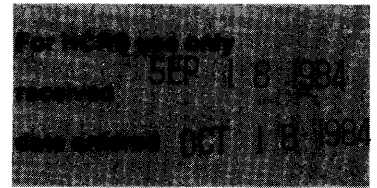


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Crescent Plantation

and/or common Crescent-Halter Plantation

2. Location

street & number ~~Rt. 5, Box 25~~ S of Tallulah off LA 602 N/A not for publication

city, town Tallulah Vic. vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Louisiana code 22 county Madison Parish code 065

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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. Rita Halter (Crescent-Halter, Inc.)

street & number Rt. 5, Box 25

city, town Tallulah vicinity of state Louisiana 71282

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison Parish Courthouse

street & number 100 North Cedar Street

city, town Tallulah state Louisiana 71282

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 rear wing--ca. 1859

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

2,134-acre Crescent Plantation is located on State Highway 602, about two miles from its intersection with Interstate 20, a few miles southeast of Tallulah, Louisiana. State Highway 602 follows the route of Brushy Bayou and Walnut Bayou. Brushy Bayou runs in front of the plantation residence at a distance of approximately 300 feet. The house is a two-story, frame, late Greek Revival residence with a story-and-a-half rear wing. The house rests upon brick foundation piers, and the gable roofs of the front and rear sections are perpendicular, with the roof of the front section pierced at each gable end by an inside-end brick chimney, rebuilt in the mid-twentieth century. The five-bay northeasterly facade, which is finished in horizontal tongue-and-groove boards with an unmolded baseboard, is fronted by an undercut, double-tiered gallery that features molded box columns echoed on the front wall of the house by pilasters. The pilasters and box columns are linked on only the second-story level by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. On the first-story level, floor-length windows filled with six-over-nine, double-hung sash flank a center-bay frontispiece entrance filled with a single-leaf, molded, two-panel door set within sidelights and a transom filled with etched and painted glass. The first-story entrance is repeated on the second-story level by a simpler center-bay doorway with matching door having sidelights but no transom. All windows of the house, except those on the facade, are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash and many are closed by original shutter blinds.

The interior of the front section exhibits a single-pile plan with central passage. The window and doorway openings of the easterly front room of the first story have architrave surrounds with molded cornices, and the window and doorway openings of the westerly front room have shouldered architrave surrounds. All windows are set over molded panels, doors have two molded panels, bases are molded with two fascias, and the wooden mantel pieces are pilastered. Both first-story rooms and the central passage are adorned with well detailed plaster ceiling center-pieces. The stairway of the central passage, which is the most architecturally significant feature of the house, is entered on the westerly hall wall and gently curves, unbroken by intermediate landings, around the southerly and easterly walls to make a full half circle before terminating in the second-story hallway. The stairway has turned balusters and a newel of clustered balusters. The second-story of the house is more plainly trimmed with the hallway side of the doorway openings having symmetrically molded surrounds. The two bedrooms have unmolded doorway and window surrounds, unmolded bases, and slightly shouldered wooden mantel pieces.

The rear story-and-a-half wing originally existed as an independent dwelling that was probably the first house constructed on Crescent Plantation. The lack of chimney bases or any evidence for such bases, despite the evidence of hearths, indicates that this building was relocated to serve as a rear wing for the two-story front section when it was built ca. 1859. The front section never existed independent of the rear wing, since no siding was ever attached to its studs at its junction with the rear wing. The rear wing cannot be dated stylistically since its was totally re-trimmed ca. 1859 to match the front section. The millwork is plain and unmolded like the upper story of the front section. The wing is fronted by an undercut gallery with crudely molded box columns on its westerly elevation, which originally had a center-bay open passage with beaded frame. This open passage is flanked by three-bay compositions of a transomed center-bay doorway flanked by windows. The transom of the southernmost doorway is decorated with painted and stained glass. The figure of Robert E. Lee on horseback is flanked by two Confederate flags. The floor plan was originally a double-pile plan with short open passage separating the front or westerly rooms and a range of three rooms across the rear. The stairway to the upper half story runs along the southerly wall of the center rear room in a straight westerly flight to terminate in the upper half story, which was totally remodeled and lighted by later dormers in the mid-twentieth century.

