

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Cedar Bend Plantation
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy. 119 N/A not for publication
city, town Natchez X vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Natchitoches code 069 zip code 71457

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	3	_____ 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	3	_____ objects
			0 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.

Leslie P. Tassin Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer June 10, 1988
Signature of certifying official Officer Date
Div of Historic Preservation, Dept of 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:)

William Byrum Entered in the National Register 7-14-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

French Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cedar Bend Plantation nomination includes a c.1850 French Creole main house and two contemporaneous support structures. The buildings are located in a rural setting on the Cane River about two-and-a-half miles east of the village of Natchez. Despite a few alterations to the main house and some deterioration of the outbuildings, the complex retains its National Register eligibility.

The Main House c.1850

This is a large bousillage structure, three rooms wide and two rooms deep under a massive pitched roof. There is an extra long center room in the rear, with a mounted punkah, which serves as a dining room. The five bay undercut gallery features a balustrade with a central gate and solid Greek Revival columns with molded capitals and necking. The front elevation features a somewhat irregular grouping of transomed French doors and a single sash window. Shutters have movable louvers and bolection molded panels. Shutters on the side windows do not have panels. All ceilings feature exposed beaded beams, including the gallery. There are six fireplaces, five of which feature French wraparound mantels. These have a rather unusual simple design with a molded shelf. The principal central rooms front and rear connect by means of a large pair of interior French doors under a wide transom. There is also a narrow corner staircase giving access to the unfinished attic.

Alterations

In about 1900 the front elevation was resheathed in narrow gauge beaded board. More recently, the rear gallery has been enclosed. There is also a 1926 rear kitchen which has been connected to the house by means of an enclosed passageway. Because all major alterations are visible only from the rear, there is no doubt that the house still conveys its French Creole form and style.

The Garconnier (c.1850)

This residential dependency is constructed of bousillage with a single room and a single end wall chimney. The two entrance doors have board and batten shutters. Other features of the house include a Greek Revival mantel, wide clapboarding, and an undercut gallery.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Cedar Bend Plantation, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Kitchen and Wash House (c.1850)

This two room building features a large central chimney and a shed porch. It is constructed of heavy timbers and sheathed in flush boards. The two entrances feature board and batten doors. The large cooking fireplace is still extant, although some of the bricks are crumbling.

Because the garconnier and the kitchen-wash house are contemporaneous with the main house's period of significance, they are listed as contributing elements.

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.

Cedar Bend Plantation is of local significance in the area of architecture as an important contributing resource to Natchitoches Parish's cultural identity as a center of French Creole architecture.

Natchitoches Parish is well known as a center of Creole architecture in Louisiana. It was a very early area of French settlement in the state, and hence had time to develop a significant Creole building stock. In addition, it has retained a fair number of examples, partly because it was bypassed by development in the mid-nineteenth century. Creole architecture is noted as a very important historical context in the Louisiana Comprehensive Plan because it is the primary factor which makes Louisiana's patrimony fundamentally different from other southern states.

The collection in Natchitoches Parish is distinguished by several factors: (1) Examples tend to be large and plain with little in the way of intricate ornamentation. (2) There are a fairly large number of examples in a comparatively small area. Indeed, Natchitoches Parish is arguably the most concentrated center of rural Creole architecture in the state. (3) Virtually all examples are of bousillage (mud and moss) construction. There are almost no brick-between-posts houses. In addition, while other parts of the state contain bousillage plantation houses, Natchitoches Parish is about the only place where one finds bousillage support structures. (4) Large Creole houses in Natchitoches Parish tend to have wide sets of French doors connecting the front and rear rooms in the central part of the house.

Cedar Bend is important because it helps establish the significance of Natchitoches Parish as a center of the Creole style. The main house is a typical example, being a large bousillage structure with wraparound mantels, French doors inside and out, a hall-less plan and fairly plain details. It is comparable with nine other surviving Creole plantation houses in the parish. Of course, at one time there were many more, although it is difficult to say how many with certainty. The 1860 census indicates that on the eve of the Civil War there were 42 major slave holdings (50 or more slaves) in the rich cotton producing parish of Natchitoches. Given the agricultural history of the area, it is clear that there were once many more plantation houses in the parish than survive today, the vast majority of which would undoubtedly have been in the Creole style. Cedar Bend is a good example from what has to be a greatly dwindled complement of Creole plantation houses. In addition, Cedar Bend is one of only three plantations in the parish to retain a bousillage support structure (the garconnier). See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance/land records for Cedar Bend in possession of owner.

Historic Structures Survey, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

See continuation sheet

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
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property @ 4 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	4	9	8	9	5	0	3	5	0	5	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed to-scale sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were drawn to encompass the house, its two contributing dependencies, and the immediate setting. Property lines were not followed because it would have meant including hundreds of acres of vacant land.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff date April 1988
 organization Division of Historic Preservation telephone 504-342-8160
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

CEDAR BEND, NATCHITOCHE PARISH, LA.

