

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1982

1. Name

historic Joshua B. Cary House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 3rd, US LA
corner of Hwy. 90 and Hwy. 317 N/A not for publication

city, town Centerville N/A vicinity of congressional district

state LA code 22 parish St. Mary code 101

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Earl and Dolores Robicheaux

street & number P. O. Box 18

city, town Centerville N/A vicinity of state LA 70522

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 1231

city, town Franklin state LA 70538

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joshua B. Cary House (1839) is a two-story frame Greek Revival residence located on the main thoroughfare of the small town of Centerville. Except for the loss of some interior plaster, the crumbling of some of the exterior shutters, and the replacement of the mantels and the possible replacement of the newel post in the late-nineteenth century, the house retains its original appearance.

Constructed of cypress, the two-story clapboard house has a central hall plan two rooms deep with interior chimneys set against the side walls. The five-bay facade is articulated with a plank frieze, a box cornice, and a two-story colossal square pillared pedimented portico of three bays. The portico second story has a slightly recessed balcony with balustrades formed of tiny diagonal members. Most of the fenestration features shoulder molded surrounds with simple shallow moldings and pointed tops. At either end of the central stair hall is a transomed side lighted doorway. There is also one at the facade end of the upper hall which gives access to the aforementioned balcony. The entrance doorway downstairs is set within a full aedicule motif with small inset pilasters framing the front door itself.

The interior features four-panel doors, paneled wainscoting below the chair rails, box cornices, ceiling medallions, and three marble mantels which are late-nineteenth century replacements. Floorboards and six over six windows are original, as is the staircase, although the heavy turned newel post is possibly a late-nineteenth century replacement.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Cary House has undergone no major alterations. As noted above, the mantels and possibly the newel post are late-nineteenth century replacements. Also, as mentioned above, the house has lost some interior plaster and some of the exterior shutters are crumbling in places. These losses, however, are minor and have no effect upon the house's architectural worth. The mantels and newel post are minor considerations because the house is mainly significant for its grand temple fronted facade.

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 1839 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Joshua B. Cary

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Joshua B. Cary House is locally significant in the area of architecture as an important part of the distinctly Anglo-American architectural heritage of St. Mary Parish. The state's standing structures survey reveals that it is one of about a dozen or so grand temple fronted Greek Revival residences in the parish.

In contrast to the rest of South Louisiana, which is known for its French Creole architectural heritage, St. Mary Parish is a recognized center of Anglo-American Greek Revival architecture. About a dozen or so of its larger Greek Revival houses have central two-story pedimented porticoes with colossal order columns. This is in contrast to most of the rest of French South Louisiana, where even the largest Greek Revival houses usually lack pediments and porticoes. The Cary House is one of the grand Greek Revival houses of St. Mary Parish which represent this special architectural heritage. Its impressive temple front places it among the dozen or so examples which stand as the landmarks of the parish and which give it its distinctively Anglo-American architectural stamp.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Title Search, St. Mary Parish Courthouse
Louisiana Comprehensive Standing Structures Survey, St. Mary Parish

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .17 acres

Quadrangle name Centerville, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5	6	5	2	0	0	0	3	2	9	2	9	3	0
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

See attached 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 Earl and Dolores Robicheaux

organization N/A

date December 1980

street & number P. O. Box 18

telephone (318) 836-5598

city or town Centerville

state LA 70522

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

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

William H. Brannan

date 8-11-82

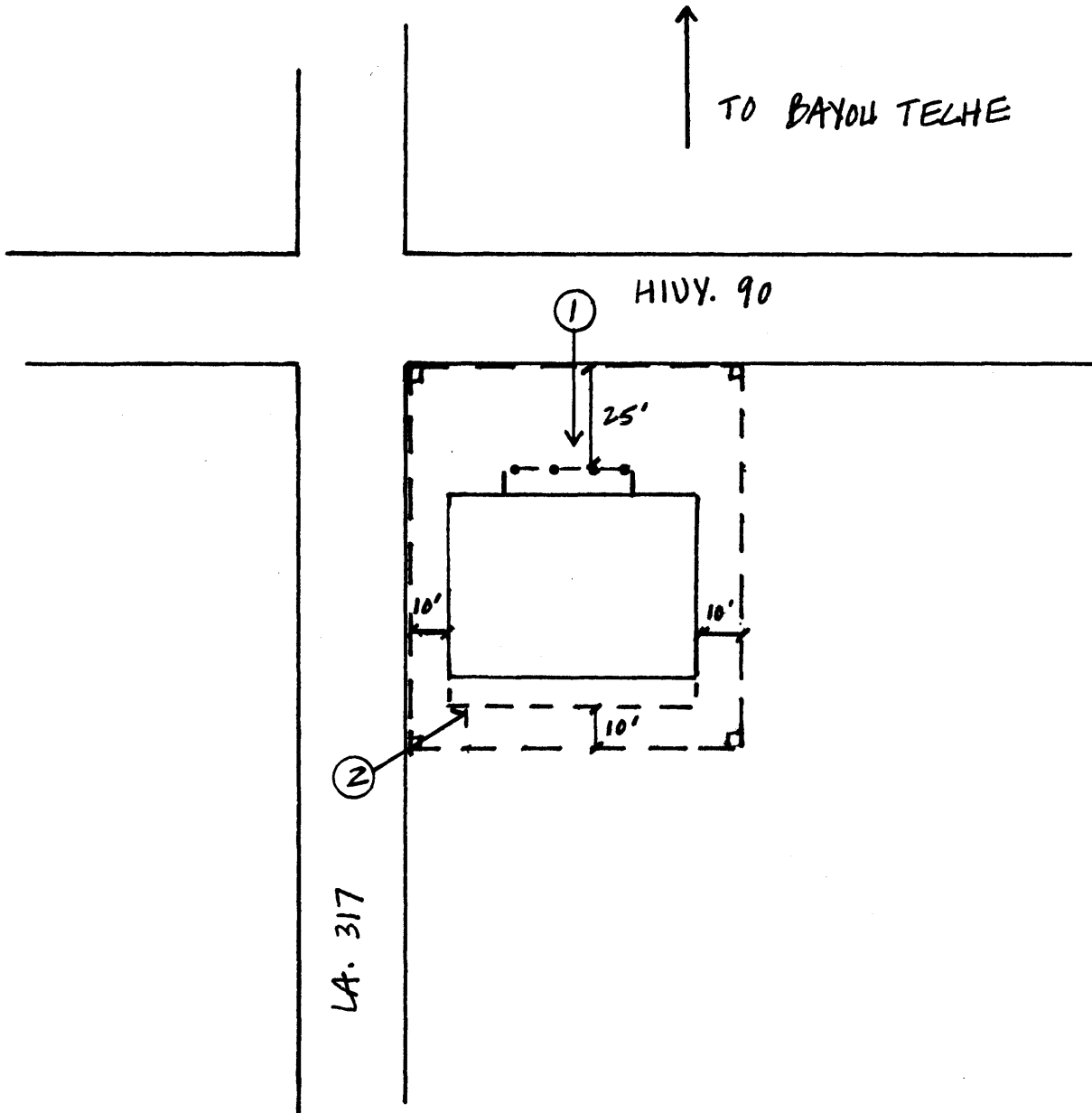
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

JOSHUA B. CARY HOUSE
CENTERVILLE, LOUISIANA



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG.
FACADES + CURBLINES AT DISTANCES
SHOWN.

SCALE 1" = 40' APPROX.