

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Guitreau House

other names/site number Belle Place

2. Location

street & number 16825 LA Hwy 16 N/A not for publication

city or town French Settlement N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Livingston code 063 zip code 70733

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.)

Gerri Hobdy 4/13/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

LA 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 certifying 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Arlene Byer 5/14/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Guitreau House
Name of Property

Livingston 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	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard

roof metal
other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Guitreau House, Livingston Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Guitreau House (c. 1911) is a one story frame cottage in the French Creole style. It faces Louisiana Highway 16 in the Village of French Settlement and stands within a large fenced yard surrounded by pastureland. While it has experienced changes and additions since construction, it retains its National Register eligibility.

Creole features found within the Guitreau House include the following:

- 1) a Class III gabled roof with central chimney,
- 2) a full length front gallery,
- 3) two French wraparound mantels, and
- 4) a partially intact floorplan displaying unusual Creole geometry (see Part 8). This plan consists of four equal sized rooms, two facing the front gallery and two facing the space formerly occupied by a cabinet/loggia range. Although slightly altered (see below), the plan's original configuration can still be clearly seen.

The cottage experienced a major addition and renovation early in its history, possibly as a result of its sale in 1914. At that time, the following changes were made:

- 1) The gallery was extended along each of the cottage's two sides, and a false gallery was attached to the roof.
- 2) Rounded transoms suggestive of the Italianate style were placed above the two front doors, and glass panes were installed in the doors themselves. To make the doors look more Italianate in character, the top members of each were reshaped in an arch motif.
- 3) The original wraparound mantels were adorned. Pilasters in the form of baluster shaped silhouettes were applied to the mantels' piers and arch shaped panels were applied to the entablatures. These panels wrap around the boxed flues below the mantel shelves.
- 4) The walls of the cabinet/loggia range were removed to create a long hall the width of the house.
- 5) The right rear room of the cottage was subdivided to create a hallway and bathroom.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Guitreau House, Livingston Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- 6) A two room addition was added at the rear. Later in the twentieth century the left room of this addition was converted into a kitchen, the original wooden mantel in the right room was bricked over, and a new shed addition was appended to the rear. This new addition consists of a small room and a porch.

Other twentieth century changes to the house include the installation of double and triple windows in several exterior walls, the installation of ceiling tiles in the original Creole portion of the home, the addition of a closet beside one wraparound mantel, and the installation of French doors opening into the kitchen and the hall which occupied the former cabinet/loggia range.

Despite these changes, the cottage retains its Creole identity. Its massing, French wraparound mantels, and Creole floorplan survive relatively intact. The application of flat pilasters to the mantels continues an old Creole tradition. The side galleries create the impression of the wraparound gallery often associated with the finest of Creole homes. The visual impact of the doors is minimal, and the additions at the rear do not impact the facade. The false gallery only slightly changes the roof shape and is easily dominated by the large and pronounced original Creole roofline. In addition, most of these changes are themselves historic, having occurred only three years after the house was built. With its c. 1911 original construction date, the Guitreau House is the last known example of the Creole style to be built in French Settlement. As a rare and relatively intact example of the final flowering of the Creole style in Livingston Parish (see Part 8), the Guitreau House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c.1911; c.1914

Significant Dates

c.1911; c.1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Guitreau House
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property .7 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
---	---

7	1	0	5	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	5	6	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff (based on draft nomination prepared by Dr. Jay Edwards,
as referenced in bibliography)

organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berteau

street & number 16825 LA Hwy 16 telephone (504) 698-9495

city or town French Settlement state LA zip code 70733

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

Guitreau House, Livingston Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Guitreau House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare and relatively intact example of the French Creole style within Livingston Parish.

A Historic Structures Survey has not yet been implemented for Livingston Parish. However, the area was settled primarily by persons of Anglo descent, and few structures influenced by the Creole building tradition were erected there. Just one French enclave--the Village of French Settlement--is known to exist. A windshield survey of French Settlement has identified only twenty surviving houses which can be classified as Creole. All but two of these dwellings are the result of a lumber boom which occurred between 1880 and 1915. Many French Settlement men worked in the lumber mills and had access to inexpensive or free lumber, which they used to build new houses for their families. Almost all of French Settlement's older homes were replaced at this time. For the most part, these new houses used late nineteenth century building technology (stud walls) and materials rather than the older, more traditional Creole methods of construction such as the use of bousillage. However, they very much resembled the Creole houses built several generations previously because they copied the floorplans, the central chimney location, the full length front galleries, and the gabled umbrella roofs which characterized these earlier Creole homes. They often also retained Creole stylistic motifs such as wraparound mantels. Thus, they illustrate the enduring importance of the Creole tradition in Southern Louisiana and represent the final flowering of that tradition in Livingston Parish.

Unfortunately, however, the majority of French Settlement's eighteen late Creole homes have lost their historic integrity. For example, many have sustained inappropriate additions. Others have lost original features. Still others are falling apart and abandoned. The Guitreau House is one of only a small group whose physical integrity and Creole character remain basically intact. In addition, it is distinguished by a floorplan more commonly used in urban rather than rural areas and is the only known example of this plan within Livingston Parish. Thus, its integrity, its rarity in a parish not generally recognized as a center of Creole culture, and its status as the last known example of the Creole tradition in Livingston Parish make the Guitreau House a viable candidate for Register listing.

