

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100003194

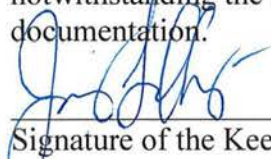
Date Listed: 12/4/2018

Property Name: Robin House (Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle MPS)

Parish: Jefferson

State: LA

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

12-4-2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2: County

Grand Isle is located in **Jefferson Parish**, not Orleans as marked on the form.

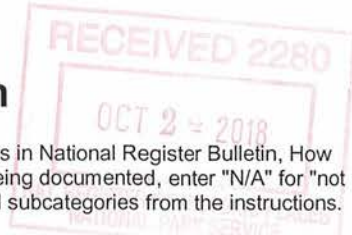
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Robin House  
Other Names/Site Number: Rigaud House  
Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle, 1780-1968

#### 2. Location

Street & Number: 176 Coulon Rigaud Rd  
City or town: Grand Isle State: LA County: Orleans  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Kristin Sanders* *August 15 2018*  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**  
**Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism**  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**  
**Title:** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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**4. National Park Certification**

I hereby certify that the 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]*

12.4.2018

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

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## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): French Creole

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: brick

walls: wood

roof: metal

other: N/A

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

As an example of both vernacular structure and storm survivor, the Robbin House holds a unique place in Grand Isle's history. The house was originally constructed as two separate residences, one circa mid-nineteenth century, and one in 1894. The current house was formed when the 1915 hurricane floodwaters washed the two homes together. The house has since survived an additional hundred years of annual tropical storms, hurricanes, and flood events testifying to the strength and appropriateness of its design and construction in the Grand Isle sub-tropical environment. The building retains a high degree of integrity of materials, design, craftsmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association. It is easily recognizable to anyone who has seen the house in the last 100 years and thus, is eligible for listing on the National Register.

#### Narrative Description

The Robbin House is located near the center of the island and within the live oak chenier area. It is a raised cottage type in two forms: one mid-nineteenth century and the other 1894. The two structures were combined into one in 1915. Together, they form a single-family home consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, living, dining, laundry, and screened porches. A deck wraps the southeast side of the front porch.

The structure currently located at 176 Coulon Rigaud Lane on Grand Isle was originally constructed as two single-family residences for members of the Rigaud family. The east side of the house was originally constructed on the site sometime prior to 1893 (no record of the original date of construction has been located to date). Jacques Rigaud was one of the original four holders of land grants on Grand Isle and it is believed the house dates from around the middle of the nineteenth century after 1856. The two-room gable-roofed house with center chimney has not been dated but appears well over one-hundred years old. In 1893, it was occupied by Theresa Rigaud. It has a front porch facing south in the direction of the beach. The structure is wood with wood clapboard siding supported on brick piers. Original tongue-and-groove batten doors with cast-iron hardware remain on the house. The roof is covered with corrugated tin. (Hereafter referred to as Part T.)

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The west side of the structure was constructed in 1894 by the Hurricane Relief Fund after the Chenier Caminada hurricane of 1893 for Benio Rigaud on the lot behind Theresa Rigaud's home. It is a wood structure with wood clapboard siding on wood piers. It was three rooms wide with a front porch facing in the direction of the beach to the south. The wood clapboard structure is supported on wood piers, some log-shaped. Original doors are wood four panel, some with original hardware. The gable-shaped roof is covered in corrugated tin. (Hereafter referred to as Part B.)

During the 1915 hurricane season, flood waters on the island floated Part B towards the beach and next to Part T. When storm waters receded, the two structures were connected in situ but retained their separate identities with the front porches connected across the front of the structure. The placement of three historic live oak trees on the site, two at the front and one at the street side, suggests that Part B floated into that location, was captured between the trees and the existing residence, and was thereby prevented from floating out to sea.

When viewing the home, the connection of two structures from different construction eras is readily apparent at roof lines, front porch depths, floor heights, framing members, and foundations. Part B's roofline is approximately three feet higher at the peak of the gable than Part T. The front porch of Part T is approximately six inches deeper than the porch on Part B. There is a two to three inch difference in floor heights between the two structures. Viewed from underneath, floor joists and beams are differently spaced and sized; and, Part T's foundation is brick pier while Part B's foundation is wood posts with the exception of the chimney.

