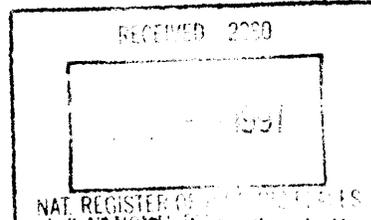


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1516

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 Hebert House

other names/site number The Green House

2. Location

street & number Greenhouse Lane near intersection with LA HWY 3056 N/A not for publication

city or town Lake Arthur vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Cameron code 023 zip code 70549

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.)

Jonathan Fricker 10/30/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy 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 commenting 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): _____

Edson R. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12/8/97

Hebert House
Name of Property

Cameron 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
	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Hebert House
Name of Property

Cameron Parish, LA
County and State

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840

Significant Dates

c. 1840

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Hebert House (c. 1840) is a one-and-one-half story frame and *bousillage* dwelling located near the Mermentau River in rural Cameron Parish. Its Acadian characteristics (see below) identify the building as a sub-category of the French Creole style. Although the home has received a large rear wing and some other alterations since its construction, it remains eligible for National Register listing.

As explained in "Louisiana's French Creole Architecture," a Multiple Property Documentation Form authored by Dr. Jay Edwards and submitted to the National Park Service in 1991, Acadian houses are considered to be small-scale versions of French Creole houses. However, in addition to size, Acadian dwellings differed from their Creole cousins in three other ways; and these differences are evident in the Hebert House. They are as follows: 1) Acadian builders used gable roofs on their dwellings. Creole builders were just as likely to choose the hipped form of roof as they were to construct the gabled variety. 2) Acadian families used their homes' attic spaces as sleeping quarters--a custom the Creoles never adopted. 3) Acadians placed steep staircases connecting to these attic spaces on the front galleries of their homes. As a rule, the Creoles only placed staircases on the front galleries of their raised plantation houses. This was done in order to connect the homes' lower utilitarian floors with their primary living spaces located on the second floors. Attic stairs (when present) were located either on rear galleries or loggias or within rear rooms.

The Hebert House has the three Acadian features just described. Its Class III gable end umbrella roof (a roof classification system used by Dr. Jay Edwards in the Multiple Property Documentation Form on Louisiana's French Creole architecture described above--see attachment) is especially interesting because its extremely large and steep configuration easily accommodates the home's large second level room (see below). The house also has important characteristics associated with the French Creole style. These include:

- 1) a Creole-influenced hall-less floorplan. The home's original four room layout remains intact, serving as the main block of the structure. The plan's front range consists of two rooms (larger Creole *salle* and smaller *chambre*) behind a full width front gallery. A steep winder staircase is located here. The home's rear range also holds two rooms--a small corner room suggestive of a Creole *cabinet* and one approximately double the size of the smaller space. As previously mentioned, the second level consists of one large room stretching the full length of the house.

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

Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- 2) exposed ceiling beams on the gallery, within the rooms of the original block, and in the attic room.
- 3) a crude brick wraparound mantel with a corbeled brick cornice.
- 4) braced frame construction featuring mortises, tenons, and pegs. This feature testifies to the building's relatively early age.
- 5) *bousillage* walls created by typologically early construction methods. These walls exhibit chair rails and exposed studs and angle braces which have been planed smooth. The *bousillage* itself is screeded to be flush with the studs. This means that the wood and the *bousillage* were meant to be exposed on the home's interior--a very unusual and early type of Creole wall treatment.

Other features of interest found on the Hebert Home include a foundation composed of cypress block piers, double batten doors throughout, and historic hardware consisting of hand wrought strap hinges and hooks.

Alterations to the Hebert House can be grouped according to date as follows:

- 1) c. 1900. These changes include:
 - a) the enclosure of the front gallery to create a screened porch on the side with the staircase and a small bedroom on the gallery's opposite side,
 - b) the construction of a new chimney and the installation of a Victorian mantel in the *chambre*,
- 2) 1927. A large rear addition was constructed. This change necessitated the closure of one of the main block's rear windows.
- 3) 1955. The covering of a mural of unknown date painted on one wall of the *salle*.

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Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

- 4) Alterations of unknown date include:
- a) the addition of screen doors to some openings,
 - b) the replacement of a few of the building's cypress block piers with piers of modern material, and
 - c) the conversion of a window on one side of the home into a double door.