No nineteenth-century outbuildings survive on the plantation. Four twentieth-century outbuildings are within the nominated property. A recently constructed large metal storage facility also lies within the nominated acreage,

CONTINUED

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

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Continuation sheet Crescent Plantation Item number 7

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ITEM 7 ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the alterations in the rear wing and the replacement of one of the chimneys, Crescent still retains all the essential features of a Greek Revival plantation house--i.e., mantels, columns, fenestration, etc. Hence it retains its National Register eligibility.

Contributing Elements:

The four frame outbuildings appear to be over fifty years old and are listed as contributing elements because they help establish Crescent's identity as a plantation house. The metal storage facility is modern and of course is listed as a non-contributing element.

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 checked="" 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 ca. 1859--front **Builder/Architect** unknown

ca. 1832--rear wing
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Crescent Plantation is a locally significant example of Greek Revival plantation architecture. The significance of the house is greatly increased by the scarcity of pre-Civil War plantation residences in Madison Parish. Although 1860 census records suggest that such houses may have once been common in the parish, only three surviving Greek Revival plantation residences have been identified. In 1860, the parish is recorded as having 99 large slaveholdings (50 or more slaves). Of these 99, the average size of a slaveholding was 89.6. With an absentee ownership of 40%, 61 of these slaveholdings would have involved families who resided in Madison Parish. Given these statistics, it would be logical to estimate that as many as 50 to 75 plantation houses may have stood in the parish just prior to the Civil War. According to local tradition, the front two-story section of Crescent was constructed for planter David Dancy in 1859, a date supported by stylistic examination. Architecturally, the front section is well detailed and elaborated with a graceful curving staircase, interesting Greek Revival millwork, significant ornamental plaster centerpieces, and decoratively painted sidelights and transom. Local historians date the rear wing, which was originally a separate distinct residence supposedly built by a Barnes family, at ca. 1832. Since the rear wing was remodeled when the front section was built, no earlier stylistic date can be assigned. However, evidence of weathering on the clapboards which have been protected since the construction of the front section suggest that the rear wing existed for a number of years before it was relocated and remodeled. This rear wing, which suffers from several periods of unsympathetic remodeling, is an architecturally interesting addition to the front section of the house. The painted Confederate flags and the stained glass figure of Robert E. Lee that adorn the transom lights of one of the two rear doorways represent a significant ornamental glass treatment from the Civil War period. Crescent Plantation is now owned by Mrs. Rita Halter who is undertaking a sympathetic restoration project.

ITEM 8 ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Crescent is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare and fine example of a Greek Revival plantation house within the context of Madison Parish. The consultant-prepared nomination makes the point that it is one of only three Greek Revival plantation houses remaining in the parish, and at one time there were many more. In addition to this, Crescent is easily the finest of the three remaining examples. The other two are single story cottages with relatively plain details. Crescent is the only example with two full stories, a double gallery, ceiling medallions, and a graceful curved staircase.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Madison Parish, Louisiana. Courthouse. Deed Books R, V, BB, CC, OO, PP, TT, 23, 31, 41. United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Madison Parish, Louisiana, 1860.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8.26

Quadrangle name Fortune Fork Quadrangle--Louisiana-Madison Parish Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	7	2	7	0	0	3	5	8	2	5	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 The nominated property is an 8.26-acre portion of the total 2,134-acre tract that comprises Crescent Plantation. The nominated property forms a four-sided figure and lies totally within the southwest one-quarter of section 17, township 16 north, range 13 east. The northwest and southeast boundary lines are parallel, (see con-

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (continuation sheet)

state	NA	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller / preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation date June 14, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 1761 telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez state Mississippi 39120

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 11, 1984

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>J. Alloua Beyer</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>10-18-84</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Crescent Plantation

