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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 21 1992

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete 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 an 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 Salmen, Albert, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 213 Cleveland Avenue NA not for publication

city or town Slidell NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Tammany code 103 zip code 70458

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy 12-15-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of 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 the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register Date of Action

Melana Byer 1/21/93

Name of Property

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.)

Table with columns for Contributing and Noncontributing resources, listing counts for buildings, sites, structures, and objects.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Albert Salmen House is a one-and-one-half story frame residence located on a large and well landscaped corner lot in Slidell. Originally a restrained example of the Queen Anne Revival style, the c. 1890 house was remodeled with bungalow detailing by Salmen in the 1920s. Although the structure has experienced some changes since that decade, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

The home's Queen Anne character is based upon its asymmetrical massing, which features a complex multi-gable roofline with large dormers, one projecting room with a polygonal bay, an additional projecting room, an additional polygonal bay, and a wraparound gallery with a forty-five degree corner cut. The house's most important bungalow feature is the series of tapered porch piers rising from brick bases which replaced the original Eastlake gallery ornamentation. Other bungalow details include exposed rafters beneath the eaves of the home's side gables and a corbelled brick mantel with overmantel which replaced an older mantelpiece in what is now the master bedroom. In addition to adding new stylistic details, Salmen also expanded and enclosed the rear portion of the gallery and added a rear porte cochere to the house at some time between 1911 and 1930.

The asymmetrical floorplan is organized around two first floor hallways. The first is a wide central stair hall which bisects the main block of the home. The second is a more narrow side hall which leads from the central hall to a dining room projecting from the main block's east side. These hallways divide the first floor of the main block into three separate zones: two rooms west of the central hall, two rooms north of the side hall, and two smaller rooms south of the side hall. The second floor consists of a hallway and three bedrooms.

The home's most interesting interior feature is its vernacular painted cornices and ceilings. These are found in the parlor and the dining room. Painted by Gottlieb Sollberger (brother-in-law of Albert Salmen) in March 1907, the dining room's scenes feature wildlife, flowers, and one panel honoring the immigrant family's heritage by depicting a Swiss castle. The parlor's paintings also use a floral motif, this time mixed with images of cherubs and clouds. The parlor's ceiling and walls are also decorated by applied Rococo style molded paper mache patterns. These offset the paintings and form decorative wall panels and simulated ceiling vines.

Most of the home's other interior decorative details date to the late nineteenth century and are typical of the period. They include wooden floors with wide baseboards, chair and picture rails, one ornate and two simple mantels, an elaborate staircase with complex turned balusters and a massive newel post, and an Eastlake grille marking the entrance to the small side hall. The main entrance features double doors with large glass panes above wooden panels. These

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

doors are surmounted by a transom and flanked by large sidelights which also feature glass above wooden panels.

Other than the changes instigated by Salmen, the home experienced no alterations until it was inherited by a distant family member in the 1950s. Since that time the following alterations have been made:

- 1) the replacement of the front gallery's ceiling, the enclosure of portions of the side galleries and their conversion into bathrooms and storage space, and the screening of the remaining gallery space;
- 2) the cleaning and retouching of the interior painted ceilings;
- 3) the removal of original sinks in three bedrooms, the lowering of two bedroom ceilings, the addition of closets in all bedrooms, and the partial covering of the bungalow style overmantel in the master bedroom;
- 4) the expansion of the kitchen and the partitioning off of the former billiard hall, which was essentially a capacious extension of the stairway landing; and
- 5) the removal of a large walk-in shower stall which resulted in an "L" shaped first floor bathroom and the allocation of the resulting space to the adjacent room.

Despite the apparent length of this alteration list, the post-1950 changes to the Albert Salmen House are largely insignificant. The side gallery enclosures have not changed the massing of the home and the porch screening could easily be removed. Otherwise, the facade appears exactly as it did during the later years of Salmen's life. The interior changes are also minor, with the partial covering of the bungalow style overmantel and closing of the former billiard room on the stairwell landing being the only real matters of concern. Both of these alterations are also easily reversible. It is clear that Salmen would easily recognize the home in which he lived for forty years if he were to return to Slidell today. Because of its close association with a major figure in the early economic history of Slidell (see Part 8), the Albert Salmen House is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Element

Also standing on the site is a brick dependency which once housed a laundry room, boiler room, and garage. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate this

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

structure to have been in place by 1911. Part of the building was damaged by Hurricane Betsy in 1965 and had to be removed, but fully two-thirds of the structure remains intact. The arched rear garage door opening has been squared off and a lean-to carport added to one end. However, the dependency is still clearly recognizable. Because it was present during the period of significance and was built by Albert Salmen, it is being counted as a contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

Non-contributing Element

A modern plexiglass and wooden greenhouse is also located on the property. It is being counted as a non-contributing element.

