

2/16/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 12 1983

date entered JUN 14 1984

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

1. Name

historic Alice

and or common "Agricole Fuselier Home"

2. Location LA 87

street & number LA HWY 87, .6 miles north of Bayside Bridge N/A not for publication

city, town near Jeanerette  vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Iberia Parish code 045

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John Randolph Roane

street & number Route 1, Box 59

city, town Jeanerette  vicinity of state LA 70544

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Iberia Parish Courthouse

street & number Iberia Street (no specific address) P. O. Drawer 1208

city, town New Iberia state LA 70560

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 LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>March 1961</u>

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

"Alice Plantation," the old Agricole Fuselier home, is an excellent example of the uniquely indigenous late eighteenth century Louisiana Creole architecture. With its broad veranda (gallery) and high hipped roof, it manifests many of the West Indies influences common to this period of building. This house is of two stories and following the Latin custom, placed the important floor on the second level. The ground floor, constructed of handmade brick, three courses thick, served the approximate function of a basement. The upper floor is constructed of "bousillage entre poteaux" (mud and moss between posts) with beaded cypress weather boards sheathing all exterior upper surfaces. The roof is of wooden shingles, and has two gable-end dormers at front and rear, with 6/9 double-hung windows.

There is a double gallery across the facade, with six round stucco-faced brick columns at ground level supporting the upper gallery and eight small chamfered wooden columns with square base and capitals supporting the generous overhanging roof. Also existing at the upper gallery are the original cypress railing and spindles of simple design. Exposed beaded cypress beams support the galleries, which also have beaded cypress board ceilings. Two outside doors open onto the gallery at lower level, with two central windows in balanced symmetry.

At the upper level, four unusual doors open onto the wide gallery, with double-hung window effect over a lower wooden panel that opens all in one. Windows on the lower level are small paned 8/8 and doors have nine-paned glazed upper panels. Battened shutters on lower windows and doors retain the original wrought iron hardware. Windows and doors of the upper level are large-paned 6/6 lights, with louvered shutters.

Two tall corbeled chimneys sit at either end of the hip of the roof. The lower interior has massive exposed beams of hand-hewn beaded cypress and beaded board ceilings. There exists an original cypress mantel of classic Adam's design. In the dining room and kitchen are old hexagonal tiles salvaged from the original house flooring. Interior doors at ground (basement) level are battened.

The plan of the house is a typical early French Colonial plan in that it is three rooms wide and two deep, with the rear central gallery (now enclosed with glass) housing the original straight run of stairs giving access to the second level, at which level an unusual spiral staircase affords access to the attic. All original wrought iron and brass hardware, as well as the wide cypress board flooring, remain intact throughout the dwelling.

The upper level of the house, including the complete roofing system, was raised and moved by barge from its original site and floated to its present location in March of 1961. The lower level was then reconstructed with the salvaged bricks, and windows and doors were reset in their original frames and locations.

The structure was subsequently renovated and restored to its existing state.

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Continuation sheet Alice

Item number 7

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Item 7 -- ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Alice Plantation House (c.1816) is a two-story Creole raised plantation house, three rooms wide, with a double cabinet plan. It is presently located in Iberia Parish about three-fourths of a mile above the town of Jeanerette on the east bank of Bayou Teche. Despite a 1961 move and several alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

The house was moved in 1961 from Baldwin in St. Mary Parish to its present location--a distance of about seven miles. After the move, the entire lower story had to be rebuilt. According to the present owner, he catalogued and preserved all building materials at the time of the move and rebuilt the lower floor with the original bricks, resetting windows and doors in their original frames. The single remaining chimney is modern. (The other chimney top seen in the pictures does not extend below the roofline.) On the upper story, which was moved intact, most of the door and window frames appear to be mid-nineteenth century replacements. Virtually all of the door and window panes appear to be relatively modern replacements. The glass doors on the upper gallery, which are built in the form of six over six windows, appear to be relatively modern. Closets have been installed in all the main rooms. One of the original mantels remains, although it is not in its original location. The present shutters (upstairs) date from c.1900. The spiral stair to the attic is old, but probably not original. The glazed in rear gallery has a staircase which appears to be original, but the stairs and banister are not assembled in their original configuration. (At least there are notches which do not make sense in the present configuration.) The columns on the upper gallery appear to be original.

