

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 1

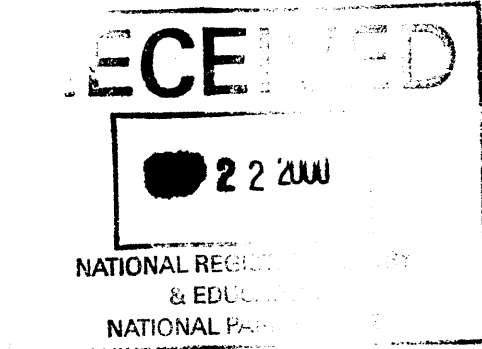
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Alice C Plantation House

Other Name/Site Number:



1229

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 10736 LA HWY 182

Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Franklin

Vicinity: X

State: Louisiana

Code: LA

County: St. Mary

Code: 101

Zip Code: 70538

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

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

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Gerri Hobdy, LA SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Date 8/28/00

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 2

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Handwritten signature: Gibson H. Beall

Signature of Keeper

Handwritten date: 10/24/00

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 3

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Greek Revival; other: French Creole

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: weatherboard
Roof: asphalt
Other:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 4

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Alice C Plantation House is located between Franklin and Garden City on a two-lane state highway following Bayou Teche. At the rear is a sweeping lawn with a pristine view of the Teche. The view from the front gallery, beyond the highway, is one of sugar cane fields. The 1850s house (based on the architectural evidence) is mainly in the Greek Revival style, although there are some notable French Creole influences. Happily, the house is largely unaltered and is in excellent condition thanks to a recent restoration by its current owners.

Raised about two feet above grade on brick piers, the wood frame two-and-a-half story house is constructed of *brique entre poteaux* (brick infill between the framing members – characteristic of French Creole architecture). An inset five-bay double gallery spans the façade. The boxed columns (and matching pilasters) have very pronounced capitals formed of multiple layers of molding. Balustrades feature simple square balusters. The entablature is ornamented with a denticular band. The same treatment outlines the shape of the side gables and is found on the rear. The elegant rear elevation has an open loggia with a *cabinet* (small room) on each side – a treatment typical of Louisiana's French Creole architecture. The capitals on the rear boxed columns are similar but not identical to those on the front. Windows are six over six. Two French doors are found on the first story rear elevation. Handsome central doorways found at the front and rear on both stories feature four-pane side lights with molded panels below and a decoratively subdivided transom.

Other than the *cabinet/loggia* range, Alice C has a conventional central hall plan with two rooms on each side. A staircase with a mahogany newel post and rail ascends from front to rear. Pocket doors are located between the two rooms on both sides. One set of pocket doors appears to be original, while the other set appears to be later (perhaps early twentieth century). Door frames, for the most part, are fairly standard, being unornamented except for multiple layers of molding. The door frames facing into the hall feature ear molds outlined with a pronounced band of wood.

The house retains all of its original mantelpieces (6), and interestingly, two (downstairs) wrap around the chimney flue in the manner of French Creole architecture. With their heavy proportions and boldly formed moldings, the mantels (like the column capitals) are important clues in dating Alice C. Some mantels feature heavy fluted pilasters and an entablature with a boldly molded shelf. Others (also heavy in proportion) have pilasters with an inset molded panel and a boldly formed molding at the top of the entablature. This member spans almost the width of the entablature and is reminiscent of a window cornice or a ledge. One of the upstairs mantels features *faux bois* (false graining -- one wood grained to look like another).

Alterations have been very limited at Alice C. Two of the downstairs mantels were stripped of their paint when the present owners acquired the house. A window on the first floor of the eastern elevation was converted to a door and a simple stair with a landing was added. The corresponding window above was filled in.

Contributing Element:

To the side of Alice C. (Photo 1) is a small, two-room, wood frame cottage (Photo 4). Because it appears to be contemporaneous with the main resource, it is being counted as a contributing element.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 5

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C_X D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1850s

Significant Dates: 1850s

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 6

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Alice C is of local architectural significance because it contributes to the distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage of St. Mary Parish. Excluding New Orleans, St. Mary is one of three parishes considered to be major centers of Greek Revival architecture in the state.

In contrast to the rest of South Louisiana, which is known for its French Creole architecture, St. Mary Parish is renowned for its many major examples of the Greek Revival style. The parish was formed in 1811, and its parish seat, Franklin, was founded in 1808 by men with English rather than French names. The booming antebellum economy was based largely upon sugarcane, and area planters were among the wealthiest of the wealthy. They built impressive residences on their plantations and within the town of Franklin. Within the Franklin city limits alone there are eleven major Greek Revival residences, all of which have the size and grandeur to be called mansions. Then there are numerous galleried Greek Revival cottages scattered throughout town, some small and some fairly substantial in size. Looking beyond Franklin, one finds an additional seven large Greek Revival plantation houses. In short, while St. Mary has at least eighteen major Greek Revival residences and countless galleried cottages, the typical older parish in the state, by contrast, is fortunate to have a half dozen, whatever the size and quality.

This special heritage represents the parish's architectural apogee – its architectural signature, so-to-speak. With the exception of a few turn-of-the-century landmarks, there has not been as impressive an architectural flowering in St. Mary since the Greek Revival. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, all surviving examples are significant because they contribute to the parish's distinctive architectural identity. A notable number of St. Mary's major Greek Revival houses are in the temple form, which is unusual in Louisiana. Most of the others are galleried houses. Two feature colossal galleries across the front, while Alice C has a double gallery. And while Alice C has some French Creole influences, stylistically it is overwhelmingly Greek Revival.

Historical Note

Alice C was built for Jotham Bedell, who owned the sugar plantation from 1846 to 1859. It was named Alice C by a subsequent owner, John Calder, for his wife, Alice. The plantation's sugar mill survived until the mid-1950s, when it was dismantled.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 7

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Structures Survey, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

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 (Specify Repository):

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 8

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreege of Property: approximately 4.45 acres

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 647220 3294020

Verbal Boundary Description:

That certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being situated in Ward Three (3), Section Thirteen (13), Township Fifteen (15) South, Range Ten (10) East, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, and being more fully described as Tract "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNA" as shown on plan of land made by Miller Engineers & Associates, Inc., Franklin, LA., Drawing No. 8085, dated July 25, 1990, annexed to an act of sale recorded October 6, 1990, in Book 33-S, Entry No. 232,071, of the conveyance records of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, less and except Tract "ABCDEA" as shown on plan of land made by Miller Engineers & Associates, Inc., Franklin, LA, Drawing No. 8382, dated February 6, 1992, annexed to an act of sale recorded September 11, 1992, in Book 35-L, Entry No. 239,037 of the conveyance records of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, the tract herein described and mortgaged containing 4.45 acres, more or less, fronting eighty-nine and 53/100 (89.53') feet, more or less, on the north side of Louisiana Highway 182, a depth on the east line of four hundred eleven (411'), more or less, a depth on the west line of four hundred fifty-two (452'), more or less and a width across the rear on Bayou Teche of one hundred (100') feet, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries, which follow current property lines, convey the immediate setting of Alice C and its relationship to Bayou Teche. Because the original plantation has been subdivided over the years, it is impossible to follow historic property lines.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: June 2000

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

Alice C Plantation House, Franklin vicinity, St. Mary Parish, LA

Page 9

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

PROPERTY OWNERS

Gary W. and Karen B. Drinkwater
10736 LA HWY 182
Franklin, LA 70538
(337) 828-2596 (home)