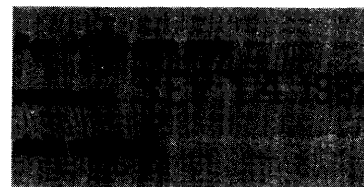


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Alexandre Fontenot fils House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 1 mile south^S of Grand Prairie off Hwy. 103 ^{LA} N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Prairie ^{vic.} vicinity of congressional district 8th--Gillis Long

state LA code 22 county St. Landry Parish code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number Corner of Court and Landry Streets (no specific address) P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alexandre Fontenot fils House is located approximately 1 mile south of the town of Grand Prairie. The two story plantation house has a hall-less plan which is 3 rooms wide and 2 rooms deep. When it was built the house had only one chimney which had 4 fireplaces, 2 on each floor. The lower story is constructed of common bond brick and the upper story is constructed of pit sawn timbers. All beams are exposed and beaded except for the beams on the lower gallery ceiling. All the interior ceiling boards have beaded edges as do the door and window frames. Upstairs the wraparound mantels consist of crude aedicule motifs with side panels and oversized friezes. The downstairs mantels are simpler with corner blocks, no friezes, and pilasters built up of simple moldings. The upstairs contains bedrooms and a parlor. The ground floor contains the dining room, an adjacent finished room, and pantries with half-plastered walls. The pantries still have the original wooden barred windows. The original roof was blown off in a c. 1900 hurricane, and some of the old timbers were used in the reconstruction. The attic is still reached via the original gallery stair. The stair ascending the main floor gallery from the lower gallery is also original. The French doors, beaded board shutters, and strap hinges are almost all original. The front gallery is composed of simple wood posts and a board frieze completely without molding of any kind. The rear gallery was added in the 1930's. Also at that time a side chimney, a bathroom, and an interior door were added. There have since been no alterations to the house. The only change has been the loss of some of the old exterior shutters.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Fontenot House is significant because of the described features which establish it as a French Creole plantation house. These features are, of course, still extant.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

The Alexandre Fontenot fils House (c.1845) is a two-story, brick and frame, French Creole plantation house located in flat farm country one mile south of the town of Grand Prairie. Despite several changes, the house retains its architectural integrity.

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 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 c. 1845 **Builder/Architect** Builder--Alexandre Fontenot fils

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Alexandre Fontenot fils House is architecturally significant on the state level as an important example of a Louisiana plantation house in the French tradition. Characteristic French features include the plan, chimney placement, exterior gallery articulation, and fenestration. The house is important because it is almost pure French. Unlike many mid-nineteenth century "Creole" plantation houses, there is almost no input from the then growing Anglo-American influence. Also noteworthy is the fact that the house is unusual in having retained almost all of its original windows, doors, and hardware.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PROPERTY:

The property on which the house is located was bought by Alexandre Fontenot, fils, a native of St. Landry Parish, at public auction in March 1845. Fontenot had acquired an adjacent section to the north as early as 1838. The total plantation acreage was about 1200 acres. In addition to Fontenot, his wife, and their six children, the plantation supported 28 slaves. In the Agricultural Census of 1850, the plantation is recorded as having 26 horses, 550 cattle, 60 sheep, and 30 swine. In that year it produced 1500 bushels of corn, 3600 pounds cotton, 150 bushels of sweet potatoes, and approximately \$100 worth of manufactured articles. Alexandre Fontenot died in 1851 at the age of 46.

In 1881 Ozeme Fontenot, a son, bought the plantation from his mother. Ozeme was very active in political affairs throughout Reconstruction, but he chose never to run for office. Family letters indicate the intensity of his political involvement. Ozeme also carried on extensive commerce between Bayou Chicot and Grand Prairie. Lumber, cotton, and corn were traded or sold for many years. A cotton gin, located near the plantation house, was operated during the late 1800's and served the whole community. The ginning of cotton was an important operation for over 80 years at the Fontenot plantation. Ozeme died in 1927 at the age of 81.

The plantation was inherited in 1928 by George H. Parker, Sr., grandson of Ozeme Fontenot. It is presently owned jointly by George H. Parker, Jr., James Morgan Parker, and John Arthur Parker, son and grandsons, respectively, of George Parker, Sr.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .13 acres

Quadrangle name Opelousas, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

1	5	5	8	2	2	0	0	3	3	9	3	7	3	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title owners--see item 4

organization N/A date June 1981

street & number See Item 4 telephone See Item 4

city or town See Item 4 state See Item 4

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 *Robert B. DeBlieux*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 7, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

John L. ... date 10/22/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews* date 10/19/82
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Alexandre Fontenot fils House item number 4

Page 2

4. Owners:

George H. Parker, Jr.
Star Route, Box 141
Washington, LA 70589
318-826-3874

James Morgan Parker
117 Ziegler St.
Houma, LA 73060
504-868-8495

John Arthur Parker
#3 Mariners Cove W.
New Orleans, LA 70124

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Alexandre Fontenot fils

Continuation sheet

House

Item number

9

Page

2

9. Bibliography

Historical Sketch of Property Prepared by Owners, Located in Alexandre Fontenot fils House National Register File, La. State Historic Preservation Office.