Integrity:

Despite these changes, we feel that the house retains its architectural importance (see Item 8 addendum). Despite the relocation, the house was not moved out of the area which was the context for its architectural significance. Hence it retains its National Register eligibility in its new location.

NB: As per our usual custom in dealing with consultant prepared nominations, we are submitting the consultant's nomination form along with addenda of our own giving additional necessary information. As with previous such cases, should any discrepancies be found between the consultant's form and our addenda, the State Historic Preservation Office should be regarded as the final authority.

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

**Specific dates** c. 1816 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Agricole Fuselier de la Claire

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

Alice, the old Agricole Fuselier home, is one of the most important structures in the Acadiana region. It is one of the handful of early Louisiana French Colonial style homes in this area, and probably the oldest home in Iberia Parish.

The original owner of the home was a son of Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire, the commandant of the poste des Attakapas and Opelousas, which comprised most of the lower part of Louisiana. Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire obtained a large portion of land along Bayou Teche from Kinemo, a medal chief of the Attakapas, comprising several leagues of land, on a portion of which this house was originally situated. He married Jeanne Roman, daughter of Jacques Roman, famed builder of Oak Alley, the mother of Agricole, and later married Helene Soileau, daughter of the "grande magazin du Roi." Jeanne Roman's nephew, Andre Bienvenu Roman, was an early governor of Louisiana. Agricole Fuselier married Christine Berard June 20, 1786. This was their home, where they raised a large family and left many descendants, one of whom is the current owner.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Southwest Louisiana Records, Hebert, Volume I; Griffin's Attakapas; The Fortier Family and Allied Families, Cochran; Yankee Autumn in Acadiana, Edmond; The Battle in the Bayou Country, Raphael; Les Vigilantes des Attakapas, Barde; American State Papers, Volumes II & III; Iberia Parish Historical Survey 23-438; "Some History of St. Landry Parish," Opelousas Daily World

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/8 of an acre

Quadrangle name Jeanerette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	2	6	7	4	0	3	3	1	2	3	8	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 enclosed 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 Ruth R. Fontenot and John Albert Landry, Architect

organization Evangeline Economic & Planning District date November 1983

street & number 501 St. John Street telephone 318-233-3215

city or town Lafayette state LA 70501

## 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



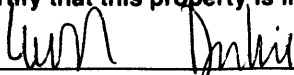
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 6, 1983

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



date 6/14/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Alice Plantation House Item number 8 Addendum Page 2

Item 8 -- ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Alice Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare surviving example of a Creole raised plantation house within the context of southern Louisiana.

Despite the alterations, the house retains the essential features which establish it as an example of its period and type. These include its basic two-story galleried form, its overhanging "umbrella" roof, its main (upper) gallery columns, its fenestration pattern, and its bousillage construction. In addition, the house retains important historic woodwork features such as the beaded beams on the lower story and upper gallery and an elaborate Adams type mantel.

Alice's identity as a Creole raised plantation house is obvious even to the casual observer. It portrays architectural tendencies which were at one time the height of pretention in southern Louisiana. Although the statewide survey is not complete, there are probably only about twenty-five fully raised Creole plantation houses remaining in the region. Hence, Alice is of local importance as a rare surviving example of the finest early architecture in southern Louisiana.

