

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 8 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mary Plantation House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 39, @ 6 miles SW of Braithwaite N/A not for publication

city, town Braithwaite vic. vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish ~~county~~ Plaquemines code 075

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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 Mrs. E. R. Knobloch (504) 392-0100 or (504) 682-5193

street & number Box 121, Highway 39

city, town Braithwaite vicinity of state LA 70040

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Plaquemines Parish Courthouse

street & number Highway 39 (no specific address)

city, town Pointe-a-la-Hache state LA 70082

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mary Plantation House (c.1820) is a two-story brick-between-posts Creole plantation house located in a lush tropical garden on the east bank of the Mississippi River approximately six miles southwest of the town of Braithwaite. In recent decades the house has undergone a few changes, but these have not imperiled its National Register eligibility.

Mary began as a two-story hip roof plantation house with brick construction below and brick-between-posts construction above. Each story had a floor plan two rooms wide and two rooms deep with a small enclosed stair hall in the rear where one would normally expect to find a small gallery. The only open gallery was in front. The sides and rear of the upper story were sheathed in clapboards.

In about 1840 a new larger hip roof was built which provided for galleries on all four sides of the house. The original hip roof structure was left beneath the larger roof. The new galleries featured simple chamfered cypress columns upstairs and stuccoed brick columns downstairs. Little else was changed in the house. The original 12 over 12 windows were left as were the original 12 light French doors with their ram's horn hinges. The elaborately planed Adams type wraparound mantels were also left.

Mary's most unusual feature is its wide front doorways, both upstairs and down. Each is set in the center of the facade at the point where the wall divides the two large front rooms of the house. Each doorway contains a divided pair of French doors, one of which goes into each of the front rooms. Each pair of French doors is divided by a broad pilaster. The upper pair has a false transom and is divided by a decoratively planed pilaster which echoes the styling of the mantels. (See photos 2, 3 & 10.)

Most of the ceilings have exposed beams. The board and batten shutters are mounted with strap hinges which are held in place by screws. It is not known whether these screws are original or whether they were part of a 1948 restoration.

Since the c.1840 alterations, the following changes have occurred in the house:

1. One of the four original mantels has been lost.
2. Two bathrooms have been installed upstairs and one downstairs.
3. Arches have been cut between the front and rear rooms downstairs.
4. The old stuccoed brick columns downstairs have been replaced with cast concrete columns which appear to more or less duplicate the original design.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Mary Plantation House

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (cont'd)

Assessment of Integrity

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the aforementioned changes should be regarded as minor given the total scope of the house's architecture. In any case, the features which contribute to Mary's significance still survive (see item 8).

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.1820, c.1840 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Mary Plantation House is architecturally significant on the state level as one of Louisiana's finest examples of French colonial style architecture. It is a classic example of a nationally recognized style found in limited numbers in the state. Though many houses were built similar to it in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, few of these have survived. Although Louisiana has not been completely surveyed, it is apparent from the survey material presently compiled that in all likelihood fewer than thirty first-rate examples of large French colonial style plantation houses remain in the state.

Features which make Mary a classic example of the French colonial style include;

1. its large hip roof;
2. its chamfered upper gallery columns;
3. its large hall-less cabinet plan;
4. its use of brick-between-posts construction on the upper story;
5. its use of French doors, exposed beaded beams, and wraparound mantels; and
6. its placement of chimneys against the interior partition walls.

Mary is also important because it has retained most of its original hardware.

In addition, the previously described divided French doors are thought to be unique in Louisiana. They are important because they show a desire for a central entrance and symmetry and hence exhibit an early hesitant touch of the Anglo-American influence in the Creole architectural tradition of Louisiana. Much of the architectural history of French Louisiana involves the transition from Creole architecture to Anglo-American architecture. Mary is important within this context because it shows one of the endpoints of the transition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey, LA State Historic Preservation Office, Overdyke, W. Darrell. Louisiana Plantation Homes: Colonial and Ante-Bellum, New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., 1965.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approximately 1 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Belle Chasse, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	1	0	0	4	0	3	3	0	0	6	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

Please refer to 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 National Register Staff

