listed as a contributing element.

Also located on the property is a deteriorated 1920s frame garage. It is listed as a non-contributing element because of its condition and the fact that it was not present during the period of significance for the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1898

Significant Dates

1898

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ransonet House is locally significant in the area of architecture within the community of Breaux Bridge because it is a landmark among the town's late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings.

In 1983 members of the Division of Historic Preservation staff surveyed Breaux Bridge and identified approximately eighty-nine late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences. Most of these homes are either bungalows, simple cottages or shotgun houses. The Ransonet House is one of only six residences from this period which, either due to style or size, stand as landmarks in the town.

The Ransonet House is larger than the vast majority of period houses in Breaux Bridge and is the only two story Queen Anne style residence in the town. The four other noteworthy homes in this style are either one or one-and-one-half stories in height. The home's Queen Anne elements are quite distinctive and include a steeply pitched hipped and truncated roof featuring cross gables. These gables, in turn, project over bays with forty-five degree corner cuts. Most of the other Queen Anne cottages in town have a single projecting bay, but the Ransonet House has two projecting hexagonal bays and one square bay as well. The home's other Queen Anne characteristics are its wraparound gallery terminating in an entrance pavilion, second floor porch, decorative bargeboard, and textured exterior surfaces. These surfaces include clapboards, fishscale shingles, distinctive beaded board panels in vertical and diagonal patterns, and a small area of board and batten siding. The house also has unusually elaborate Eastlake detailing, including a sunburst shaped spindle motif in the small gable above the entrance pavilion, scroll sawed brackets, turned porch columns, and spindle bands outlining the roofs of both the gallery and the second floor porch. There are a fair number of Eastlake galleries in Breaux Bridge, but only one other wraps around two sides of the house as the Ransonet gallery does. A large and elaborate interior Eastlake grille also distinguishes the home. This grille consists of horizontal and sunburst-like spindle bands, wheels, and scroll sawed brackets terminated by pendants.

Historical Note: The Ransonet House was built in 1898 by Leonce Ransonet for his wife. Ransonet was a local public servant and businessman whose successful mercantile store stood next door to the new home. Descendants of the See continuation sheet family lived in the house until at least 1969.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Breaux Bridge Historical Society, A Tour Guide of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, Crawfish Capital of the World. Breaux Bridge: Positive Printing, n.d.

Windshield survey of Breaux Bridge conducted by National Register staff, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, September 1983.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property @ 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	0	6	0	0	0
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3	3	4	9	6	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the building stands. Please refer to enclosed plat map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