There are several small additions on the Robbin House for modern necessities: kitchen, bathrooms, and closets. A wood deck stands on the front at the center of the structure connecting the two front porches. The house is of interest for the age and vernacular character of the original structures. It also holds some interest with the connection of the two buildings into one home as an act of nature. The building has been in its current location and combined status for over one hundred years.

**Historic Integrity - Robbin House:** Despite several small additions, the house retains its historical integrity. The east portion of the building remains on the original location on which it was constructed. The west portion of the building was added in 1915 and has remained in this position for the past one-hundred-three (103) years. The front porches have been screened in and a deck added across part of the front that weaves around the historic live oak tree in that area. Additions include the kitchen at the east end and extensions along the rear (north) side for bathrooms and laundry. It has a kitchen addition on the east side with a shed roof on the gable end. The building is utilized as a vacation camp by the current owners. While it has had these mentioned alterations, it retains many more historic features as can be seen in the submitted photos. It would be easily recognizable to anyone who visited the property since 1915.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<b>X</b>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of

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		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.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:**

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Architecture

**Period of Significance:** c. 1860, 1894, 1915

**Significant Dates:** c. 1860, 1894, 1915

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification):** The periods of significance are c. 1860, 1894, and 1915 to represent the construction dates of each individual piece of the house as well as the date they were connected to be the structure seen today.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Constructed c. 1860, 1894, and united in 1915, the Robin House is significant on the local level under Criterion C: Architecture as a prime example of the Louisiana Coastal Vernacular style. The Robin House has direct associations with the historic contexts from the Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Development (1812-1880) and the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gilded Age of Grand Isle (1880-1893) as defined in the "Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle, 1780-1968" Multiple Property Submission. It meets the registration requirements of the Building Property Type found in Section F of the MPS. The Robin House is eligible under Criterion C as it retains many original design features, materials, and examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century craftsmanship. The period of significance is 1860-1915, encompassing the years that it was constructed and came to be in its current configuration in 1915.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

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The Robin falls under the building property type as defined in the Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle, 1780-1968 multiple property submission. Built in three sections in 1860 and 1894 and joined together in 1915, this house falls under the discussion of a Creole type house with interconnected rooms and no true hallways. The building also has heavy braced timbers, a large attic space, and a generous gallery. The interior also has original wrap around fireplaces, several original board and batten doors, and original hardware dating to the 1860 and 1894 construction dates. On Grand Isle, there are also bungalow style buildings that often also had prominent gable roofs, overhanging eaves, large gabled porches, large windows, beamed ceilings on the porches, and casual, hall-less floor plans. The Robin House has all of these features, even including some of the features of the later bungalow style buildings, including the beamed ceilings, which are currently covered with a later covering.

The registration requirements for the MPS state,

“Buildings of French Creole and Bungalow styles must retain major elements of these styles as described above for eligibility under Criterion C. Status of elevation to meet Base Flood Elevation requirements should not completely disqualify buildings on Grand Isle if they meet a majority of other elements of the specified style, mainly because of the geographic location of these buildings on an island continually battered by flooding and hurricanes and because of the longstanding history of elevating buildings on Grand Isle. Applicants should show documentation of historical background relative to the community for those structures not meeting Criterion C for architecture to achieve Criterion A or B listing under community significance. Buildings should at least retain integrity of design, feeling, association, location, and setting. Materials may have changed some due to repairing storm damage, but overall, the building should retain its overall form, style, and layout.”

The Robin House meets the requirements under Criterion C as it retains the major elements that have been mentioned in the building property type description. Furthermore, it retains integrity of design, feeling, association, location, and setting. The Robin House also retains integrity of materials, miraculously even after weathering all of the storms it has seen over the last 130 years. Its overall form, style, and layout it most certainly intact and thus, the building is eligible for listing on the National Register as a prime example of the Louisiana Coastal Vernacular of Grand Isle.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

See above.

### **9. Major Bibliographical Resources**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Louisiana Coastal Vernacular MPS for sources (the same were used here).