Continuation sheet Tallulah, Madison Parish, LA Item number 10

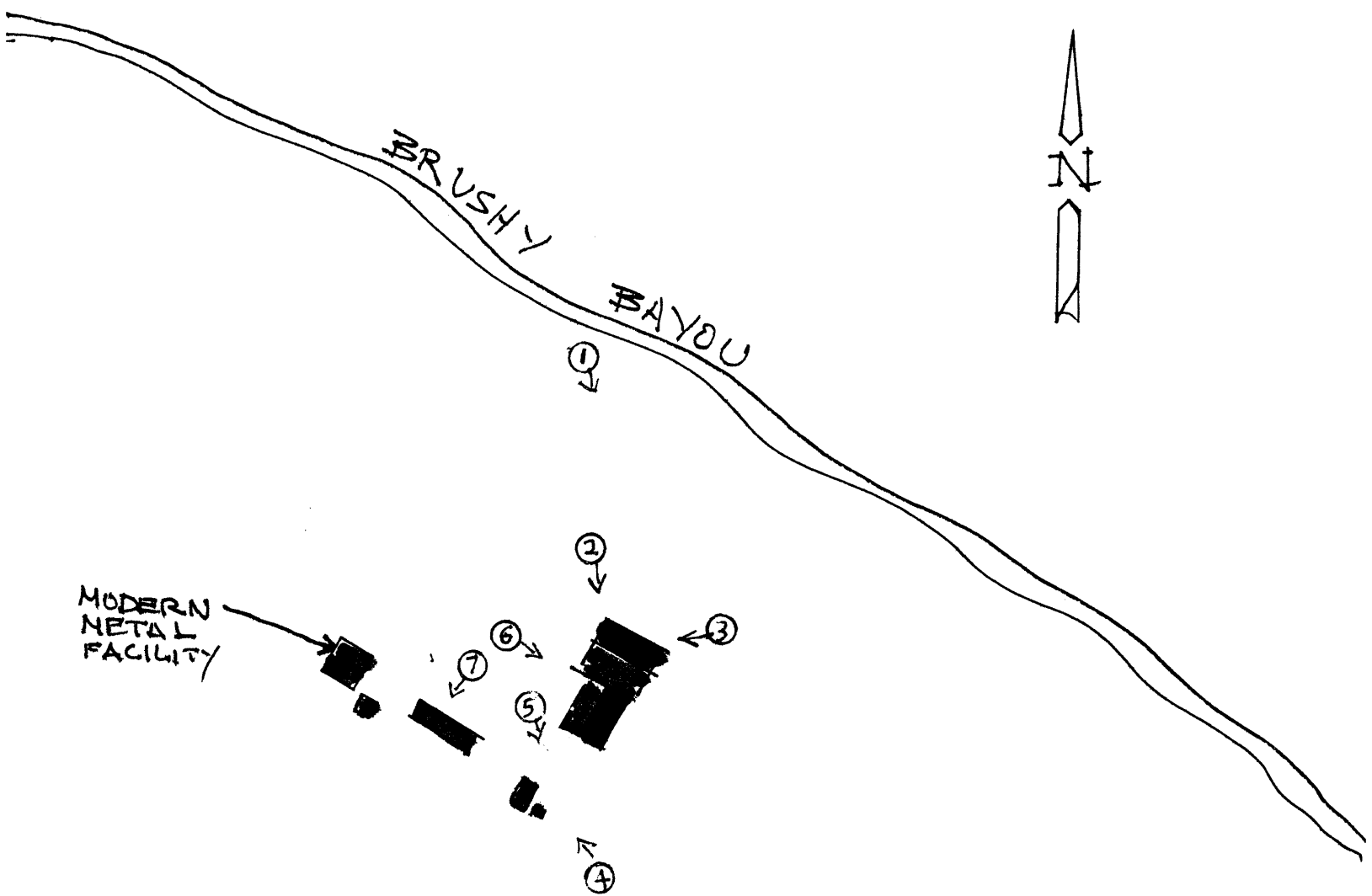
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date entered

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located 300 feet from the center point of the roof ridge of the gable roof of the front two-story section of the house, and of approximately equal distances of 600 feet each. The northwest and southeast boundary lines are perpendicular to and form right angle corners with the southwest boundary line which is 600 feet in length and located 300 feet from the center point of the roof ridge of the front two-story section of the house. The northeast boundary line is formed by Brushy Bayou which runs in front of the house approximately 300 feet from the roof ridge of the front two-story section. This 8.26 acre portion of the plantation is deemed sufficient to protect somewhat the plantation setting of the house.



CRESCENT PLANTATION
MADISON PARISH, LA.

PHOTO DIRECTION MAP

NOT TO SCALE