

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1979

JUL 26 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grant-Black House

AND/OR COMMON

Grant-St. Amant House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3932 St. Charles Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd - Lindy Boggs

STATE

Louisiana

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

022

COUNTY

Orleans

CODE

071

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Percy P. "Jay" St. Amant and Rita B. St. Amant

STREET & NUMBER

3932 St. Charles Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Louisiana Civil Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

421 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grant-Black house is a two-and-one-half story frame structure, designed in the then popular "Queen Anne" style of architecture. The house is essentially rectangular, 37 feet in width by 80 feet in length. The house faces north onto St. Charles Avenue. The plan of the house amounts to a "Queen Annotated" version of the conventional town house side hall plan. One enters the house through a small vestibule, which leads on the right to the living room and straight ahead into the stair hall. Behind the living room is the dining room, which terminates in a semi-octagonal bay. There is also a rear service area with servants' stairs.

When the current restoration is complete, the three-flight staircase and the fireplace will be restored to the stairhall. This will re-establish the original Queen Anne living hall as an integral part of the house.

The living room is approximately 20 feet wide and 40 feet long. The original millwork survives intact, including a pair of sliding doors that open into the dining room and two pairs of hinged doors that open in from the entrance vestibule and the stair hall. All the doors to this room are quite massive, not at all the sort of millwork found on the majority of houses of the period. The highlight of the living room is a superb mantelpiece of cherry wood. The tile hearth is green and features a floral motif. The mantel shelf is supported by two tapered Solomonic columns, the capitals of which are carved to represent foliage, as are the decorative panels beneath the shelf.

The dining room, which occupies the side bay on the ground floor, features simple wainscoting. The formal rooms downstairs as well as all the upstairs rooms have internal shutters, with correspondingly deep frames into which they fold when not needed. Such a shutter treatment, while popular on "Queen Anne" houses in the Northeast, is quite rare in New Orleans examples of the style, where the traditional external shutters continued to be used even on houses designed by such "Queen Anne" practitioners as Thomas Sully, the most prolific architect of the period. The second floor includes five bedrooms, each with its original slate mantelpiece.

The exterior is largely rectangular, with a relatively simple hip roof. However, the form is enlivened by several features. The large front porch has turned columns, balusters, and a gable marking the entrance. The side porch has three wooden arches which face the side yard. The roof features an irregular combination of gables, shed dormers, and an eyebrow dormer.

The second story is accented by a beltcourse of shingles that runs under the eaves. This beltcourse flares out from the house on its lower edge, where a single course of wooden moldings is featured. The semi-octagonal bay is the most sophisticated feature of the exterior. A series of beam ends supports the projection of the bay that occurs on the second floor level. The first and second floors on the side elevation are divided by a matchboard beltcourse which becomes a shingle beltcourse upon reaching the bay. The tripartite windows on the Constantinople Street side are unique in New Orleans residential architecture.

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To the rear of the house is a small, frame, gallery fronted dependency with two rooms and a central chimney. Although the exact date of the dependency, probably a servant's house, is not known, it appears along with the house on an 1896 Sanborn Insurance map.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Attributed to Thomas Sully

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grant-Black house is an example of a high style, eastern, Queen Anne Revival residence. This is a type and style of which there are few fully developed examples in Louisiana. Noteworthy features in this regard include the flaring beltcourse, the three-part windows (probably unique in New Orleans); the living hall (rare in Louisiana), and the highly ornamented mantels and stain glass windows.

According to real estate assessment records and city directories, the house was built by William Grant in 1887. He had purchased the land in 1882. Grant was born in New York, and during the Civil War he served on the staff of General Nathaniel P. Banks as a judge advocate. After the war, Grant moved to New Orleans and in 1876 established a law firm in partnership with John Rouse. He became one of the more respected attorneys in the city in the later years of the nineteenth century, serving as U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana during 1889-1892 and making numerous appearances before the U. S. Supreme Court. After Grant's death in 1919, the house passed to his daughter Virginia Grant Black, who held the house till 1938.

The house is generally attributed to Thomas Sully, a prolific architect in New Orleans during the 1880's and 1890's. This attribution is based on the fact that Sully has been cited by previous owners as the home's architect as well as the fact that certain stylistic elements relate it to other documented houses designed by Sully. The dormer window design, for example, is identical to that found in several other Sully houses. It is also very likely that Grant knew Sully, who lived only a block away from the house and whose office was only a block from Grant's law office. In addition, Sully was the architect for many of the mansions near the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dart, Henry P., "William Grant, 1838-1919," Louisiana Historical Quarterly 7 (1924): 658-666.

New Orleans City Directories of the 1880's.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	7 8 10	2 3 10	3 3 7 4	0 0 10	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					
E						F					
G						H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries were chosen to take in the house and its immediate setting.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Percy "Jay" and Rita St. Amant, owners of the house
and John Ferguson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic District Landmarks Commission</u>	<u>March 1979</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>830 Valence Street (Ferguson residence)</u>	<u>895-7003</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>New Orleans, Louisiana</u>	

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 National Park Service.