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#### **Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register

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previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
 Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**     N/A    

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** Less than an acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 29.234364                      Longitude: -89.997555

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A PORTION OF GROUND 80FT FRONT ON COULON RIGAUD LAND BY A DEPTH OF 92 FT  
 GRAND ISLE 10302442 10302443  
 Per Jefferson Parish Assessor PARCEL # 0610002968

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The chosen boundaries reflect the historic boundaries of the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Karen McKinney, Architect, AIA  
 organization: N/A  
 street & number: PO Box 101/402 Hinckley St  
 city or town: Washington                      state: LA                      zip code: 70589  
 e-mail: karen.js.mckinney@gmail.com  
 telephone: 337-781-9820  
 date: 6/15/2018

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.



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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

ROBBIN HOUSE  
Grand  
Isle  
Jefferson Parish  
LA

Date taken: 7/2015 through 5/2018  
Photographer: Karen McKinney

### Photo

ID	Location	Description
1	Exterior	Front (south) porch from Coulon Rigaud; camera facing northeast.
2	Exterior	Front (south) Part B; camera facing north
3	Exterior	Front (south) Part T; camera facing north
4	Exterior	Front (south) porch from southeast property corner; camera facing northwest
5	Exterior	Front (south) view east to west across deck and porch; camera facing west. Front detail at roof and porch connection point between Part T and Part B; camera facing north
6	Exterior	Front detail at roof and porch connection point between Part T and Part B; camera facing north
7	Exterior	Rear (northwest) corner from Coulon Rigaud; camera facing southeast
8	Exterior	Rear (north) view from west to east; camera facing southeast
9	Exterior	Rear north view across east to west; camera facing southwest
10	Exterior	Northeast corner at kitchen addition; camera facing southwest
11	Exterior	Deck at southeast corner; camera facing northwest
12	Exterior	Brick pier at Part T and kitchen addition; camera facing southwest
13	Exterior	Wood pier at Part B; camera facing southwest Detail at porch roof (view west to east) at connection point between Part T and Part B; camera facing north
14	Exterior	Detail at porch roof (view west to east) at connection point between Part T and Part B; camera facing north
15	Exterior	Roof left Part B and right Part T connection point; camera facing north
16	Exterior	Front (south) porch view west to east; camera facing east
17	Exterior	Fluted four-panel doors on Part B porch; camera facing east
18	Exterior	Front (south) porch view east to west; camera facing west
19	Exterior	Tongue-and-groove doors on Part T porch; camera facing west
20	Interior	Slide bolt on inside of Part T door; camera facing west

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21	Interior	Living room mantle in Part T; camera facing east
22	Interior	Dining Room in Part T; camera facing west
23	Interior	Kitchen; camera facing north
24	Interior	Bedroom and laundry; camera facing north
25	Interior	Laundry and bathroom; camera facing north