Historical Sketch (from "A Lady Called Alice" by Glenn R. Conrad, Attakapas Gazette, Vol. XIII(1978), 125-28)

Alice's builder, Agricole Fuselier de la Claire, was born in 1765 to Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire and Jeanne Roman. He married Christine Berard in 1786. A few months afterwards, Agricole acquired his first piece of property, a farm facing Bayou Tortue and backing on Bayou Cypress. This holding was enlarged in 1796 when Governor Carondelet granted him an additional 280 acres. It was here that Agricole and his wife established their first home. Meanwhile, Agricole acquired slaves, additional pieces of property in St. Martin Parish, and rose to the rank of lieutenant of militia. In January, 1804, he inaugurated a series of land purchases in the area of the lower Teche - soon to be called St. Mary Parish. As the territorial period progressed, Agricole became a well-known and respected planter, buying property on Bayou Vermilion and tracts of land in and around St. Martinville. Between December 1811 and June 1812, he added 300 acres to his holdings in St. Mary Parish.

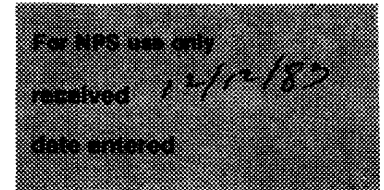
Upon returning to the Teche country after the Battle of New Orleans, Agricole decided to become a sugar planter. Between 1817 and 1819 he added 560 acres to his St. Mary plantation and greatly increased his slaveholdings. In the face of his new enterprise, Agricole decided to move his family to St. Mary Parish. That move took place sometime between August 1815 and January 1817. It was then that Alice was built.

Agricole Fuselier lived twenty years in St. Mary Parish. Here he acquired additional land and more slaves until his plantation was ranked as one of the leading sugar producers of the state. His interests, however, were far broader than agriculture.

CONTINUED

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Continuation sheet Alice Plantation House Item number 8 Addendum Page 3

Item 8 - ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (cont'd)

As the steamboat appeared on Louisiana's waterways, Agricole recognized it as a progressive change in the mode of transportation and invested heavily in steam navigation. He apparently knew and understood the concepts of modern banking and invested profitably in New Orleans banks. He was frequently given power of attorney by relatives to act on their behalf in the settlement of inheritances, in slave and land purchases, and in other legal arrangements. His plantation in St. Mary and his other land holdings in St. Martin and Lafayette parishes continued to be models of efficiency and production.

Agricole Fuselier died on September 27, 1837 at the age of 72. His wife survived him by five years. That he had been financially successful in life is attested to by the fact that his St. Mary holdings alone amounted to nearly one-half million dollars.

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APRIL 1984 RESUBMISSION BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The following is additional information requested in the return sheet and in a subsequent phone conversation with the reviewer (Mary Lee Jefferson):

No survey exists which would permit one to statistically evaluate Alice's integrity versus other Creole raised plantation homes in Louisiana. However, Alice is generally thought to be about average given the total number of surviving examples across the state. There are some which, unlike Alice, retain no decorative woodwork at all. In addition, there are some which after being moved were put up on blocks rather than restored to their full basement height, as was Alice.

Normally, of course, a building in an average state of integrity would be a weak Register candidate. But Alice represents an important architectural type which is now so rare that any example which retains the essential appearance is very significant. It should be noted in this regard that Alice retains more than just its essential appearance. It also has its main gallery columns, its exposed beaded beams, its downstairs doors and windows, its wood siding, its dormers, most of its main staircase, and most of its original flooring. In addition, it retains an Adamesque mantel which is among the finest of its period in southern Louisiana. The mantel has three sunburst motifs and cut dentils. Most other examples are plainer and feature moldings and panels.