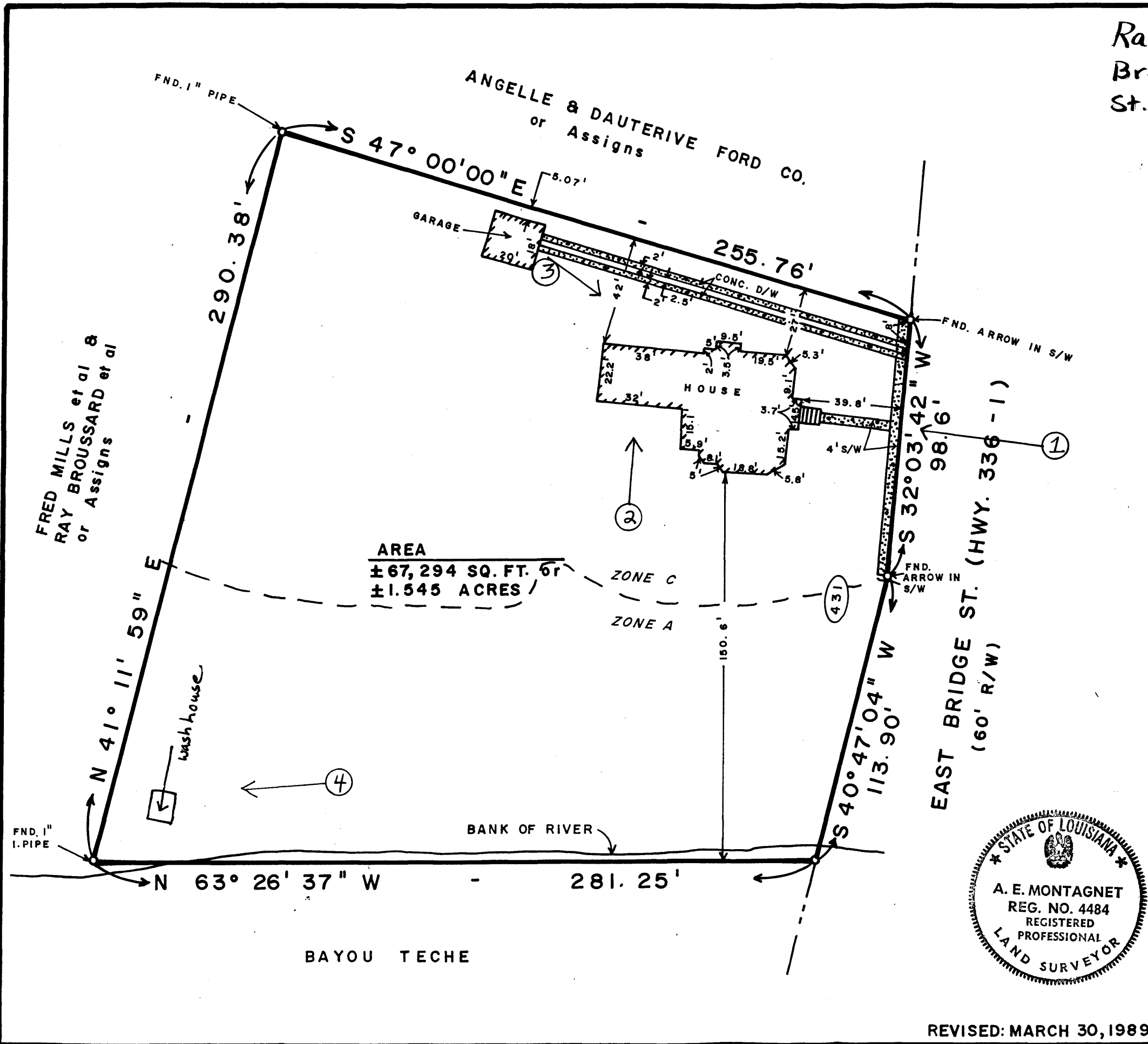
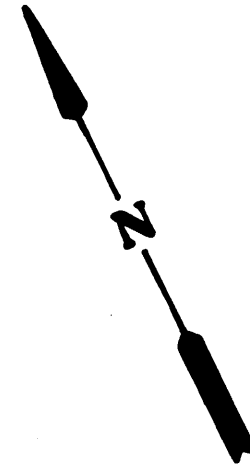
Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the building stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1990
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Ransonet House
Breux Bridge
St. Martin Parish, LA



NOTES:

- 1.) REFERENCE ACT NO. 152752 & 204954
- 2.) ④31 MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 431 E. BRIDGE ST.
BREUX BRIDGE, LA.
- 3.) THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN ZONE C
(not within flood hazard area) AND ZONE A
(within flood hazard area) ACCORDING TO
THE H.U.D. F.I.R.M. DATED MAY 3, 1982.

"I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THIS PLAT REPRESENTS AN
ACTUAL GROUND SURVEY
AND THAT NO ENCROACHMENTS
EXIST EITHER WAY ACROSS
ANY OF THE PROPERTY
LINES."

PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING PROPERTY
AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BE ACQUIRED BY
JOSEPH DANIEL DAVID BENOIT

LOCATED IN SECTION 106, T-9-S, R-6-E,
TOWN OF BREUX BRIDGE,
ST. MARTIN PARISH, LOUISIANA

PREPARED BY: A. E. Montagnet
A. E. MONTAGNET
P.L.S. NO. 4484
C.E. NO. 18687



MONTAGNET AND DOMINGUE, INC.
141 RIDGEWAY DRIVE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70503
PHONE: (318) 981 - 2130
DATE: DECEMBER 21, 1988

REVISED: MARCH 30, 1989

SCALE: 1" = 40'