

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Jones House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number LA Hwy 484 N/A not for publication

city or town Melrose  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Natchitoches code 069 zip code 71456

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Gerri Hobdy* August 6, 1993  
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date  
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper *Delores Zuer* **entered in the National Register** Date of Action 9/9/93

Jones House  
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Jones House, Melrose vicinity, Natchitoches Parish, LA

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The Jones House is a one story frame French Creole house with bousillage infill. A date of 1847 is inscribed under the stair leading to the attic. The house is located south of Natchitoches in an unspoilt rural setting on the west bank of the Cane River. The nearest hamlet is Melrose, located on the east bank. Although there have been various alterations over the years, the house easily retains the bulk of its Creole character and hence its Register eligibility.

As originally built, the Jones House had three roughly equal size rooms across the front and what appears to have been a three room rear range consisting of one long room flanked by cabinets which extended beyond the core (see plan). The eastern cabinet was accessible only from the gallery (the so-called "stranger's room found occasionally in Natchitoches Parish). The gallery extended across the front and down the sides to join the cabinets. Although one would expect such a house to have had a hipped roof, the architectural evidence indicates that the present gable end roof is original.

Changes to the foregoing plan are as follows: It appears that sometime very early in the house's history the long rear room was subdivided to form two rooms. The wall in question features French joinery which is presently visible due to rotted wall boards which have been removed. Sometime in the early twentieth century one of the previously mentioned two rooms was subdivided to create a bathroom and small hallway and the side galleries and end portions of the front gallery were enclosed. As part of an in-progress renovation project, the current owner re-opened the galleries and then partially enclosed them to provide space for a bathroom and closet.

The house is finely detailed, including random width (6 to 8") beaded boards on the front and side galleries and interior walls, exposed beaded ceiling beams on the interior and the galleries, twelve light single leaf French doors opening into the side front rooms, eight light double leaf French doors opening into the central front room, and transoms over the French doors featuring a decorative geometric pattern. Handsome French wraparound mantel/overmantel sets are found in the three front rooms. Each features simple pilasters, a layered mantel shelf, decorative paneling, a cornice crowning the ensemble, and lozenge shaped designs, the latter being a favorite of Louisiana's French Creoles. The mantel/overmantel sets are very similar, with differences occurring only in the design of the decorative paneling on the overmantels and the location and number of lozenges. The mantel/overmantel sets in the central and eastern rooms are false grained, as are the baseboards, doors, and door and window surrounds. The false graining is in good to poor condition. (The woodwork in the western room has been painted over, and it is hard to tell if it was ever false grained.) Most of the original interior doors survive, featuring multiple panel designs typical of the period. Windows are six-over-six, with a few nine-over-nines.

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Jones House, Melrose vicinity, Natchitoches Parish, LA

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The house appears to have survived largely unaltered until the early twentieth century, when the following changes took place:

(1) As previously mentioned, a bathroom/hallway was created in the rear range, and the side galleries and end portions of the front gallery were enclosed.

(2) The sides and rear were resheathed in narrow gauge clapboards.

(3) The present simple round columns and concrete porch were installed.

(4) A door was added to provide access to the "stranger's room" from the adjacent room.

(5) The openings were completely reworked on the rear elevation and a rear gallery added.

At some time in the twentieth century double windows were added to the gable ends and multi-pane double doors were placed in the original opening on the rear wall of the central front room.

When the present owners acquired the house, it had been vacant for many years and was badly deteriorated in places. They have rescued the house from demolition by neglect and are currently restoring it for use as their home.

Work thus far includes:

(1) The early twentieth century rear gallery was removed. The rear wall was very badly deteriorated and was completely rebuilt. It is sheathed in replicated narrow gauge clapboards. The twentieth century windows and doors were reused.

(2) As previously mentioned, the side galleries and end portions of the front gallery were re-opened and then the side galleries partially enclosed. However, these enclosures are not immediately evident as such. Because the clapboards on the sides were badly rotted, they were removed roughly below the attic level. Then salvageable clapboards from the sides and rear were used to resheath this area, including the enclosed portions of the galleries. Hence there is no clear line in the clapboarding marking an enclosure. On the front of the enclosures, the original gallery baseboards and specially milled wide beaded boards were used.