Historical Note

The house was built for Armond LaBougeois in 1911. He sold it to A. D. Guitreau in 1914. It remained in the Guitreau family until the 1960s, when Cajun humorist Justin Wilson purchased it. Wilson sold the home to its current owners, Edward and Tana Berteau, in 1979. At present it functions as the residence for a horse ranch run by the Berteaus.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Guitreau House, Livingston Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

Windshield survey of French Settlement, LA by Dr. Jay Edwards, Department of
Geography and Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge.

Edwards, Jay. Draft National Register Nomination, Department of Geography and
Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge.

Site visit by National Register staff.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

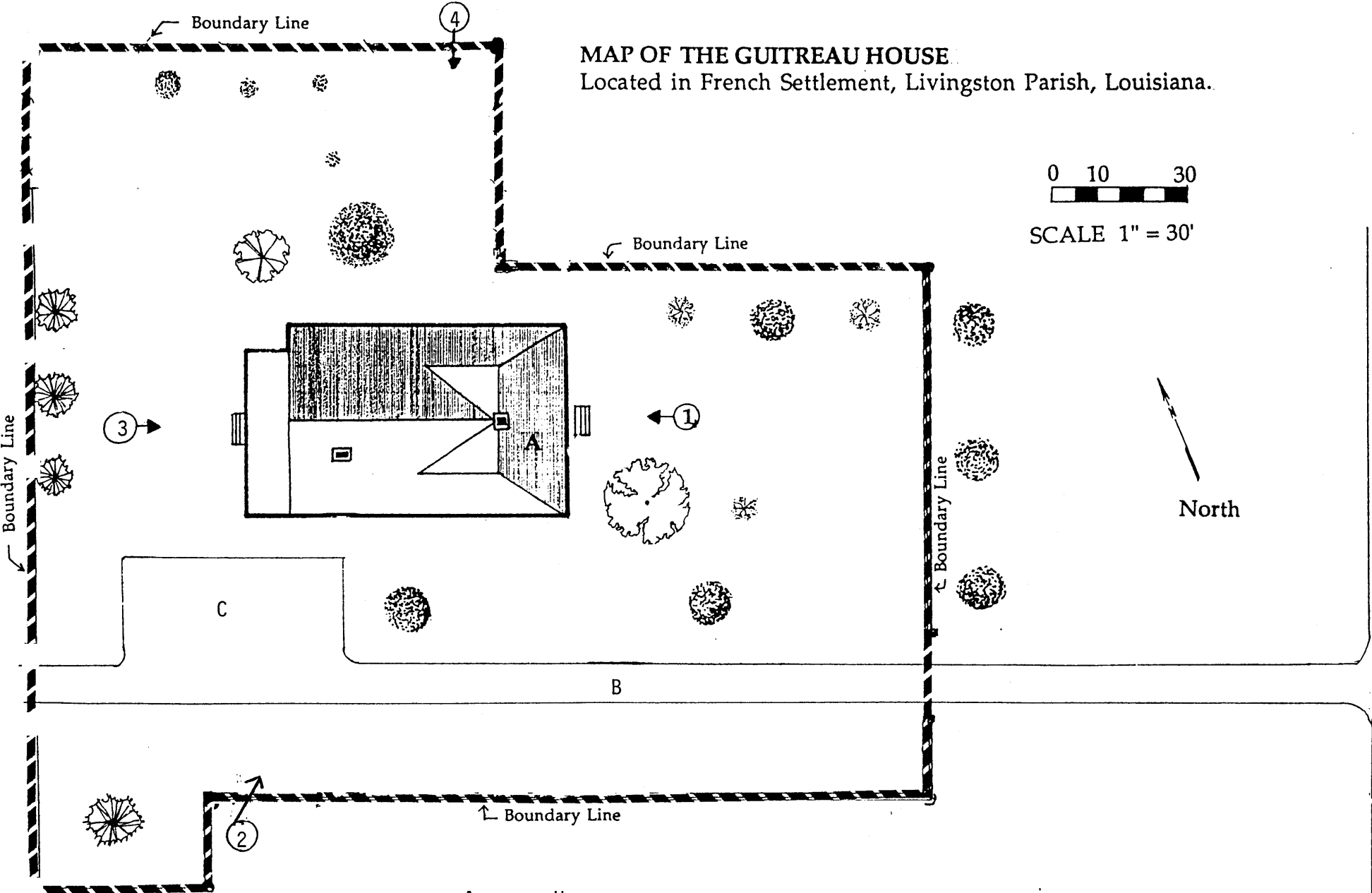
Guitreau House, Livingston Parish, LA

Section number 10 **Page** 1

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow the fence line enclosing the yard.

MAP OF THE GUITREAU HOUSE
Located in French Settlement, Livingston Parish, Louisiana.



0 10 30

SCALE 1" = 30'

North

- A - House
- B - Gravel Drive
- C - Parking



HOUSE
 LEMENT, LIVINGSTON Parish, LA
 353700

GUITREAU HOUSE
 FRENCH SETTLEMENT, LIVINGSTON Parish,
 LA
 15/710560/3356260

Part of Multiple Property Submission. Original map
 with Decareaux House, Livingston Parish, LA.