

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1024
JUL 19 1991
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 Mouton House
other names/site number Old Governor's Mansion

2. Location

street & number 261 N. Liberty St. N/A not for publication
city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. Landry code 097 zip code 70570

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>1</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>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
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.
Jonathan Fricker July 1, 1991
Signature of certifying official Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Date
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.
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.
 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:) _____

Helena Byrne 8/9/91
entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mouton House is a one-story frame residence standing on a corner in one of Opelousas's wooded residential neighborhoods. Built c. 1850, the home is primarily Greek Revival in style but also shows a distinct Italianate influence. Although it has suffered some losses, the high quality of its Greek Revival craftsmanship and the rarity of its Italianate cornice make the building a strong National Register candidate.

The house is distinguished by a number of Greek Revival characteristics. These include:

- 1) front and rear porticoes which resemble temples. The facade's three bay portico features four wooden fluted Corinthian columns with cast-iron capitals, a pediment with a broken entablature, a pronounced bracketed cornice, and a fanlight piercing the pediment's tympanum. The portico's ceiling is subdivided by three paneled beams which correspond to the bays created by the columns. Additional paneled beams outline the ceiling's edge. The rear portico is similar, except that it lacks the paneled ceiling beams and features four molded and paneled square pillars instead of fluted columns.
- 2) a front entrance featuring a single door framed by tall, thick Doric pilasters. This door is surmounted by a small two-light transom and a thick entablature whose single dentil band and a projecting cornice energize the otherwise smooth surface.
- 3) elaborate heavily molded surrounds decorating the two sets of unusual paired windows on the portico as well as the doors and windows within the home's more formal rooms. All of these surrounds feature pediment shaped lintels and shoulder molding. However, those encasing the paired windows are somewhat unusual in that both the interior and exterior frames are composed of double pedimented lintels. Surrounds in the less formal bedrooms are more simple in design.
- 4) Doric pilasters decorating the facade beneath the portico and the corners of the home, and
- 5) an entablature on the front and rear elevations.

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The house's Italianate influence comes from its exterior cornice. It is composed of molded and scalloped brackets with suspended pendants. In addition, the home's surviving black marble mantel is in the Rococo Revival style, a popular design which blended well with mid-nineteenth century Italianate motifs. Other interesting features in the house include its 14 foot ceilings, four panel doors, a balustrade whose balusters resemble horseshoes, large floor-to-ceiling windows opening onto the portico, tall shutters, gable parapets, an additional fanlight on each of the home's gabled ends, rectangular transoms over interior doors, molded panels beneath the windows on interior walls, and tall molded baseboards. The floorplan is symmetrical and features formal central spaces flanked by two bedrooms on each side (see below).

The Mouton House has experienced a few changes over time. These include:

- 1) the loss of a cupola,
- 2) a somewhat mysterious rearrangement of the interior floorplan. It is obvious that a paneled kitchen was added in the home's rear central space and that closets and two bathrooms were carved from previously existing bedrooms on each side of the home. However, it is not possible to determine the original plan of the home's central space (between the front and rear porticoes) without removing fabric currently in place.
- 3) the removal of a set of pocket doors,
- 4) the installation of new flooring in all but one room,
- 5) the addition of a built-in room divider in the center of the home,
- 6) the installation of a beaded ceiling in what is now the front central room, and
- 7) the possible loss of additional marble mantels and the loss of all the home's chimneys.

Despite these losses, the Mouton House remains a strong National Register candidate. Although the floorplan has been changed and some mantels may have been lost, the missing pocket doors are stored beneath the home and could be re-installed. The inappropriate room divider and beaded ceiling could easily be removed. The loss of the cupola is regrettable, but the home's highly styled Greek Revival temple-like porticoes, refined entrance, and pedimented lintels and shoulder moldings all survive intact. The building's Italianate cornice also remains unaltered. In summary, the Mouton House exterior still looks much as it

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did upon its completion c. 1850. Its fine Greek Revival and Italianate features make it a rare and locally important example of these styles.

Non-Contributing Element

Standing near the side of the property to the rear of the Mouton Home is a board and batten shed. It does not appear to be of the same age as the house, and does not contribute to its architectural significance. It is defined as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

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.1850

Significant Dates

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 Mouton House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the finest example of the Greek Revival style in St. Landry Parish. It is also a rare example of the Italianate taste.

The parish's Historic Structures Survey records approximately 274 buildings. Of these, approximately 38 show at least some Greek Revival influence in their styling. However, most of these are very simple adaptations of the style which were created by adding either plain square Doric pillars, an entablature encircling the front gallery, an entrance transom and sidelights, or a combination of these features to the basic Louisiana galleried cottage. Thus, most of the homes are simple single story dwellings. Although only five of the 38 are larger two story buildings, even these homes appear to be somewhat plainly styled. Surprisingly, eleven of the 38 attempt to recreate the Greek Revival temple front portico. However, most of these are extremely poor attempts at mimicry.

In contrast to these simple Greek Revival buildings, the Mouton House stands as a notable landmark. It has highly decorated temple-like porticoes on both its front and rear elevations. It also has Corinthian capitals, pilasters, pediment shaped lintels, and elaborate shoulder moldings which are not evident on the parish's other Greek Revival buildings. Although one other St. Landry house does display a fanlight in its simple pediment, the Mouton house has a fanlight on each of its four elevations. In addition, the Italianate treatment of the cornice also appears to be rare within St. Landry Parish. Only one other house with any evident Italianate features was found in the survey materials.