**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.460 et seq.).

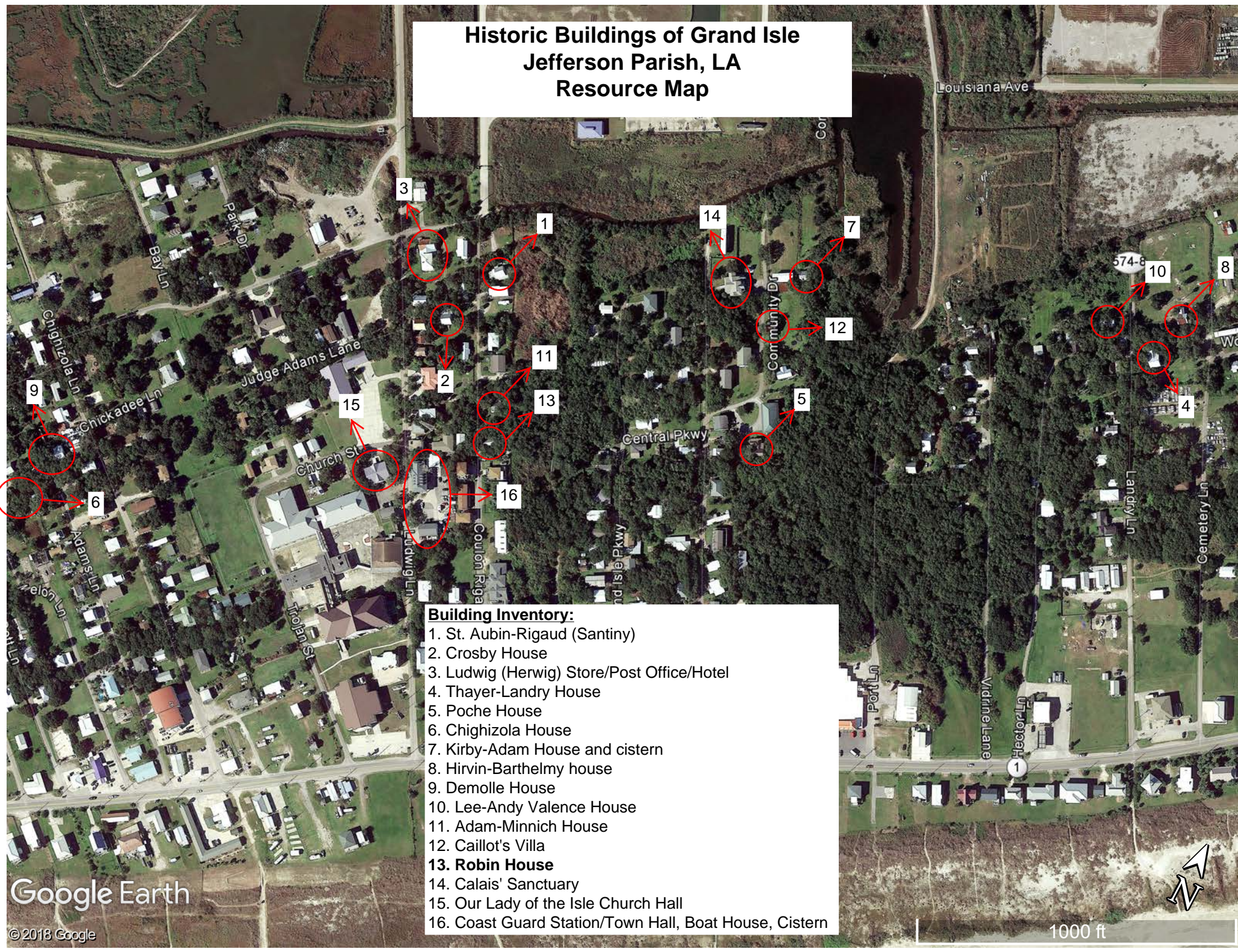
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Robbin House, Jefferson Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.234364 Longitude: -89.997555

# Historic Buildings of Grand Isle Jefferson Parish, LA Resource Map



- Building Inventory:**
- 1. St. Aubin-Rigaud (Santiny)
  - 2. Crosby House
  - 3. Ludwig (Herwig) Store/Post Office/Hotel
  - 4. Thayer-Landry House
  - 5. Poche House
  - 6. Chighizola House
  - 7. Kirby-Adam House and cistern
  - 8. Hirvin-Barthelmy house
  - 9. Demolle House
  - 10. Lee-Andy Valence House
  - 11. Adam-Minnich House
  - 12. Caillot's Villa
  - 13. **Robin House**
  - 14. Calais' Sanctuary
  - 15. Our Lady of the Isle Church Hall
  - 16. Coast Guard Station/Town Hall, Boat House, Cistern