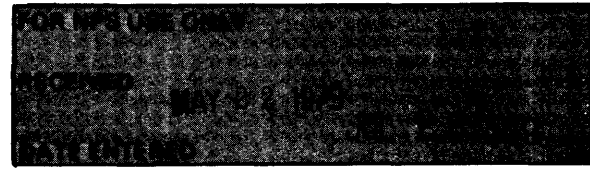
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE E. Benard Carrin

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 5-14-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>7-26-79</u>
<u>[Signature]</u> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>7/24/79</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET

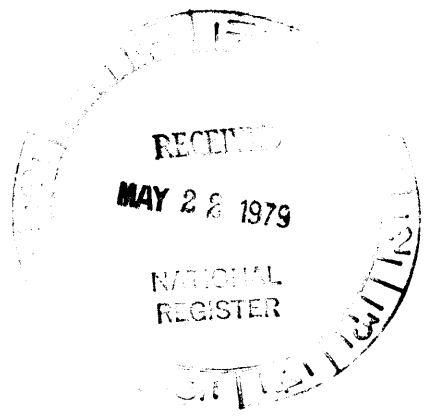
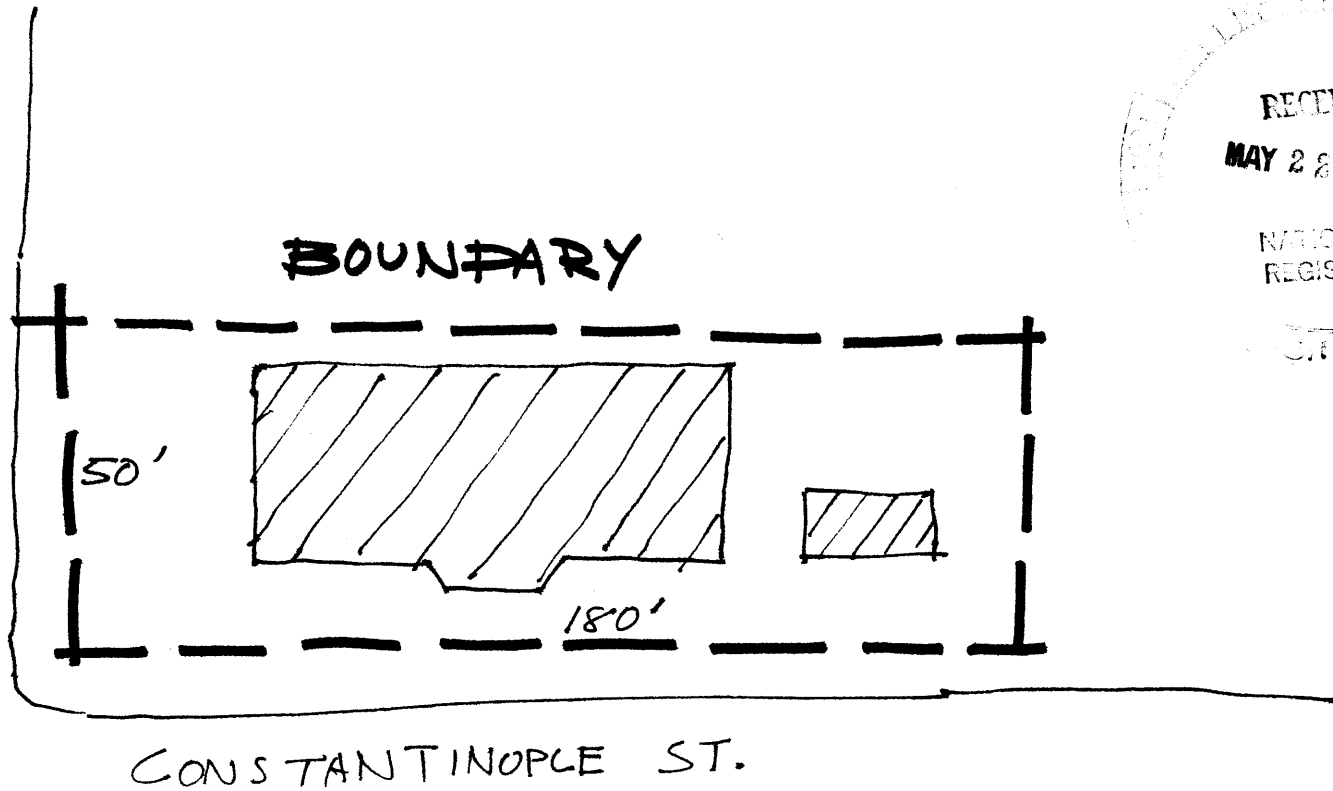
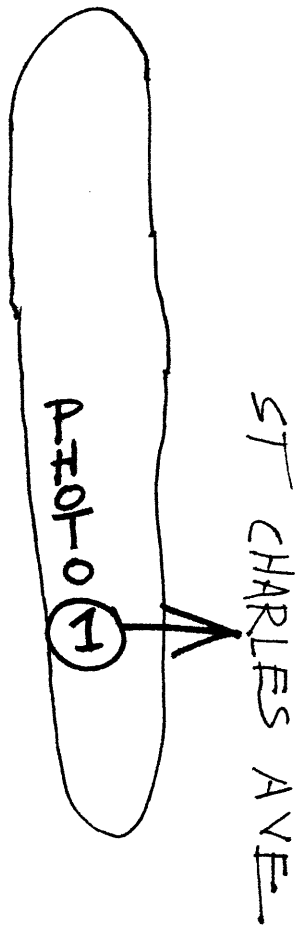
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New Orleans Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Study, "Architectural and
Historical Rating: St. Charles Avenue, 1873" Tulane University Library.

Notarial Archives, Orleans Parish.

Real Estate Assessment Records, New Orleans Public Library.

Sanborn Insurance Map (1896), Special Collections Division, Tulane University
Library.



② PHOTO ↗

↑ N

GRANT-BLACK HOUSE