

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 08 1991

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Albin Major House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1304 False River Road (LA Hwy. 1) N/A not for publication  
city, town New Roads N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70760

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Leslie P. Tassin March 4, 1991  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 4/20/91  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 asphalt

other

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Albin Major House (c. 1809, c. 1850) is a one-story frame structure in the French Creole style. Facing False River to its south, the house stands in semi-rural, wooded surroundings on the western edge of New Roads in Pointe Coupee Parish. Although the home underwent restoration and enlargement in 1952, it retains its important Creole features and its National Register eligibility.

The Albin Major House exhibits a partially intact Creole floor plan which is the result of two stages of construction. This plan consists of four rooms arranged en-suite without a hall. The c. 1809 section includes a near-square salle to the left of a central chimney and a slightly smaller chambre located to the right of the chimney. The c. 1850 portion consists of formerly narrow bedrooms (now enlarged) on each side of the salle-et-chambre unit. This asymmetrical floor plan is combined with a symmetrical facade.

The home's Creole stylistic characteristics can also be attributed to its two distinct periods of construction. The features from 1809 include:

- 1) the fact that the building is raised two to three feet above grade level,
- 2) its hand hewn and hand sawn cypress timber frame employing mortises, tenons, and pegs,
- 3) bousillage infill,
- 4) interior exposed beaded beam ceilings in two rooms,
- 5) interior double leaf plank doors with original strap hinges, and
- 6) a Class III umbrella roof supported by an original Norman truss (see attached Figure). The gabled ends of this roof were extended c. 1850, using a much simpler frame for support.

In addition to the expanded roof, the Creole features from 1850 include a front gallery extending the full length of the house and French doors on the facade. The 1850 facade also exhibits rectangular transoms with eight small panes in each. Finally, evidence suggests that the gallery's square columns (now reproduced) were added to the facade in 1850. This supposition is based upon the fact that two chamfered columns, apparently from the 1809 period of construction, have been reused in the attic as support members.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Albin Major House, New Roads, Pointe Coupee, LA

Section number   7   Page   1  

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The Albin Major House appears to have experienced no significant alterations between its c. 1850 completion and 1952 rehabilitation. Changes to the structure made at this time include the following:

- 1) the covering of original interior bousillage walls with sheetrock and wallpaper,
- 2) widening of the c. 1850 narrow bedrooms by attaching small wings, and the subsequent conversion of one of these rooms for use as a dining room,
- 3) enclosure and enlargement of the rear gallery to create a kitchen, den, and hallway, and the alteration of the rear roofline to accommodate this change,
- 4) the addition of a rear wing consisting of two bedrooms and two baths,
- 5) the addition of two dormers and decorative eaves to the roofline, and
- 6) replacement of damaged elements, including floor joists, ceiling joists, gallery posts, at least one transom, and one mantel. A second mantel has been lost. The new gallery posts replicated those which replaced the older chamfered columns.

A screened and covered patio was added to the rear of the home in 1975.

Despite these changes, the Albin Major Home is still recognizable as a Creole house. Because the front gallery was not enlarged when the side bedrooms were expanded in 1952, the home's 1850 symmetrical facade is clearly distinguishable from the twentieth century construction. This facade, with its six sets of French doors, remains intact. The dormers do not seriously impact the massing of the otherwise intact gabled roof, and all other additions to the structure are not visible from the front. The floor plan is still recognizable as an asymmetrical four-room layout, a plan once favored for moderate sized Creole houses in Pointe Coupee Parish. Finally, other original features such as the exposed beaded beam ceiling, strap hinges, Norman truss, and timber frame construction with bousillage infill remain in place. For these reasons, the Albin Major House stands as an important example of Creole architecture in Pointe Coupee Parish and is a worthy candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c.1809, c.1850

Significant Dates  
c.1809, c.1850

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Albin Major House is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Pointe Coupee Parish because it is one of a select number of houses which illustrate rare and significant features of the Creole style.