Google Earth

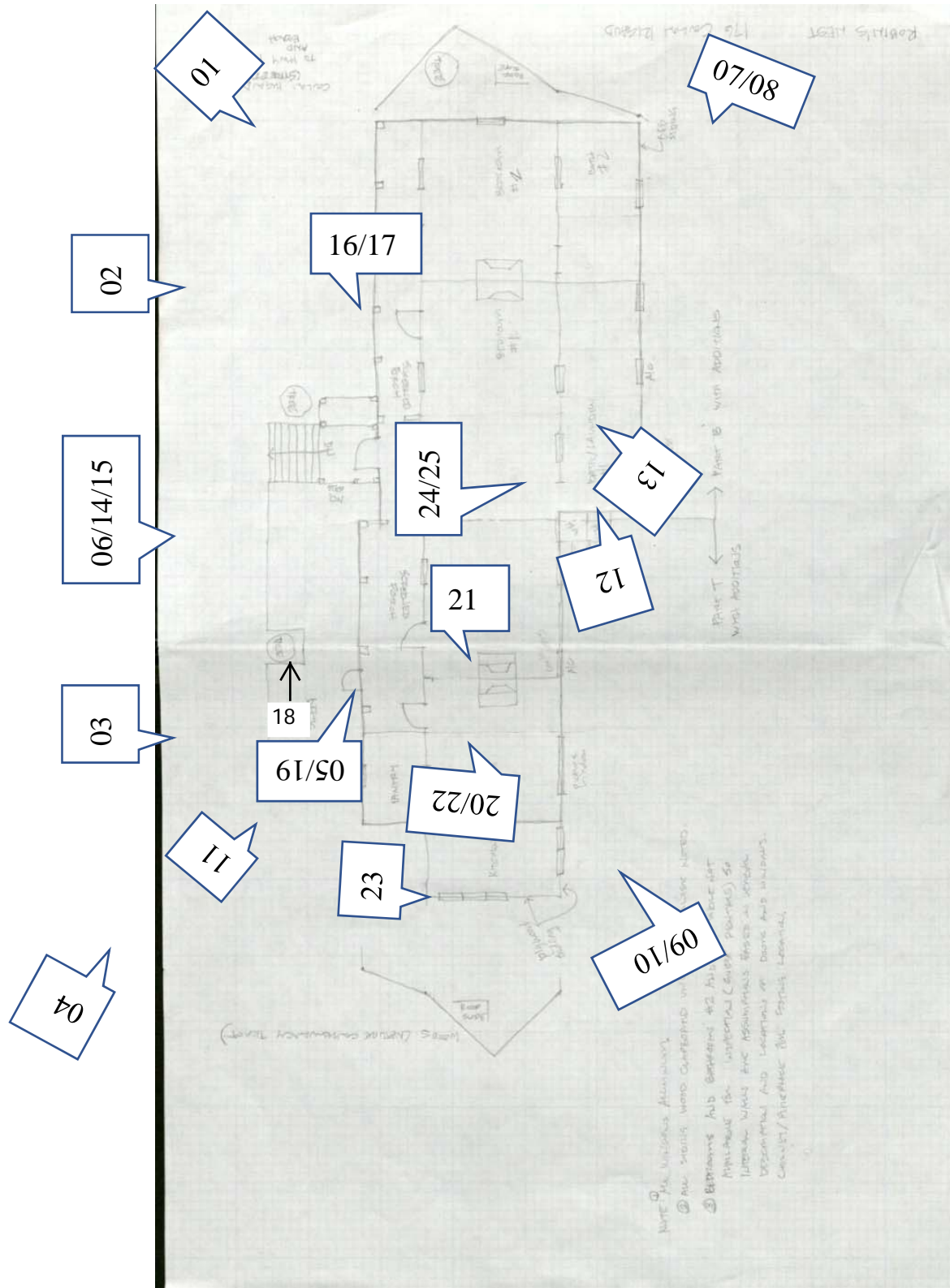
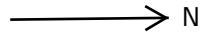
© 2018 Google

1000 ft



**Robin House**  
**Jefferson Parish, LA**  
**Photo Key**

\*\*\*Not to Scale\*\*\*





Welcome  
Birders



Robin's Nest  
The Downings





















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Robin House

Multiple Name: Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle 1780-1968 MPS

State & County: LOUISIANA, Jefferson

Date Received: 10/24/2018      Date of Pending List: 11/16/2018      Date of 16th Day: 12/3/2018      Date of 45th Day: 12/10/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100003194

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      12/4/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Meets registration requirements of MPS. Interesting amalgamation of two houses, brought together in aftermath of 1915 hurricane to create a conjoined house.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

August 2, 2018  
94 Lee Street  
Franklin, LA 70538

Kristin Sanders  
Office of Cultural Development  
P.O. Box 70804-4247  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247

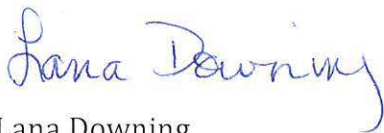
Dear Ms. Sanders:

We are very gratified and excited that the place we own on Grand Isle is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. I have a medical appointment that I cannot miss on the morning of the meeting, with a driver (my husband) required after the procedure; otherwise, my husband and I would certainly be present.

We want to let the Review Committee know of our interest in having our property considered and our intention to maintain it to the best of our ability for the duration of the time that we are owners.

Thanks for your consideration of the Robbin House.

Sincerely,



Lana Downing





BILLY NUNGESSER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: October 23, 2018

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Robin House, Jefferson Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register Documentation for the Robin House to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595, or [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- Other:

Comments:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- \_\_\_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: