

**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

For HCRS use only

received APR 8 1980

date entered

7

1. Name

historic The Houmasand/or common Houmas House

2. Location

W of Burnside off LA 22 and LA 44street & number 1-1/2 miles northwest of intersection of Hwy 22 & 44 not for publicationcity, town Burnside mic. vicinity of congressional district 8th - Gillis Longstate Louisiana code 022 county Ascension code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Corrine C. Livaudais, Marguerite Crozat Genre, Mr. & Mrs. William S. Cassilly, Edward P. Rt. 1, Box 181 - P. O. Box 106 - 10 King Pond Road - Rt. No. 1, Box 181 Crozatstreet & number Convent, La. - Port Allen, La. - Glendale, Missouri - Convent, La.

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ascension Parish Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Donaldsonville state Louisiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate _____ federal state county localdepository for survey records Library of Congresscity, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The construction of the Mississippi River levee in the 1930's destroyed much of the oak alley which at one time encompassed the front view of Houmas House. Nonetheless the alley still extends for a length of four trees and still provides a suitable frame for the facade. The axial formal garden which extends to the sides and rear of the house is largely the result of work done by former owner Dr. George Crozat in the 1940's.

Features of the gardens which date from the Plantation period include the garconniere, caretaker's house, the potato storage shed, the gardener's cottage, the carriage house, and the foundations of the greenhouse. Features built by Dr. Crozat include the skeet house, the cisterns and the two pigeonnieres.

The plantation house began in the late 18th or early 19th century as a two-story, pitched roof brick structure with end wall chimneys and a stuccoed exterior. The house had two rooms on each floor with a central staircase, six over six windows, and exposed beams, some of which were beaded. Although it presents a historic appearance, this old portion of the house has been much reworked. Changes made by Dr. Crozat include the removal of the stairs, the addition of an upstairs hall with a Palladian window, the replacement of the fireplaces and mantels, and the installation of closets and cupboards.

In 1840 a square plan, two and a half story, peripteral style mansion of stuccoed brick was built in front of the original portion. The normal rear gallery was omitted because of the close proximity of the old house. The 1840 portion is three rooms deep with a wide central hall plan. It has a graceful helix staircase set in a rear vestibule opposite a corresponding curving wall. The dining room and front parlor connect by means of wide doors. Significant interior features include swaggered cornices, transomed corner block door frames, and black marble mantels of aedicule motif design.

Significant exterior features include the handsome colossal Doric galleries, the Federal arched dormers, the cupola, and the movable louvered shutters.

In the 1940's Dr. Crozat demolished a pair of rooms which had connected the older portion with the 1840 portion, and built a glazed breezeway with an arch at each end. He also installed a modern kitchen and bathrooms in the 1840's portion.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Houmas House (Ascension Parish)

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7. Description (cont'd)

Inventory of Buildings

- A Greek Revival House
- B Breezeway
- C Original Colonial House
- D Garconnières
- E Caretakers House
- F Potato Storage House
- G Gardener's House
- H Foundation of Greenhouse
- I Carriage House
- J Skeet House
- K Cisterns
- ^ML&K Pigeonnieres and Formal Gardens

"Note: Property map shows disposition of trees in front yard incorrectly."

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 checked="" 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 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 1840 **Builder/Architect** John Smith Preston

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria A & C

Houmas House is significant in the area of economics because under owner John Burnside in the 1850's and 60's it was the center of the largest slave holding in Louisiana. With over 800 slaves it represented the largest economic unit in the prevailing slave economy of the state's pre-Civil War period.

Houmas House is nationally significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a plantation house designed in the peripteral mode of the Greek Revival. It represents an important regional variation of the Greek Revival which typified many of the grandest residences in the deep South. In addition the lines of Houmas House are more graceful than those of many other peripteral mansions. This is because Houmas House is one of the few in which the dormered roof line is in harmonious proportion to the colonnades.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WPA Official Project No. 65-1715. U. S. Dept. of Interior HABS, New Orleans, 26 sheets
 1 thru 7, Burnside Plantation.
 Seebold, Herman De Baghelle. Old Louisiana Plantation Homes. Pelican Press, Inc.
 1941, Vol. 1, p. 117.
 Kane, Harnet T. Plantation Parade. New York, Wm. Morrow And Co., 1946, p. 173.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 10 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

1	5	6	9	8	9	1	0	3	3	5	9	5	0
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 approximately 10 acres was chosen as the boundary because it encompasses the house gardens and outbuildings exactly. See boundary sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian H. Oviedo - Secretary-Treasurer

organization William Seales & Associates, Architects date December 1979

street & number 2125 North Rampart telephone 945-4293

city or town New Orleans, Louisiana state

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

E. Bernard Davis

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/27/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John M. ...
 Keeper of the National Register

date 9/27/80

Attest: *Beth ...*

date 9/23/80

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Houmas House

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9. Bibliography (cont'd)

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- Cooper J. Wesley. A Treasure of Louisiana Plantation Homes, Natchez, Southern Historical Publications, Inc, 1961, p. 40.
- Hays, Mrs. Drew Nelson. Louisiana, Sketches of Historical Homes and Sights. Baton Rouge, Claitor's, 1965.
- Keyes, Frances Parkinson. All This Is Louisiana. New York, Harper & Bros., 1950. p. 180-181.
- WPA Workers of the Writers Program in the State of Louisiana. Louisiana: A Guide to the State. New York, Hastings House, 1941, p. 528.
- Spratling, William P. and Scott Natalie. Old Plantation Houses in Louisiana. New York, Lent & Graff Co., 1927, p. 17-19.
- Pratt, Dorothy and Pratt, Richard. A Guide to Early American Homes - South. McGraw Hill, 1956. p. 155.
- Pickering, Ernest. The Homes of America. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1951, p. 209-210.
- Kappel, Philip. Louisiana Gallery. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1950, p. 108-110.
- Jones, Katharine M., The Plantation South. Bobbs-Merrill, 1957.
- Laughlin, Clarence John. Ghosts Along the Mississippi. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948. plate 56-59.
- Stanforth, Deirdre and Reens, Louis. Romantic New Orleans. New York, Viking Press, 1977. p. 32.
- Desmond, John. Louisiana's Antebellum Architecture. Baton Rouge, Claitor's, 1970, p. 82.
- Report of the Secretary of Treasury, "The Houmas Claim 1845"

BOUNDARY MAP