Although Pointe Coupee Parish has long been recognized as an important area of early French settlement, time and changing tastes have eroded the parish's collection of significant Creole houses. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has identified 799 50+ year old buildings in the parish. Of these, 193 are in the Creole style and hence reflect, at least in a general sense, the French origins of the area. However, most of these buildings are Creole in plan and configuration only and lack other significant features associated with the style. Instead, they usually display Greek Revival, Victorian, or bungalow details. Of the 193 structures identified as Creole, only approximately twelve to fifteen retain enough integrity in their stylistic and construction features to justify their recognition as noteworthy examples of Creole architecture. Of this small group, approximately half represent the two story raised plantation house which was the apex of Creole style, and half are in the form of the moderately-sized and small one-story Creole homes which would have been the norm in the early days of parish history. The Albin Major House is one of these moderate-sized dwellings.

Features present in the Albin Major House which are not found in the majority of Pointe Coupee's Creole homes include an intact Norman truss and a French timber frame which utilizes mortises, tenons, and pegs. Bousillage infill is also present in the walls. The vast majority of Pointe Coupee Parish's Creole houses have simple roofing systems and plain frame walls with no infill. The once typical asymmetrical hall-less floorplan of four rooms arranged en-suite is now also rare. It might be said that False River was once the heart of this plan type in Louisiana, for it was long favored for the moderately sized Creole houses of the area. However, the Albin Major House is apparently one of only two such examples remaining. The house also retains interior exposed beaded beam ceilings in two rooms and all of its French doors.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Division of Historic Preservation. Historic Structures Survey for Pointe Coupee Parish, 1983.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than an acre  
(multiple property submission; original USGS with Fannie Riche House, Pointe Coupee Parish)

UTM References

A 

1	5
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6	4	8	7	4	0
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3	3	9	6	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries were drawn to encompass the significant resource and its immediate yard. Following property lines would have meant including excessive acreage and its accompanying non-contributing elements.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

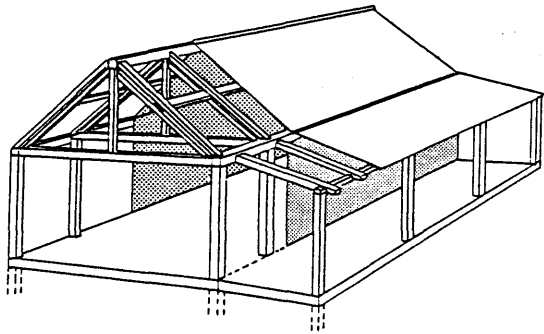
(Revised by Div. of Hist. Preservation staff)

name/title Talal Albagdadi, Donna Abbott, Dr. Jay Edwards  
organization Fred C. Kniffen Cultural Resources Lab date June 1990  
street & number Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU telephone (504) 388-2566  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70803

Owner: Mrs. Blanche M. Garrett  
1304 False River Road  
New Roads, LA 70760

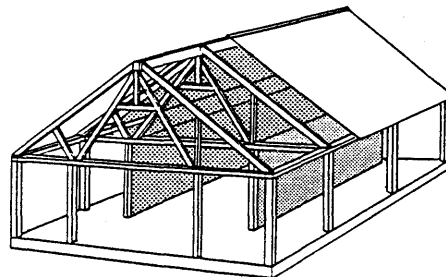
# FIGURE 5

## SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



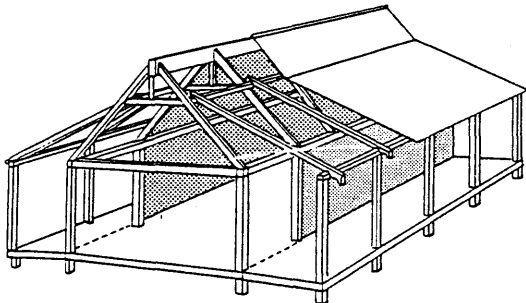
**CLASS I**

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.



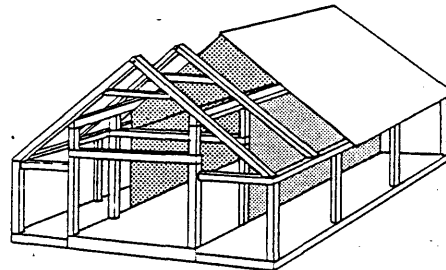
**CLASS IIIa**

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.



