

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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 Fourgeaud House

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

2. Location

street & number 130 South Main Street NA not for publication

city or town Breaux Bridge NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Martin code 099 zip code 70517

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 3/29/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy Date  
State Historic Preservation 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 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 5.5.99

Fourgeaud House  
Name of property

St. Martin 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>	<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.)  
NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat. Domestic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub. Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cat. Work In Progress  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
roof asbestos  
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**

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

- 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. 1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c. 1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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):**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourgeaud House  
Name of property

St. Martin Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property**      Less than an acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 15 605910    3349370

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 February 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 Les Freres Breaux, Inc., Edward Breaux, President

street & number 1613 Mills Highway      telephone (318) 988-8260 (w) (318) 332-3907 (h)

city or town Breaux Bridge      state LA      zip code 70517

**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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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The Fourgeaud House is a large two story frame residence built in a distinctly southern version of the Colonial Revival style. Located on its original site in the St. Martin Parish town of Breaux Bridge, the home stands amid commercial properties on the edges of the community's central business district. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the house was constructed between 1899 and 1907. Hence a date of c. 1905 is being used for the purposes of this nomination. The house has received very little alteration since its construction and clearly retains the grand architectural character associated with what is termed by some as the Southern Colonial style.

Although the house is not antebellum in age, it was built to look like a plantation house of the colossal column type popular throughout the South. This sub-category of the Colonial Revival came in two forms – one featuring a colossal order gallery spanning the facade, the other distinguished by a colossal Palladian-like portico resembling a temple front. The Fourgeaud House is of the latter sub-type. Its portico features four colossal Tuscan columns and two similar pilasters, all of which display necking below their capitals. These vertical members support a full entablature which outlines the portico's front and sides. The entablature, in turn, is surmounted by a large pediment with a raking cornice. A lunette window pierces the pediment's tympanum. A second floor balcony whose Colonial Revival balustrade is distinguished by four heavy newel posts is tucked behind the colossal columns. This balcony, supported by iron rods connecting to beams within the roof structure, does not touch the columns themselves.

Other Colonial Revival features found on the exterior include a more simple entablature encircling the remaining structure, a gallery balustrade which lacks the newel posts found on the balcony, and two gable end returns on the rear elevation. Although not associated specifically with the Colonial Revival style, the house also has lower and upper floor entrances featuring transoms and sidelights, large four-over-four windows (flanked by shutters on the facade), slender corner boards and slightly overhanging eaves.

Eight period mantels with overmantels are the interior's only specific Colonial Revival features. Other elements of architectural interest include original drapery hardware surviving in the parlor and the interior's woodwork. This includes a winder staircase and an Eastlake grille in the lower floor central hall, four panel doors surmounted by large transoms, wooden floors outlined by tall molded baseboards, molded door and window surrounds distinguished by bull's eye corner blocks, and one set of pocket doors (still operable).

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The floorplan is divided into two areas – a formal front family space and a more narrow rear service wing. The family area (whose plan is identical on each floor) is organized around a central hall with two rooms on each side, while the service space contains a warren of small rooms on each floor. These include a kitchen, rear stairwell, butler's pantry with an original window opening to the dining room, breakfast area, and bathrooms.

The house has experienced only minor changes over the years. These include the possible enclosure of an open rear lower story porch, the possible replacement of some windows on the rear service block, the remodeling of the kitchen in the 1940s or 1950s, the installation of tile ceilings (in the process of being removed as part of a current renovation), the piercing of one original door to create a return air vent when the home received central heat and air, the placement of carpet on the staircase and in the upstairs hall, the replacement of the lower story front door (as well as the glass in the accompanying transom and sidelights), and the covering of the walls with sheetrock.

None of these alterations has seriously impacted the house's architectural character. Except for the replaced door and glass, the monumental facade can be said to be virtually intact. Thus, the Fourgeaud House retains the overall grand white-columned look upon which its architectural significance is based and is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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The Fourgeaud House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark example of the Colonial Revival style within St. Martin Parish.

Originally known as the Parish of Attakapas, St. Martin was created in 1805. However, its current boundaries were not finalized until 1868. Population figures for 1810, the first year for which this information is available, recorded 3,959 Caucasian and 3,410 Negro residents in the area. Many of the former were of French or Acadian descent. By 1847 sugar cane had become the region's major crop and, despite setbacks during the Reconstruction era, it remains the parish's leading agricultural product. Although smaller hamlets exist, there were and are only two towns of any size. St. Martinville, the parish seat, is situated in what is now the southwestern sector of the parish. It was incorporated in 1817. Breaux Bridge, located approximately thirteen miles northwest of St. Martinville, was incorporated in 1859. It is within these two communities that St. Martin Parish's Colonial Revival style buildings are most likely to be found. Both towns share certain characteristics: 1) they are located along the banks of Bayou Teche and relied upon the steamboat for economic and social contact with the outside world until the railroad supplanted it in the late 1880s, 2) they served as centers for goods and services for their own citizens as well as those living in hamlets and plantations in the area, and 3) they experienced growth spurts at the turn of the twentieth century. St. Martinville's 1900 population was 1,926; that of Breaux Bridge, 654.

Because of their developmental patterns (as well as an 1859 fire which destroyed much of early St. Martinville), both towns display predominantly late nineteenth/early twentieth century townscapes. In St. Martinville, this assessment is verified by a standing structures survey completed in 1986. Although Breaux Bridge has not yet been officially surveyed, a windshield survey of the small town has been conducted by National Register staff. The two communities' residences which are 50 years of age or older can be classified as follows: 1) a few notable early landmarks, 2) about a dozen notable Queen Anne Revival style residences, 3) a handful of twentieth century eclectic houses (mainly low-key and mostly in St. Martinville), and 4) (by far the majority) undistinguished folk bungalows, simple galleried cottages and shotguns showing little or no attempt at architectural style. Only sixteen of the approximately 213 buildings documented by the St. Martinville survey have vestiges of the Colonial Revival style; in Breaux Bridge there are perhaps a dozen. In both towns most of these examples reflect the style's influence through the application of only one or two elements (usually columns or poorly fashioned one-story porticos) to their facades. Only one home in St.

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Martinville and one in Breaux Bridge (the candidate) can be said to be landmark examples of the Colonial Revival style. With its dominant colossal portico, the Fourgeaud Home is by far the architecturally superior example.

Historical Note

The house was constructed in c. 1905 for Dr. Louis Fourgeaud, a native of France. Fourgeaud began practicing medicine in Breaux Bridge in 1885 after obtaining a diploma from the Tulane Medical School. Sadly, he lost the home about four years after its construction was completed. It then served as a hotel until 1960. Later it became a private residence (1960-1979) and a gift shop and bridal boutique (1979-1984). Purchased by a bank in 1984, the house stood vacant for many years while local citizens negotiated to save the structure. The current owner purchased the home in 1998 and plans to use the tax credit program to restore it as a reception hall and interior design shop.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Structures Survey of St. Martin Parish, 1986.

History of Fourgeaud House provided by current owner; copy in National Register file.

Interview with Edward Breaux, current property owner, February 4, 1999.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Breaux Bridge, LA, 1899, 1907.

Site visit by National Register staff.

St. Martin Economic Development Commission, Inc. *An Overall Economic Development Program for St. Martin Parish, 1962-63*, n.p., n.d.

Windshield survey of Breaux Bridge by National Register staff, February 4, 1999.

Fourgeaud House  
Name of property

St. Martin Parish, LA  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The candidate is the property labeled as "Fourgeaud House" on the attached plat map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Boundaries correspond to the parcel of land historically associated with the building.  
They are also the current property lines.

