

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED

OCT 17 1988

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.

Moved & listed as 98001422

1. Name of Property

historic name Hermione Plantation House Removed from the National Register other names/site number

Removed from the National Register

2. Location

street & number Parish Road 3030 not for publication city, town Tallulah vicinity state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71282

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0), Total (1). Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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. Signature of certifying official: Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation & Tourism. Date: October 14, 1988.

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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: Edson A. Beall. Date of Action: 11-23-98.

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)Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls aluminum siding

roof asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Hermione (c.1855) is a single story, frame, Greek Revival plantation house located behind a swamp levee east of the town of Tallulah. Although there have been numerous alterations over the years, the house retains its Greek Revival character.

The main block of the present house is the original portion. It is a five bay, central hall plan cottage one room deep with a classical gallery consisting of square posts with molded capitals and necking. The side elevations are rather unusual in that the gallery entablature is separate from and lower than the gable end returns. This condition gives the gallery a fairly low slung appearance. At each end of the central hall is a wide doorway with a transom and side lights. The side lights are mounted with hinges and open as though they were single leaf French doors. There are two end wall chimneys, one of which retains its original aedicule style mantel. The doorway and windows on the front gallery feature a slight shoulder mold.

It is possible that Hermione originally had a rear "L" wing. If it did, this wing has been completely engulfed in a range of later rooms which taken as a whole constitute a massive early twentieth century rear extension with bungalow style mantels. The rear extension ends in a sunroom and carport added c.1950.

Other changes include the loss of one of the two original mantels and the construction of a closet where the mantel was. In addition, the house has been aluminum sided, including the entablature and the gable end returns.

Despite these admittedly considerable alterations, Hermione still conveys the essential elements of its Greek Revival style. These include its five bay symmetrical cottage articulation, its classical columns, the shoulder molded door and window frames on the gallery, and one of its mantels.

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.1855

Significant Dates
c.1855

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.

Hermione is architecturally significant on the local level as a rare surviving Greek Revival plantation house within the context of Madison Parish.

Greek Revival plantation houses were undoubtedly once common in Madison Parish, as can be seen by examining the 1860 census records. On the eve of the Civil War there were 99 large slaveholdings (50 or more slaves) in the parish, and the average size among these was 89.6. The absentee ownership rate was 40%, leaving 61 individuals who resided in the parish. Also, there were of course many holdings of less than 50. Given these statistics, it is plausible to conclude that there was once a significant number of Greek Revival plantation homes in Madison Parish, perhaps as many as 50 to 75. Today very little remains of this once impressive building stock. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, Hermione is one of only four surviving examples.

Historical Note:

The earliest reference to Hermione Plantation uncovered by the applicant is an article dated July 19, 1884, written by Mrs. Maria Johnston of Mounds, Louisiana and published in the Vicksburg Evening Post on the front page as "Letter from Louisiana." The article described a picnic and party in the neighborhood of Milliken's Bend on July 15. On her guest list Mrs. Johnston names a Miss Alice Richardson of "Harmean Plantation" and refers to it being owned by G. A. Richardson. According to conveyance records, Richardson owned the plantation until 1905.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Madison Parish.

Johnston, Maria. "Letter from Louisiana." Originally in Vicksburg Evening Post, July 15, 1884. Reprinted in Vicksburg Sunday Post, September 15, 1985.

- 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

Acreage of property @ 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	7	6	9	10	0
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3	15	8	9	0	5	10
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries highlighted in blue.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. Following property lines would have meant including large amounts of unnecessary acreage (over 1,000 acres).

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY AMY OUCHLEY & KIRK MORLEY

name/title National Register Staff

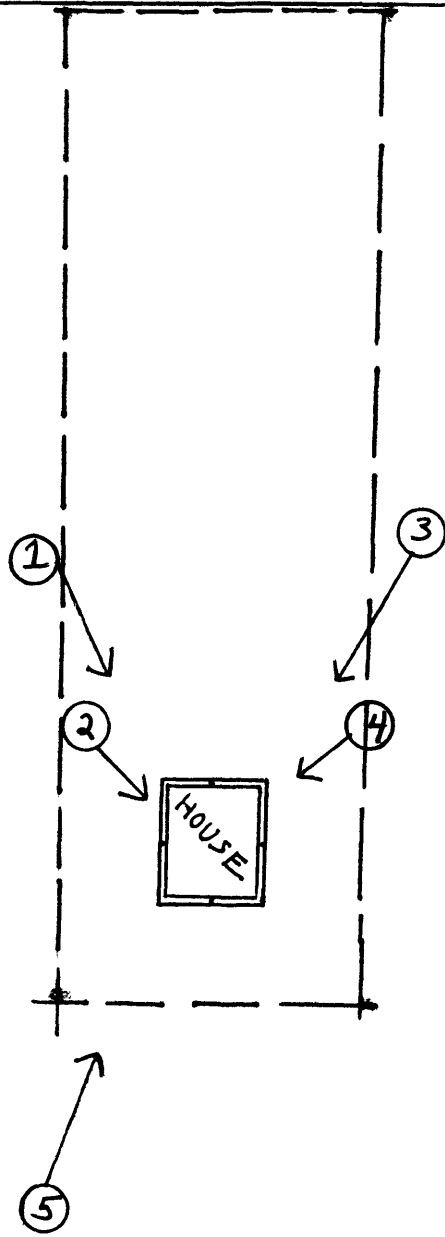
organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1988

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Current owner: Judy Kell Morris & Cornelia Kell
2127 Brackenshire Jackson, MS 39211 601-981-7145

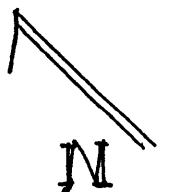
LA 3030



BOUNDARY

HERMIONE
MADISON PARISH, LA.

SCALE 1" = 100'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

Registration
RECEIVED 2280
OCT 27 1998
1422
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 any 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 Hermione
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 307 North Mulberry Street NA not for publication
city or town Tallulah NA vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71282

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 10/19/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or 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 this 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 W. Beal 11.23.98
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Hermione

Name of property

Madison 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	—	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.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Vacant

Sub. Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Brick

walls Aluminum

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Hermione

Name of property

Madison Parish, LA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" next to 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.
X 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" next to all that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
X B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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. 1855

Significant Dates

c. 1855

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
X 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Hermione
Name of property

Madison Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 670700 3587090

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

__ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1998

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Madison Historical Society, Inc., Codie Ray, President

street & number P. O. Box 268 telephone (318) 574-6821

city or town Tallulah state LA zip code 71284

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 1

The purpose of this nomination is to re-list Hermione, a c. 1855 single story, frame, Greek Revival style house (with an early twentieth century rear addition), which was recently moved. The house was listed on the National Register in 1988 while on its original rural site within Madison Parish. It was moved in 1997 to its present location in the parish seat of Tallulah. Despite the move and other changes, Hermione retains its National Register eligibility.

The Original Setting

Hermione once stood in a large clearing in a rural agricultural area of eastern Madison Parish. This clearing is bounded by tree-lined Walnut Bayou (which the house faced), fields filled with crops, and a dirt road. Additional crops and a large barn fill the space beyond the road.

The Move

Hermione was still being used as a home when it was placed on the Register in 1988. However, its then owner later abandoned the building, leaving it to decay in the Louisiana climate. Recently she decided to demolish the house to provide more cropland for a farmer leasing the property. At this point the Madison Historical Society became involved, with its officers persuading the owner to donate the house to their organization. However, she stipulated that the building be moved off its original site within two years. The society then purchased a lot in nearby Tallulah to serve as Hermione's new location.

The move was accomplished in October 1997. At that time a small early twentieth century bathroom wing attached to the side of the c. 1855 Greek Revival style section was removed, as was a metal carport adjoining the home's large rear addition. Then the house was split into two sections (original and addition), and each portion was moved intact to Tallulah. There it was reassembled on the site described below.

The New Setting

Hermione is now located in a mixed residential/commercial section of Tallulah on the southwest corner of Craig (running west to east) and Mulberry (running north to south) streets. The parcel upon which the house stands measures 150' x 150' and

CONTINUED

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

occupies approximately one-quarter block. A bank, a second commercial building, and their parking lot occupy half of this block; a home converted into a law office, a small shed, and a modern finance company fill the block's other quarter. (See attached sketch map.) The opposite side of Mulberry Street contains small homes which face Hermione, while a modern brick library stands opposite the house at the northwest corner of the intersection. Hermione's parcel is grassy and has two large trees.

Description of Hermione

The c. 1855 main block of Hermione is a five bay, central hall plan cottage one room in depth. A classical gallery consisting of square posts with molded capitals and necking spans the facade. The side elevations are rather unusual in that the gallery entablature is separate from and lower than the gable end returns. This condition gives the gallery a fairly low slung appearance. At each end of the central hall is a wide doorway with a transom and side lights. The latter are mounted with hinges and open as though they were single leaf French doors. An original aedicule style mantel survives in one room. The doorway and windows on the front gallery feature a slight shoulder mold.

Alterations

It is possible that Hermione originally had a rear "L" wing. If it did, this wing has been completely engulfed by the previously mentioned early twentieth century rear expansion containing four rooms. Other changes occurring before the 1997 move include the loss of one of the two original mantels, the replacement of the wooden floors within the main block's two rooms (original floors survive in the hall), and the replacement of the original four-over-four windows in one room with one-over-one windows. The house also received aluminum siding, including on the facade, the entablature and the gable end returns.

Alterations occurring to Hermione's c. 1855 portion as a result of the move and efforts to stabilize the building include the scars left by the previously mentioned bathroom removal, the loss of the original chimneys, the replacement of roof beams damaged at some point by a fire, the reshingling of the roof, the installation of sheetrock over the old walls, and the construction of new front porch steps. Plywood panels currently cover the intact front door, transom and sidelights in order to protect them from possible damage.

CONTINUED

Hermione

Name of property

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

Madison Parish, LA

County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

Despite the considerable alterations and regrettable move, Hermione remains a viable National Register candidate. While it would have been preferable for the house to remain in its original rural setting, it is certain that the building would have been demolished had it remained in place. Admittedly, the present setting is not comparable to the original. However, it is not as inappropriate as one might think at first. Houses of this period, size and level of Greek Revival styling were built in small and medium sized communities in northern Louisiana in the antebellum period; hence it is not out of character for one to be found in the town of Tallulah. In short, it is not a type of house that is exclusively rural.

More importantly, Hermione should be judged as a work of architecture on its own. In this regard, the move and the inappropriate siding have not diminished the home's status as an extremely rare example of the Greek Revival style within Madison Parish. In summary, essential elements contributing to Hermione's architectural significance include its five bay symmetrical cottage articulation, its classical columns, the shoulder molded door and window frames on the gallery, and one of its mantels.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Hermione is architecturally significant on the local level as a very rare surviving example of the Greek Revival style within the context of Madison Parish.

The territory which would become Madison Parish was crossed by La Salle during his trip down the Mississippi River in the late 1600s and received its first settlers in the early nineteenth century. However like other northern Louisiana parishes, the area was slow to grow until the financial panic of 1837 forced eastern planters to relocate to more productive lands. When some of these persons chose the rich delta region of Northeast Louisiana in which to establish cotton plantations, the state legislature responded by organizing Madison Parish in 1839. The first steamboat arrived via the Tensas River in 1840, creating a relatively inexpensive method for carrying crops to market and making the area even more inviting to planters. By 1850 many of Madison Parish's residents had become extremely prosperous, and this wealth was reflected in the homes they built.

Because the Greek Revival was the most popular architectural style during Madison's antebellum "boom" period, the parish must have once had a large number of houses in this mode. This assumption is reinforced by an examination of the 1860 census records. On the eve of the Civil War there were 99 large slaveholdings (50 or more slaves) in the parish, and the average size among these was 89.6. The absentee ownership rate was 40%, leaving 61 individuals who resided in the parish. Also, there were of course many holdings of less than 50. Given these statistics, it is plausible to conclude that there was once a significant number of Greek Revival style homes in Madison Parish, perhaps as many as 50 to 75. However, today very little remains of this once impressive building stock, partly because many of the homes were destroyed by the Union Army during Grant's 1863 Vicksburg campaign. Others probably succumbed to repeated floods of local rivers and streams. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, Hermione is one of only four surviving examples of the Greek Revival style in Madison Parish and hence is very important as a representative of the area's earliest architectural heritage.

Historical Note

The earliest reference to Hermione Plantation is an article dated July 19, 1884, written by Mrs. Maria Johnston of Mounds, Louisiana and published in the *Vicksburg Evening Post* on the front page as "Letter from Louisiana." The article described a picnic and party in the neighborhood of Milliken's Bend on July 15. On her guest list Mrs. Johnston names a Miss Alice Richardson of "Harmean Plantation" and refers to it being owned by G. A. Richardson. According to conveyance records, Richardson owned the plantation until 1905.

Hermione

Name of property

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

Madison Parish, LA

County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1
 10 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conveyance Records, Madison Parish.

Johnston, Maria. "Letter from Louisiana." Originally in *Vicksburg Evening Post*, July 15, 1884. Reprinted in *Vicksburg Sunday Post*, September 15, 1985.

