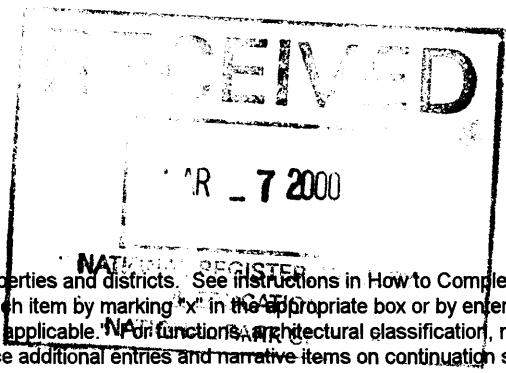


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



329

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 any 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, John Carroll, House

other names/site number Francois Roubieu House

2. Location

street & number 374 LA HWY 484 NA not for publication

city or town Natchez X 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 of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy

2/1/00

Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date
LA SHPO, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date of Action

Elson H. Beal

4/6/00

Jones House
Name of property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	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.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Vacant

Sub. Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Asbestos, Stucco

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" next to 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

NA

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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

c. 1835

Significant Dates

c. 1835

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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

Acreege of Property Approximately 3/4 of an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 499000 3500520

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

___ 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 November 1999

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Delphin Law Offices, Mark A. Delphin, President

street & number One Lakeshore Drive, Suite 1230 telephone 337 439-3939

city or town Lake Charles state LA zip code 70629

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

The Jones House (circa 1835) is a Creole plantation house raised a full story above grade. It is set in a rural, undeveloped location on Cane River in lower Natchitoches Parish. It features a brick basement story with bousillage construction on the principal floor. Despite various alterations, the house easily retains enough character-defining Creole elements to establish its significance within the context of Natchitoches Parish.

The following description is based upon two extant early photographs of the house and upon visual evidence that was accessible during a field inspection conducted by Jonathan and Donna Fricker of the Division of Historic Preservation on November 9, 1999. The high brick basement is laid up in common bond. The fact that the upper story is bousillage was verified during the site visit by removing an electrical box from an interior wall. Each floor features a front range of rooms consisting of a large central room flanked by two narrower rooms of equal size. All but one feature exposed beam ceilings, with both the beams and ceiling boards beaded. The central room upstairs is the exception -- its ceiling is beaded flushboard. On the upper story the front rooms open onto the wide front gallery through a series of double leaf French doors set beneath transoms. Each leaf has ten panes of glass. The front elevation is plastered and features a handsome chair rail.

The rear portion of the house is shallower than the front range of rooms. It is not possible to ascertain the original configuration of the rear range at this time. Upstairs the walls are sheathed in twentieth century planks inside and asbestos siding outside. Thus it is not possible to view structural work underneath that would indicate the age of the walls and suggest some possible rear *cabinet* and *loggia* configuration. Because the floor of the upper rear range of rooms slopes all the way across, it is possible that this was once a completely open gallery. It is also possible there were *cabinets*.

The lower rear range of rooms was probably largely open as well. Much of the present brick wall fabric that encloses it appears to date from the early twentieth century. This brickwork features segmental arches of the type normally seen on commercial construction of the period.

The circa 1835 date of construction being used in this submission is suggested by the architectural evidence. The attic structure is relatively plain (in contrast to the type found in very early French Creole houses). Heavy squarish rafters rise to form the

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 2

hip roof. They are supported part way up by a heavy rail, front and rear, that rests upon posts mortised into the structure. These systems of posts feature steep angle braces typical of French joinery. Major joints in the attic are pegged. Lesser joints are held in place by square headed iron spikes. These appear to be large nails of the type commonly in use between about 1820 and 1880. Further indication of the approximate date is given by a few of the upper window hinges that once held shutters in place. These are of the two gudgeon type commonly in use during the mid-nineteenth century. There is no evidence of strap hinges anywhere in the house (typically found on very early examples). The time frame for the date of construction is refined to c.1835 by original moldings on the windows and doors.

The single original chimney survives. A massive affair, it is set between the middle and downriver rooms. It services a total of four fireplaces, two upstairs, two down. The two downstairs hearths were bricked over during the early twentieth century to create bungalow style fireplaces with mantel shelves resting upon corbeled brick. Also, at that time the original downstairs front doors were replaced.

The two upstairs fireplaces are fitted with extremely fine wraparound mantel/overmantel sets with Federal details. Features include mantels in the Adam's style configuration, sunburst panels, a half sunburst panel, delicate reeding, and overmantels featuring delicate bolection molded panels. The two mantel/overmantel sets are almost, but not quite, identical. All the visual evidence suggests that these handsome features are not original to the house. Their styling indicates a date approximately fifteen to twenty years earlier than the house. In addition, the evidence suggests that they were salvaged from an older house and installed at the Jones house as part of an early twentieth century renovation project. The evidence is as follows:

1. Most obviously, in the downriver room, the mantel/overmantel was too tall for the ceiling beam. To accommodate the height the beam was cut (see photo).
2. It appears that the chimney was widened with an extra layer of bricks. In the downriver room this new outer layer of bricks partially abuts the previously mentioned cut beam.
3. The visible brickwork surrounding the upriver fire box appears to match closely with the bungalow era brickwork in the downstairs fireplaces.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

4. The upriver mantel shelf is mounted directly on top of relatively narrow flushboards which are obviously from the twentieth century.
5. The paneling is pegged as it would be in fine joinery, but the mantel/overmantel sets have numerous small round nails, suggesting woodwork that has been taken apart and reassembled.
6. If these mantels/overmantels were original to the house, one would expect to find other late eighteenth century/very early nineteenth century features such as a Norman truss roof, elegant reeded Federal woodwork elsewhere in the house, openings in which the stud in the wall forms part of the opening surround, French doors with tiny panes, and segmentally arched openings formed of pegged joinery. None of these are present. All in all, the Jones house appears to be circa 1835 and built all of a piece.

The upstairs features three early and unusual single leaf French doors with two bolection molded panels below and twenty panes above. The origin of these doors is unclear. Two of them are mounted between interior rooms, a practice which is virtually unheard of for French doors in Creole architecture. (French doors are virtually always used to open out onto the exterior, not open room to room.) In addition, none of the doors fits its current opening exactly. Finally, the hinges are twentieth century. Interestingly, the bolection molding in the panels matches the bolection molding in the overmantels. This may lead one to speculate that perhaps the mantel/overmantel sets and the French doors were from the same house.

Exterior Changes

What is apparently a late nineteenth century photograph shows the front gallery with heavy brick columns below and six slender solid wood columns above. An unusual feature of this design is that the upper gallery columns do not stand atop the lower gallery columns. The spacing is different and still is. The lower gallery columns are stuccoed over but still in place. The upper gallery columns have been replaced at least twice since the above mentioned photograph. An early twentieth century photograph shows the same column spacing but with round Colonial Revival columns. Half columns survive at the corners of the gallery to give evidence of this period of

CONTINUED

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

construction. They are hollow-constructed in the manner of a barrel with staves. The present upper gallery columns are formed of planks nailed together. These columns are currently surmounted by a shallow plywood entablature. Most likely the entablature and columns are contemporary.

The only other noteworthy exterior changes have been the installation of asbestos siding on the rear and sides of the upper story and the construction of a lean-to screened porch in the rear.

Assessment of Integrity

Admittedly, there have been numerous changes to the Jones House over the years. However, these alterations have not had an overly significant impact upon those features that make the house Creole. Because so many of these character-defining features survive, the house easily conveys its French Creole character. Very importantly, the house retains its signature Creole form – a hipped roof galleried house with the main living space raised a full story on a brick basement. Other extant character-defining French Creole features are its hall-less floorplan, French doors on the facade, bousillage construction, and exposed beaded ceilings. Finally, while the salvaged mantel/overmantel sets on the upper floor, for Register purposes, do not contribute to the house's architectural significance, they certainly do not detract from it.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

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

Creole architecture in its broadest sense represents one of the three major colonial architectural traditions in the continental United States. The French colonial tradition takes its place alongside British colonial, as exemplified by the brick "Georgian" buildings in the eastern states, and Spanish Colonial, as exemplified by the California missions. It should be noted that Louisiana is the nation's center of the Creole tradition. With a few exceptions, Creole buildings are found in no other state.

Natchitoches Parish, a French enclave in an otherwise Anglo-Saxon North Louisiana, is renown as a major center of Creole architecture in Louisiana, with over a dozen major examples. 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 Greek Revival (which competed with French Creole beginning in the 1830s) 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 French Creole houses in a comparatively small area.

The John Carroll Jones House helps establish the significance of Natchitoches Parish as a center of the Creole style. To begin with, it is a fully raised Creole house (a full story above grade); only the most developed examples achieve a full two stories in height. And it features bousillage construction, a building technique for which the Cane River Country is also noted. The Jones House has the standard Creole form and shape with the signature hip roof over a generous front gallery. French joinery is evident in the attic, and it probably can be found also in the framing of the main story though this is impossible to verify without exploratory demolition. The house has a hall-less Creole floor plan on both stories with the upper story being the principal one. Importantly, the upper front gallery wall is finished in plaster with a decorative chair rail. In traditional Creole houses gallery spaces were often finished off as though they were interior rooms. Other Creole features are also present such as beaded ceiling beams and boards and exterior French doors. All in all, the Jones House makes an important contribution to the parish's character-defining Creole architecture.

CONTINUED

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Historical Note:

The nominated house is known locally as the Roubieu house and/or the Carroll Jones house. It is located in an area of the Cane River which had a prominent free creole of color population. Francois Roubieu, a Frenchman, is generally believed to be the original owner of the house. John Carroll Jones, an African-American, owned the plantation in the late nineteenth century. Born in Tennessee in 1815, Jones came to Rapides Parish, Louisiana as a young boy. (Rapides is immediately adjacent to Natchitoches Parish, where the nominated house is located.)

The only available information on Jones is from a biographical entry in an 1890 publication. According to this source, he became "one of the leading plantation owners of Rapides Parish." In 1844 he married a local woman, Catherine Clifton. Thirteen children were born of this union (between 1845 and 1875). In 1869 Jones moved to Cane River, where he owned two plantations by 1890 (one comprised of 1,500 acres). He is generally regarded as one of the most prominent African-American men of his time along the Cane.

At the time of the 1890 biographical entry the candidate must not have been Jones' principal residence, for the entry describes his home as "a large and commodious one, being 130 feet long by 80 feet wide." Indeed, this would have been quite a large house – considerably larger than the candidate. Secondary sources give Jones' death date as 1894.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1
10 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. Nashville, Tennessee, Southern Publishing Co., 1890.

Natchitoches Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Historic photos of Jones House, copies in National Register file.

Site inspection by Donna and Jonathan Fricker, LA SHPO, November 9, 1999.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries were chosen to recognize the house's orientation to Cane River and its immediate setting. It is impossible to use historic boundaries because the Jones plantation has been subdivided into small tracts over the years.

John Carroll Jones House
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

1" = 50'

--- BOUNDARY