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.)

- 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.
- 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

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

Industry

Period of Significance

c. 1890 - 1931

Significant Dates

c. 1890 - 1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Salmen, Albert

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Salmen, Albert, House
Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property @ 1.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 115 231980 3351700
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Please refer to enclosed property plat map.

Boundary Justification Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) which the house is located.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Gus A. Fritchie, Jr.

street & number 213 Cleveland Avenue telephone (504) 643-1700

city or town Slidell state LA zip code 70458

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Albert Salmen House is locally significant in the area of industry because of its close association with Albert Salmen, a principal partner in the brickyard which was Slidell's first major industrial facility. The Salmen Brothers Brick and Lumber Company was the economic mainstay of Slidell from its founding in the 1880s through at least the second decade of the twentieth century. The home was Albert Salmen's residence from its construction c. 1890 until his death in 1931.

Slidell was one of the last towns to be founded in St. Tammany Parish. Its birth coincided with the arrival of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad, which surveyed the townsite in 1883. At this time the parish was already well known for its fine clay deposits, which had furnished the raw material for brick making since well before the Civil War. Slidell became a center of brick making with the arrival of Swiss immigrant Fritz Salmen, Albert's brother, in 1886. Fritz first established a small brickworks in which his employees made the bricks by hand. When the company showed promise of success the following year, he sent for his younger brother Jacob to join him in business. Three years later Albert also joined the firm. True entrepreneurs, the brothers soon branched out, establishing a large lumber mill beside the ever expanding brickworks. Fritz and Albert also built homes side-by-side on a street directly across from their industrial complex. In addition, they assumed responsibility for their employees' welfare by building a six-to-eight block neighborhood of small workers houses which became known as Salmen Town.

Although Jacob died in 1908, the entrepreneurship of the surviving brothers continued. They expanded their timber operations to Nicaragua and, in 1914, opened a small shipyard known as the Slidell Shipbuilding Corporation. It was located on nearby Bayou Bonfouca and maintained the ships servicing their foreign operation. However, it was the brick factory and lumber mill which provided the economic basis for Slidell's survival during the community's early years. The 1906 and 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Slidell confirm this role. The earliest maps available, both show that the Salmen enterprise was by far the largest industrial complex in the community. Its size was indicated by the fact that it took three pages of maps to illustrate the compound, which included the lumber mill as well as the brick component of the business. Structures existing within the complex in 1911, for example, included a brick mill, dry clay shed, pressed brick storage building, numerous kilns, several lumber platforms, a wood mill, sawmill, lath mill, shingle mill, planing mill, log warehouses, steam drying houses, dressed lumber shed, dry lumber shed, and machine shops.

Sometime during the 1920s the brothers began to cut back their operations. Although business at the shipyard had boomed during World War I, the end of that conflict also spelled the end of this business when government contracts terminated. By 1926 a new company owned the original brick plant, but the Salmen

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Brothers still operated a smaller brick and lumber plant along the bayou. However, the 1930 Sanborn Map indicates that the company had closed. Of course, by this time Albert and Fritz were both over seventy years of age, a time when most men retire from active business. Albert Salmen died in 1931, followed by Fritz in 1934.

Other Properties Associated with the Salmen Family

In addition to the Albert Salmen Home, several other properties in Slidell are associated with the Salmen family. Among these are the brickyard's kiln building; the home of Fritz Salmen (National Register); a commissary, church, and school; and the Salmen Town neighborhood. Although the brick kiln itself would be the most representative building illustrating the brothers' economic role in the community, it has been so drastically altered that it would not be recognizable to someone from the historic period. The commissary's integrity has also been severely compromised. Although the Salmen Town neighborhood remains partially intact, it is no longer cohesive enough to form a historic district in its own right. The church was founded by Fritz Salmen's wife, Rose, rather than by the brothers themselves. The school, also founded by the family and located within Salmen Town, is not as closely associated with the two brothers as are their homes. In addition, it has suffered a loss of integrity due to its conversion into a private residence. No buildings specifically associated with Jacob Salmen survive. Only the homes of Albert and Fritz Salmen retain the integrity and close associations necessary to justify National Register listing.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Albert Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