Historical Note

The Mouton House was built for Charles Homere Mouton and his wife Celimene Dupre Mouton. Mouton served as Lieutenant Governor in 1856. When Baton Rouge was occupied by Union forces in 1862, the state government was moved temporarily to Opelousas. During this time Governor Thomas Overton Moore stayed as a guest in the Mouton home. Because of this association, Opelousas residents call the Mouton home the "Old Governor's Mansion".

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, St. Landry Parish, LA

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 less than an acre

UTM References

A

1	5	5	8	7	6	2	0	3	3	7	8	3	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed plat map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

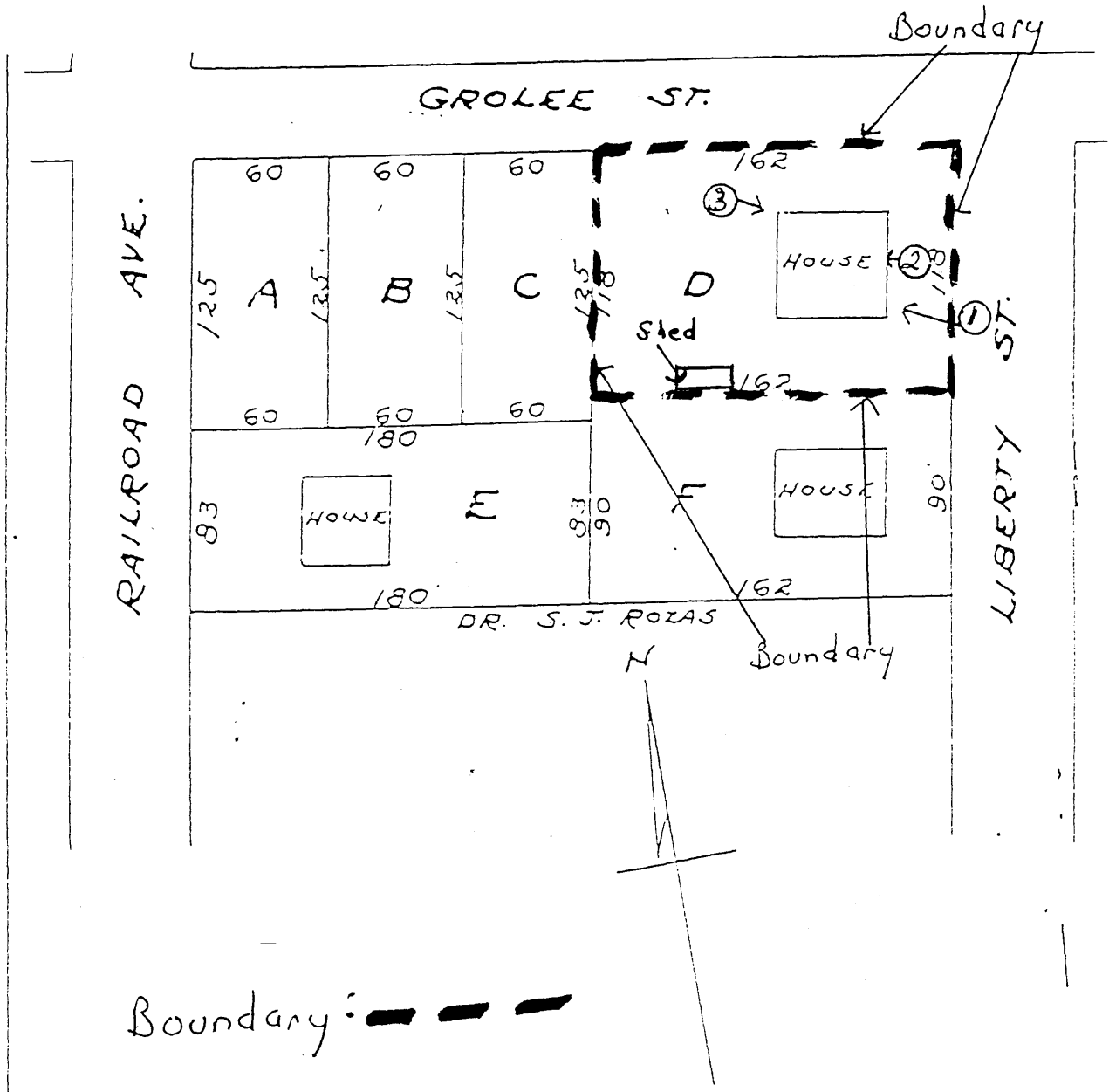
Boundaries follow property lines of the lot occupied by the nominated resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Mouton House
Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA.



PLAT OF SUB-DIVISION MADE FOR
EDWARD M. BOAGNI, JR.
SITUATED IN OPELOUSAS, ST.
LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA.

OPELOUSAS, LA.
AUG. 1, 1944.
SCALE - 1 IN. = 80 FT.

M. J. GOUDEAU, JR.
CITY ENGINEER.
M. J. Goudeau, Jr.