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Jones House, Melrose vicinity, Natchitoches Parish, LA

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(3) On the eastern side what was originally a window looking out onto the gallery has been changed to a door leading into the now enclosed space. On the western side the window is still in place, with various options under consideration.

(4) Wallpaper covering the original beaded board wall surfaces was removed, leaving countless tiny nail holes. These will be painstakingly filled in and the walls repainted.

(5) What gives every indication of being an original column was discovered imbedded in the wall of a back room. The owner is using it as a model for the front gallery. The work has not been accomplished as of this writing, although the columns have arrived.

Assessment of Integrity

Of course, any assessment of integrity must deal with the house as it appears currently, with the principal important work remaining being the front gallery. Even with the various alterations mentioned above, the house easily retains the bulk of its Creole character and is still one of the most important examples of the style in Natchitoches Parish. The only changes that have made an impact on the house's Creole character are the partial enclosure of the side galleries and the relatively slight adjustment made to the floorplan to create a bathroom in the rear range. The house's characteristic Creole floorplan survives largely intact, as do other features found on Creole houses such as bousillage infill, wraparound mantels/overmantels featuring lozenges, wide beaded wall boards on the interior and some of the exterior, exposed beaded ceiling beams, and French doors.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance**

1847

**Significant Dates**

1847

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Jones House  
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.14 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1993

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Patrick G. Jones

street & number HS 66, Box 617 telephone 318-357-5446 (Mr. Jones' work)

city or town Natchez state Louisiana zip code 71456

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Jones House, Melrose vicinity, Natchitoches Parish, LA

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The Jones House is of local significance in the area of architecture as a particularly important example of Creole architecture in a parish known for the style. In short, it is a significant contributing resource to the parish's cultural identity as a center of French Creole architecture.

Natchitoches Parish is a French enclave in an otherwise Anglo-Saxon North Louisiana. It was a very early area of French settlement, with the town of Natchitoches being founded in 1714, only fifteen years after the founding of the colony and three years before New Orleans. Hence the parish had time to develop a significant Creole building stock. Also, it appears that the competing Greek Revival never gained much of a stronghold in the parish. Finally, Natchitoches Parish was bypassed by development in the mid-nineteenth century. These factors have left the parish with a fairly large number of examples in a comparatively small area.

The Jones House helps establish the significance of Natchitoches Parish as a center of the Creole style. It is particularly important for its three elegant mantel/overmantel ensembles, a feature found in only the most elegant and "upmarket" Creole houses in Louisiana. In this, it is in sharp contrast to the general trend in Natchitoches Parish of large, plain Creole houses with little in the way of intricate ornamentation. It is one of only two houses having mantel/overmantel ensembles. (The other is Melrose Plantation House, a National Historic Landmark.) Finally, it is the only known surviving house to have the lozenge shaped design so popular in Louisiana's French Creole architecture.



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**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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### Bibliography

Historic Structures Inventory, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana Division of  
Historic Preservation

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Jones House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

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Legal Property Description:

A certain tract of land, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon, situated in Section 24, Township 7 North, Range 6 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, and being described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the intersection of the line separating Sections 23 and 24 where it intersects the right of way of Louisiana Highway No. 484, as shown on plat of survey by Jack E. Farmer, Registered Surveyor, dated February 28, 1992, a copy of which is attached herewith and made part hereof, and run thence South 84 degrees 42' West a distance of 2,033.3 feet to Point 1, the point of beginning; from this point of beginning, run thence North 71 degrees 25' West a distance of 154.4 feet to Point 2; run thence North 13 degrees 52' East a distance of 245.9 feet to Point 3; run thence run South 75 degrees 10' East a distance of 75.4 feet to Point 4; run thence South 80 degrees 54' East a distance of 129.5 feet to Point 5; run thence South 15 degrees 48' West a distance of 213.7 feet to Point 6; run thence South 52 degrees 13' West a distance of 69.4 feet to Point 1, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.

Jones House  
Natchitoches Parish