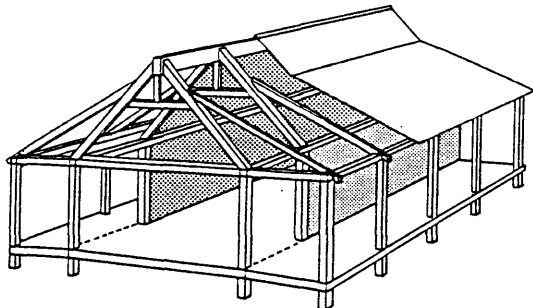
**CLASS IIa**

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



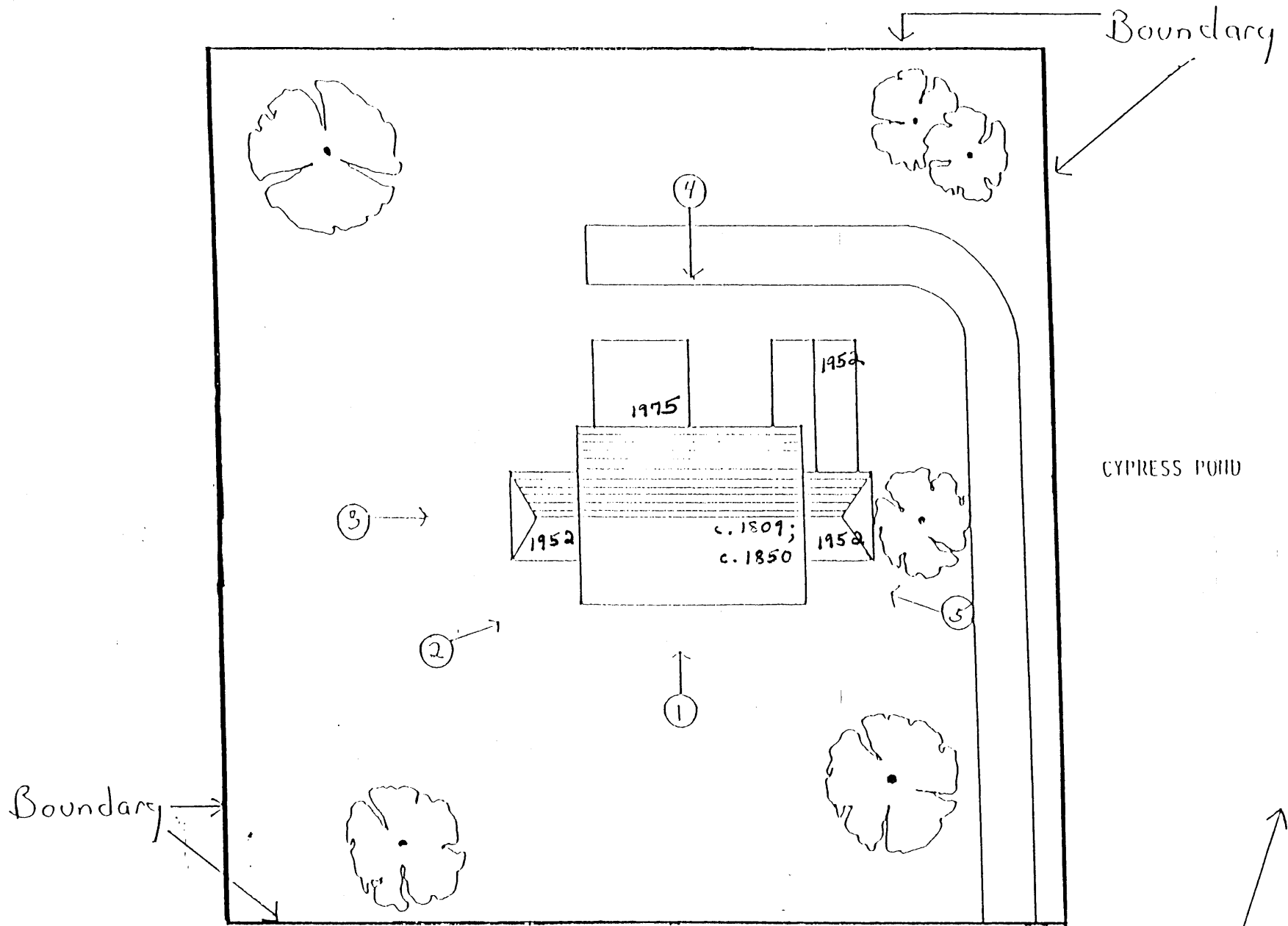
**CLASS IIIb**

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.

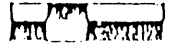


**CLASS IIb**

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.