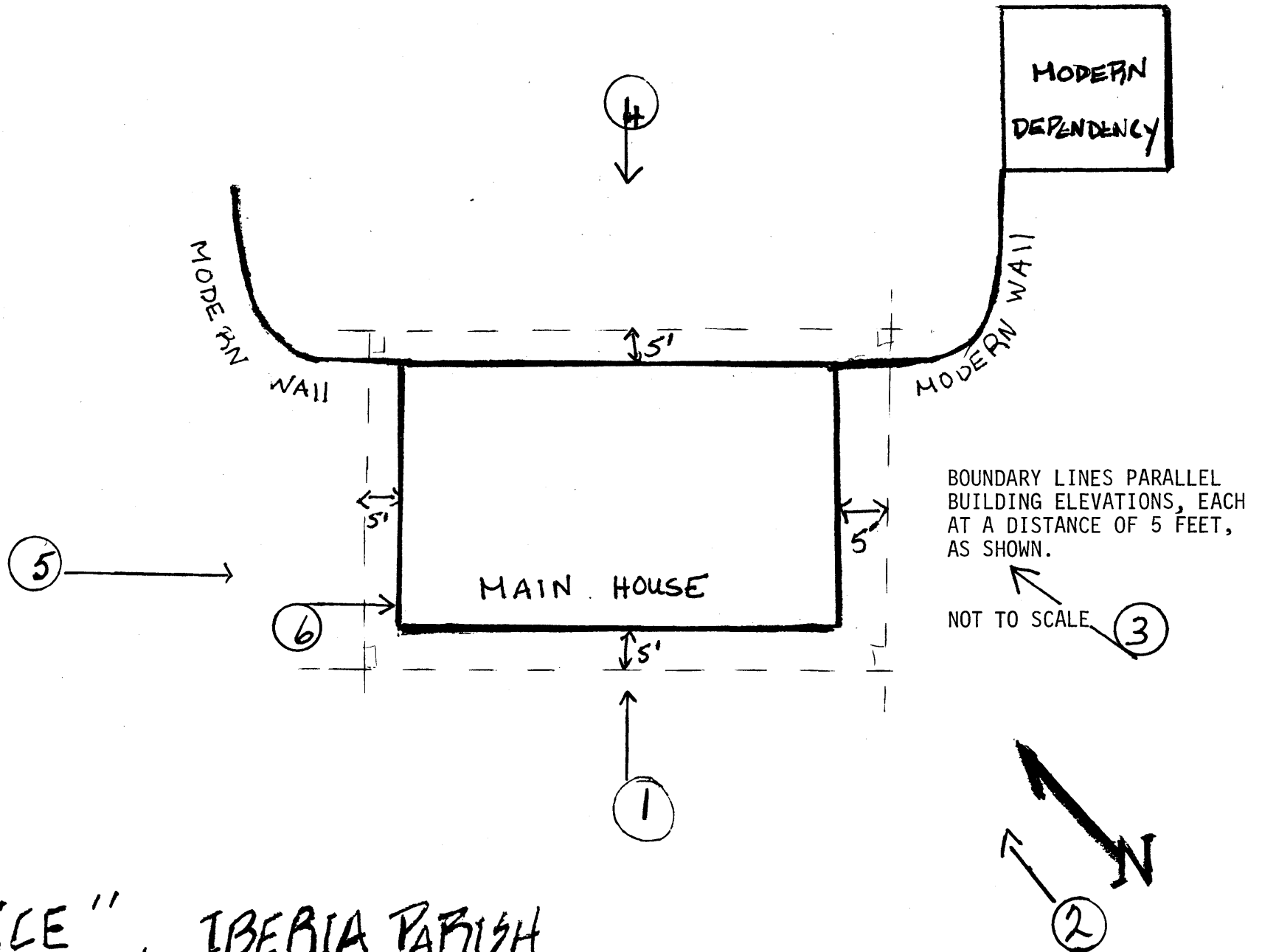
**THE MOVE:**

The 1961 move was necessitated by the fact that the previous owner was developing the original site as a subdivision. The present owner was able to buy the house, move it, and thus save it. Pains were taken in the move to provide a sympathetic setting for the house in its new location. Originally the house faced south; now it faces southwest. But it still faces Bayou Teche in a rural setting as it did originally. (Please refer to enclosed two photos which show Alice prior to the 1961 move.)

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. They cut closely around the house in order to exclude the modern pool house and pool. The flanking walls are modern also and were excluded to the extent possible. In addition, because the house was moved, it has no historic setting to recognize.





"AICE", IBERIA PARISH