Although the enclosure of the Hebert Home's front gallery is regrettable, all of the house's other character defining Creole and Acadian architectural features survive intact. Importantly, this includes the extremely significant typologically early treatment of the building's *bousillage* walls. The other alterations listed above are either minor in nature or occur at the rear of the structure. As one of the oldest buildings in the southwestern corner of Louisiana, and as an extremely rare example of the French Creole/Acadian building tradition in that region, the Hebert House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

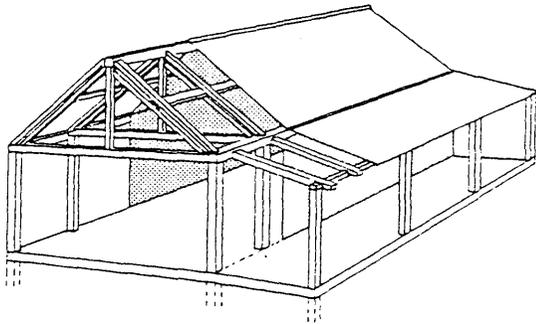
Also standing on the property is the upper frame half of an octagonal dependency. Although it resembles a *pigeonnier* or *garconniere*, it appears to have served as a cistern. It is known that the structure existed c. 1880. Although still architecturally interesting, it has suffered the loss of its lower brick portion and has been moved from its original location near the front of the Hebert House to a position behind the house. Thus the dependency, now in use as a well house, is being counted as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

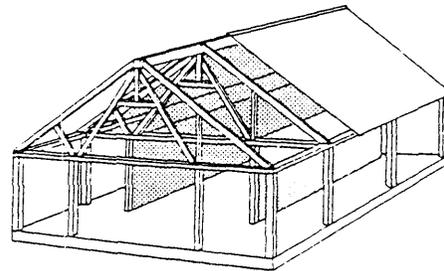
Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 4

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



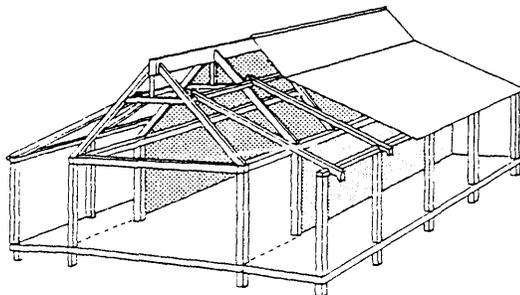
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



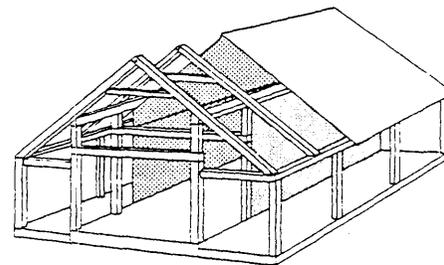
CLASS IIIa

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



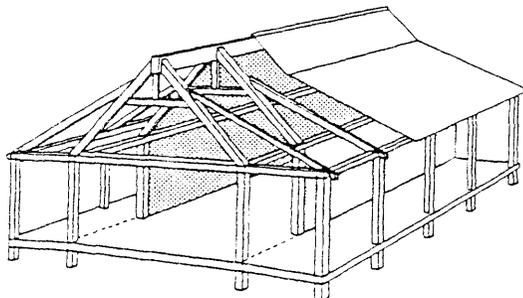
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



CLASS IIIb

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.



CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.

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Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Hebert House is locally significant in the area of architecture because its age makes it a landmark building within the southwestern corner of Louisiana. In addition, the dwelling is a substantial example of the French Creole/Acadian style in a part of the state where this building tradition is quite uncommon.

Although Calcasieu Parish was created by the state legislature in 1840, it and the two other parishes now identified as comprising the southwestern corner of Louisiana remained thinly settled for many years. Not until the lumber industry and the cultivation of rice began to stimulate the local economy during the last years of the nineteenth century (and into the first years of the twentieth) did settlement begin on a significant scale. The population growth associated with these economic booms is reflected in the region's political development. Cameron Parish was created in 1870 and Jefferson Davis Parish came into official existence in 1912.

Although none of the pertinent parishes has yet been surveyed, the staff of the Division of Historic Preservation is quite familiar with the area. In addition to their comparable late settlement dates and patterns of economic development, the parishes which make up the southwestern corner of Louisiana also share a similar pattern of architectural development. Because population and prosperity arrived late, the vast majority of the residential, commercial, and institutional buildings found in Cameron, Calcasieu, and Jefferson Davis parishes dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings reflecting the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Beaux Arts styles are found in Jeff Davis and Calcasieu parishes, especially in the parish seats of Jennings (Jeff Davis) and Lake Charles (Calcasieu). However, there are almost no examples of the pre-Queen Anne taste anywhere within the region. The very sparsely populated coastal parish of Cameron has virtually no architecture of distinction, with the only exceptions being an Art Moderne courthouse and the Hebert House. The Hebert Home's c. 1840 construction date, its pegged frame, and its typologically early *bousillage* wall treatment (see Part 7) distinguish it as an extremely significant early (pre-Queen Anne) building. And, with its French Creole/Acadian styling, the house also ranks as a very rare example of a style little known in this area of the state.