Madison Parish Development Board, *Madison Parish Resources and Facilities*. Louisiana Department of Public Works Planning Division, n.d.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Tallulah Centennial Committee, *Souvenir Program, Tallulah Centennial, 1857-1957*, n.p., n.d.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The following is the legal description of the 150' x 150' parcel of land where Hermione is now located, as taken from conveyance records:

All of Lot Eight of the Original Village of Tallulah, Madison Parish, Louisiana.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

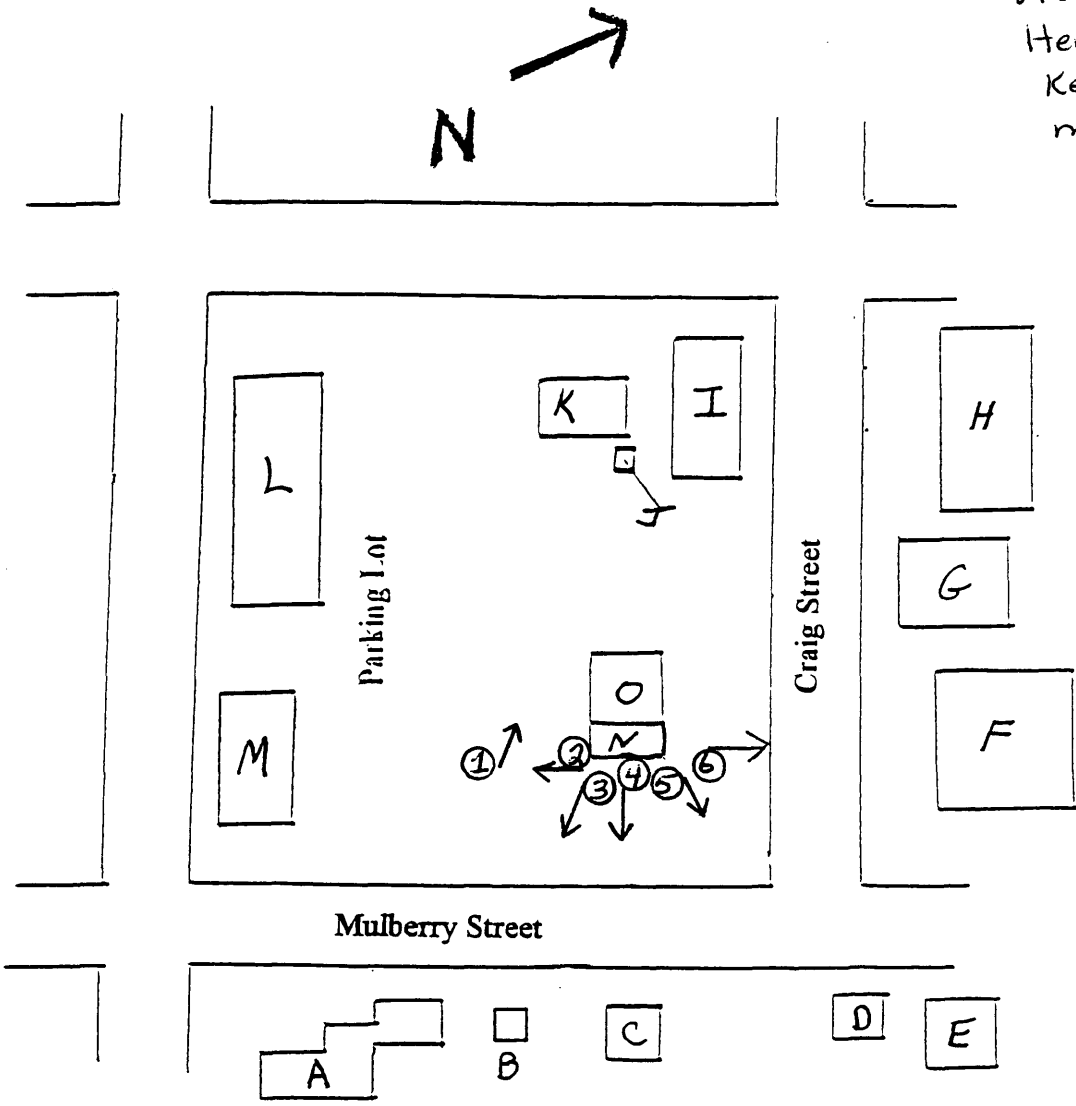
Because the nominated building has been moved, there is no historic setting to recognize. Thus, the Division of Historic Preservation has chosen to use the current property lines as the boundary for this nomination.

MAP DEPICTING NEW SETTING OF

HERMIONE HOUSE

Tallulah, Madison Parish, LA

Note: Only photos showing viewsheds from Hermione are keyed to this map.



NOTE: Buildings are not drawn to scale.

- A = House
- B = House
- C = House
- D = House
- E = House
- F = Library

- G = Commercial Building
- H = Commercial Building
- I = Commercial Building
- J = Metal Storage Building
- K = Lawyer's Office

- L = Bank
- M = Commercial Building
- N = Original Hermione House
- O = Historic Addition to Hermione House