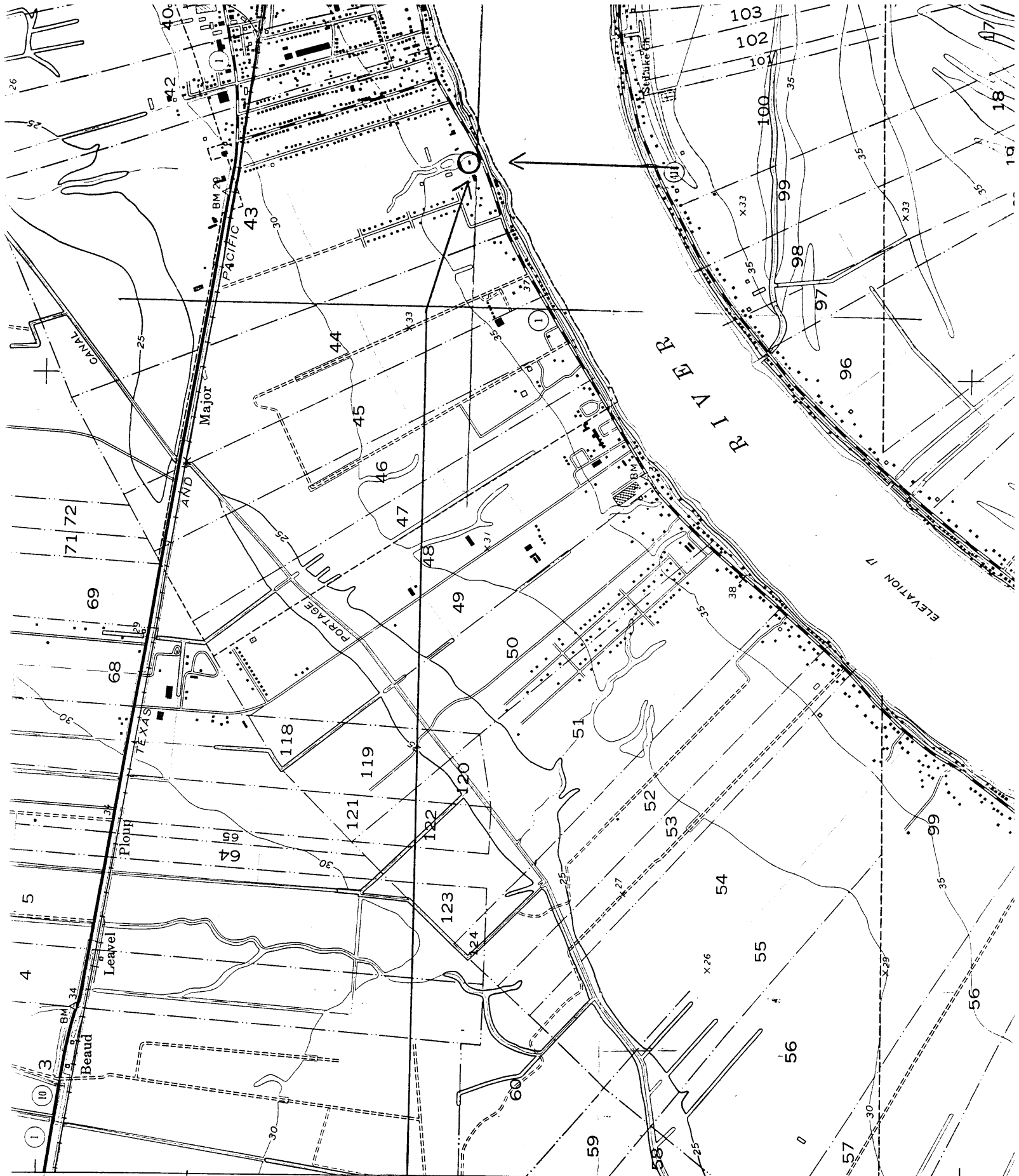


MAP FOR ALBIN MAJOR HOUSE  
 LOCATED IN NEW ROADS, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA.  
 BOLD LINES INDICATE SITE BOUNDARIES: **—————**

Scale:  0 5 10 20 FT

LA HWY 1





(original with Fannie  
 A. Riche House, Pointe  
 Coupee Parish)

Albin Major House  
 New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
 15/648740/3396040

T. 4 S.  
 T. 5 S.