Above sketch based upon following sources:

- St. Landry Parish Courthouse Records
- St. Landry Catholic Church Archives
- Agricultural Census, 1850
- Perrin, William, Southwest Louisiana, Biographical and Historical, 1891.
- deTourney, Louisiana Plantations, Maps, Compiled in 1853, LSU Archives.
- Opelousas Daily World History Edition, 1955, LSU Archives.
- St. Landry Parish Standing Structures Survey, 1977
- Dupré, Gilbert L., Political Reminiscences, 1876-1902.

FONTENOT HOUSE

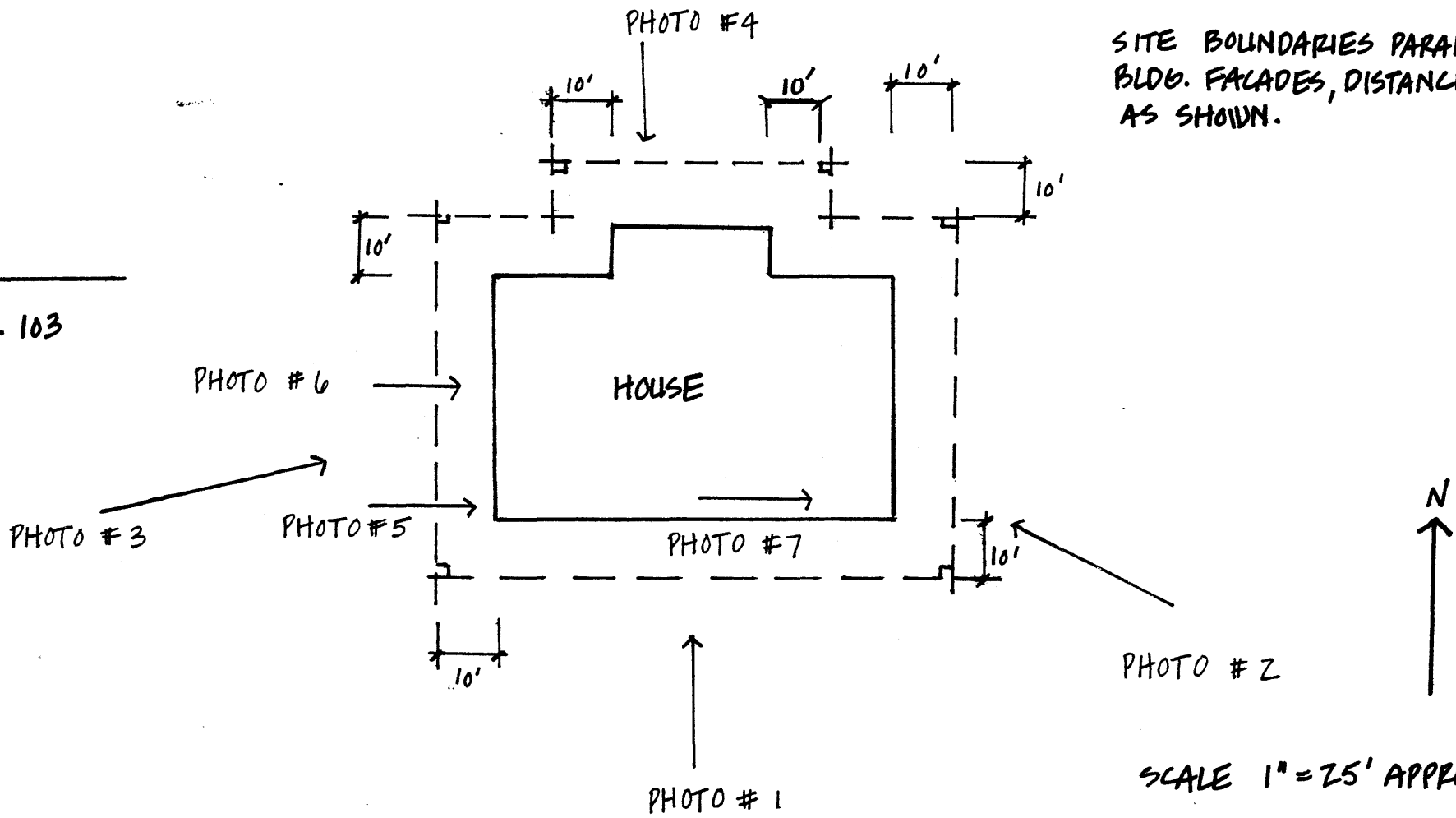
GRAND PRAIRIE, LOUISIANA

TO GRAND PRAIRIE

TO DIRT ROAD APPROX. 200 FT.

SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL
BLDG. FACADES, DISTANCES
AS SHOWN.

TO HWY. 103



SCALE 1" = 25' APPROX.