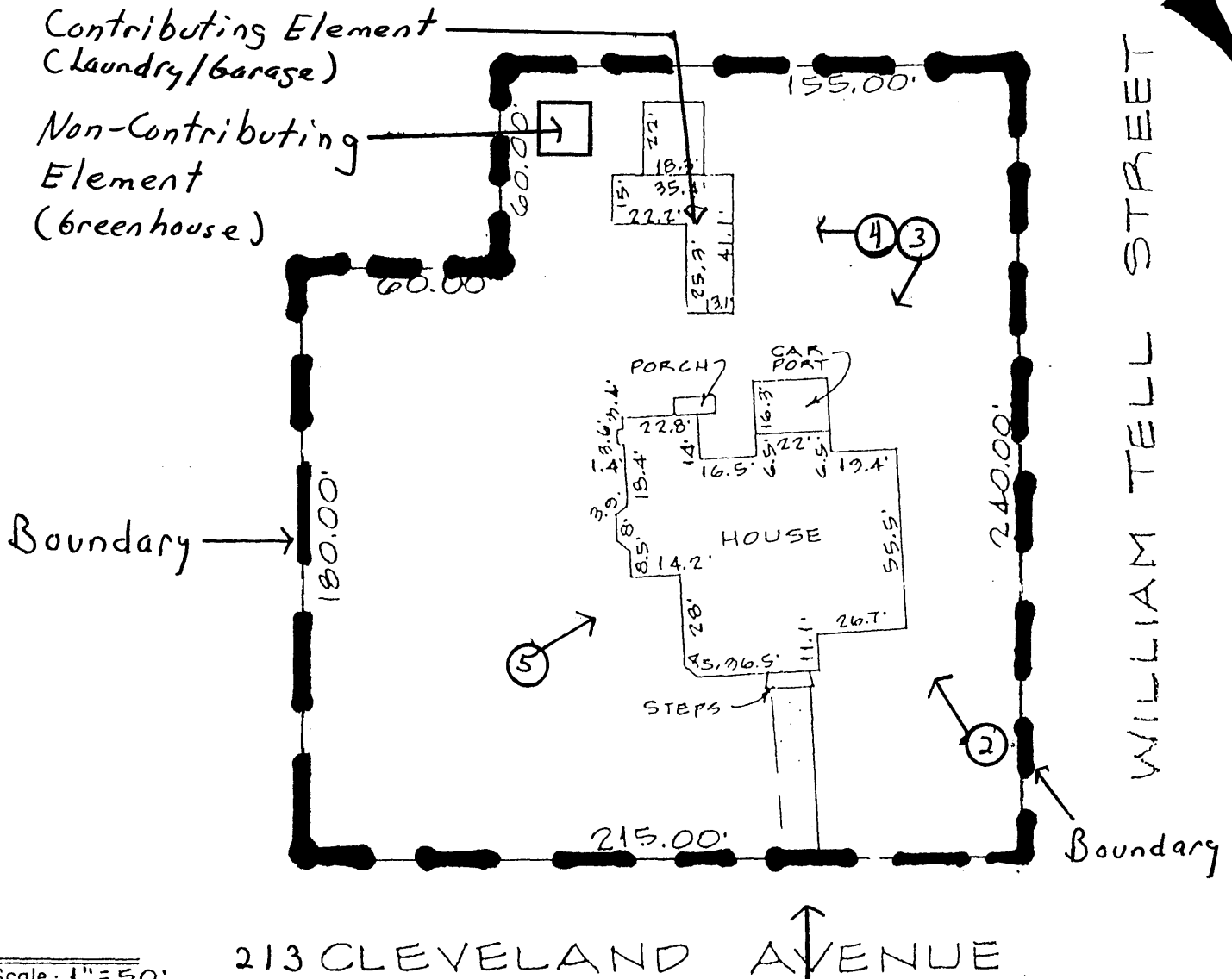
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ellis, Frederick S. St. Tammany Parish: L'Autre Cote Du Lac. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1981.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Slidell, LA, 1906, 1911, 1930.

Slidell Centennial Issue of New Orleans Times-Picayune, October 16, 1986.

Albert Salmen House



Scale: 1" = 50'

213 CLEVELAND AVENUE

Survey Map ①

PART OF SQ. 4 in SALMEN ADDITION

in
CITY OF SLIDELL
St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

for

GUS A. FRITCHIE, JR.

Survey Number: 22499
Date: OCT. 29, 1979
Revision:

This Survey is Certified
True and Correct by

Ivan M. Borgen
No. 686