ASSISTED BY OWNER

Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana

date April 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone (504) 342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

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
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 23, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews
for

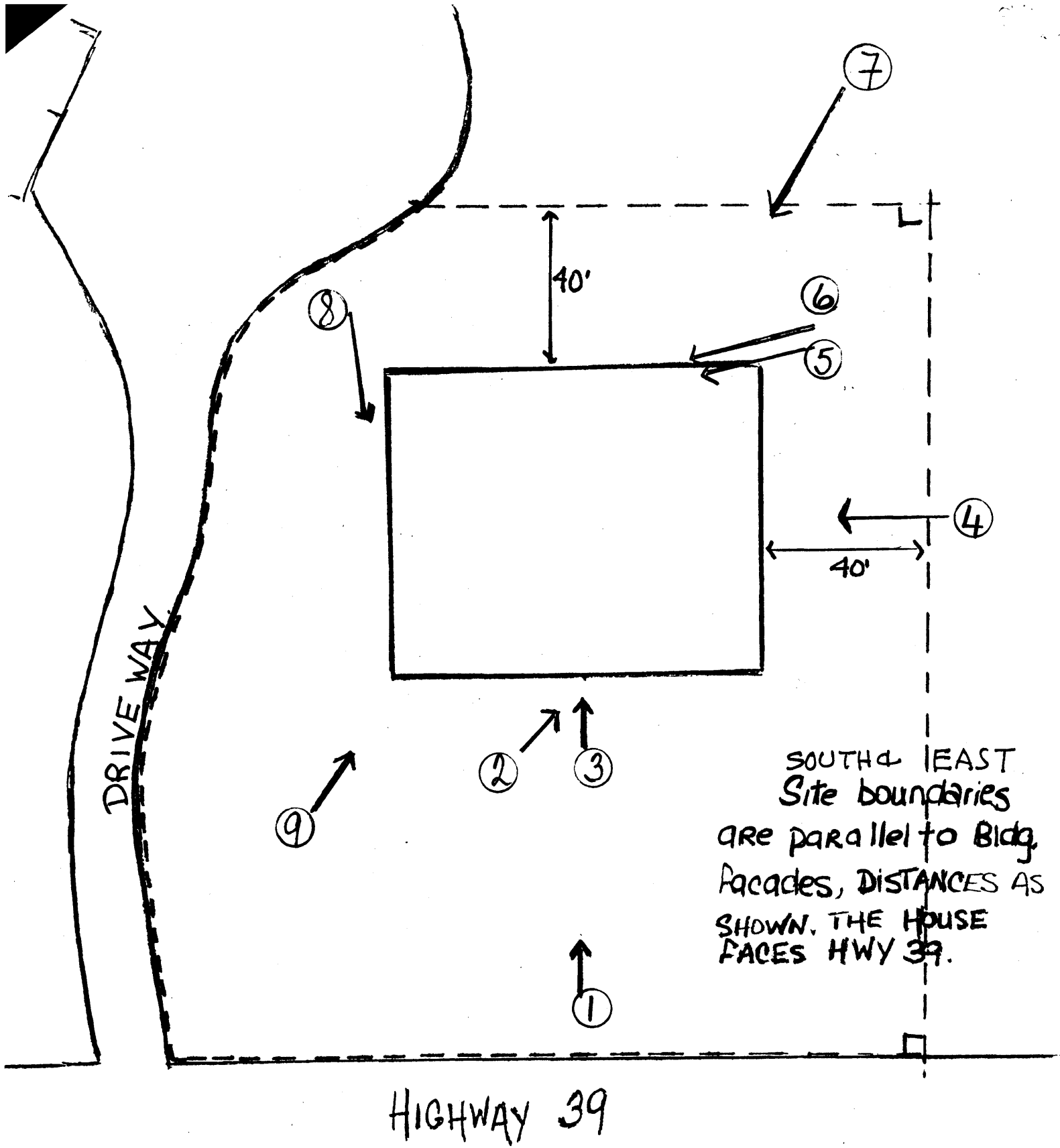
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/13/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



MARY PLANTATION HOUSE
 BRAITHWAITE VICINITY, LA

DIAGUENINES PARISH