Historical Note

The house was built for Alexander Hebert, who owned a large tract of land which included the home's site. Hebert raised cattle, which he apparently grazed throughout the southwestern Louisiana prairie. The family also owned a home in Jefferson County, Texas.

CONTINUED

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number $\frac{8}{9}$ Page $\frac{2}{1}$

Alexander and his wife, Clarisse Broussard Hebert, had eight children. After Alexander's death in 1865, his son Desire expanded the family's land holdings before selling approximately 8,000 acres to investors in 1891. The new owners attempted to grow rice on a large scale but failed. After the failure of the rice venture, the house and land were purchased by Jim Gardiner. Gardiner's business ventures apparently became the basis for the Lacassane Company, which has owned the property for some time. The house is known locally as the "Green House" because of its color.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Greenhouse Structure," typescript memorandum, 1997; copy in National Register file.

Staff knowledge of Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis parishes.

Site visit by National Register staff.

"The Green House," typescript, 1997; copy in National Register file.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hebert House, Cameron Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

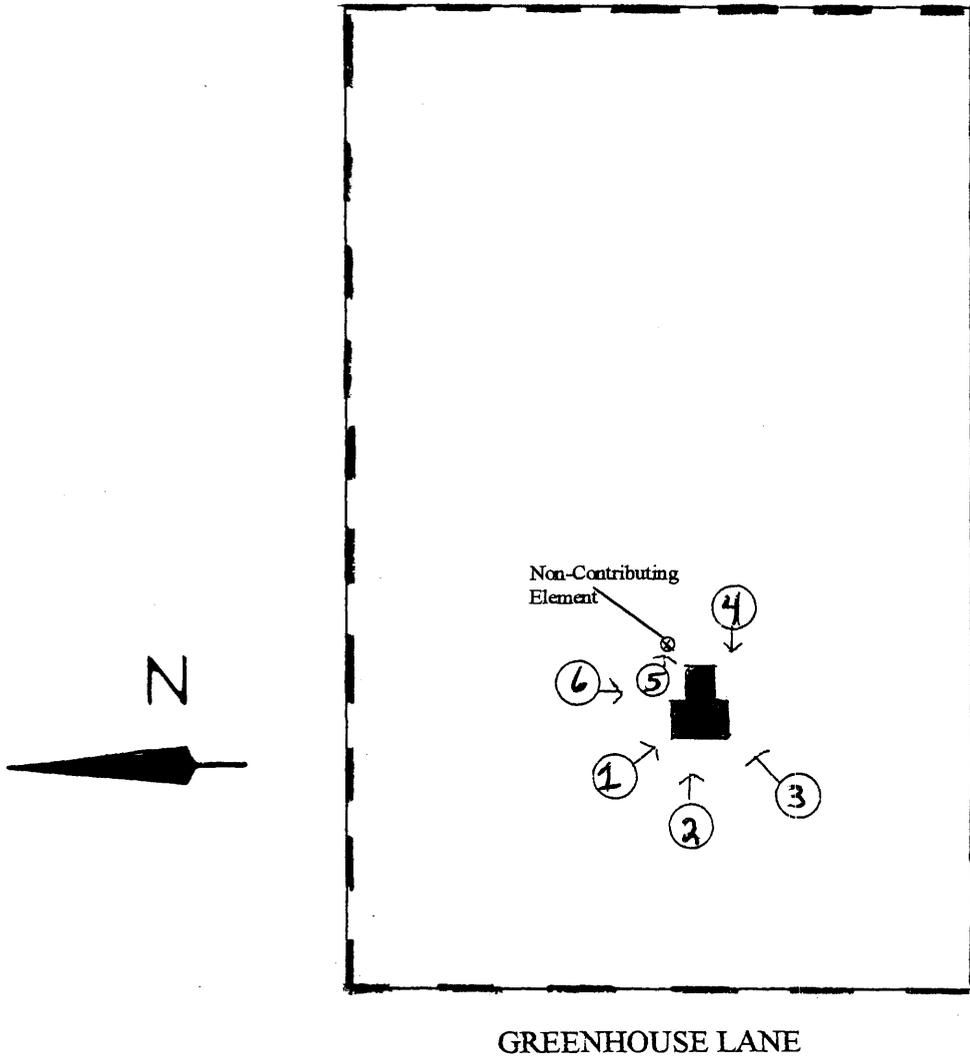
Boundary Description: Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

Justification: Boundaries were chosen to recognize the house's immediate setting while excluding extensive rural acreage and various non-contributing elements located elsewhere on the property.

HEBERT HOUSE

Lake Arthur Vicinity, Cameron Parish, LA

MERMENTAU RIVER



SCALE: 1" = 100'

BOUNDARY: — — —

CONTRIBUTING
ELEMENT: ■

NON-CONTRIBUTING
ELEMENT: ⊗