

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Austerlitz  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 1  not for publication  
city, town Oscar  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70762

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	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture  
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 March 4, 1991  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Date  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Byan 4/22/91  
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)

Other: French Creole  
Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard  
brick

roof asbestos

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Austerlitz (c. 1832 - 1836) is a two-story, fully raised, brick and frame plantation house in the French Creole style. Anglo influence can be seen in the floorplan, symmetrical facade, and Federal details. The house rests on its original rural site facing False River in Pointe Coupee Parish approximately one mile northwest of the hamlet of Oscar. The remnants of a semi-formal garden and allée stand between the house and the nearby highway, partly blocking the view of the structure from the road. Despite a few alterations, the house easily retains its Creole character and hence its Register eligibility.

Austerlitz's Creole characteristics include:

- 1) its configuration as a fully raised plantation house whose primary living floor stands atop a plastered brick basement story,
- 2) a French timber frame of heavy hewn timbers and full-length braces mortised and pegged into the sills and wall plates of the upper floor,
- 3) bousillage infill between the timbers of the frame,
- 4) an original and complete Norman truss supporting a Class III hipped umbrella roof (refer to enclosure). Intact parts of the truss include a heavy roof ridge, collar-mounted king posts, truss blades with raking struts, king purlins between the four king posts, and large pegs holding the members together.
- 5) encircling galleries,
- 6) wraparound mantels,
- 7) exposed beaded ceiling beams in four rooms,
- 8) French doors,
- 9) French colonial style hardware on doors and shutters, and
- 10) the use of a decorative chair rail on the lower gallery and Federal crown molding on the upper gallery. These features illustrate the Creole custom of finishing gallery spaces for use as outdoor rooms.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Austerlitz, Oscar vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

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In addition to the crown molding, other Federal elements found in Austerlitz include a symmetrical facade, oval fanlights above the main doors on both levels, simply built mantels displaying layered mantel shelves in the home's formal front rooms, and interior crown moldings (smaller in scale than those on the exterior). Also of interest is the home's unusual axial and formal plan, which is identical for each floor. This plan consists of a wide central hall flanked by a set of four rooms. Each of these sets includes a front parlor and chambre and two smaller rear rooms which suggest the idea of the Creole cabinet (see attached floorplan).

Most of the alterations to Austerlitz occurred around 1899. At that time a large two-story addition was appended to the rear, an interior staircase was added, the right side of the previously unfinished basement was floored and plastered for use as living space, and the front gallery was rebuilt. Several changes were necessary to complete this gallery work. They included: 1) replacement of all but two of the original massive chamfered octagonal wooden first floor columns with thick squared columns, 2) replacement of the upper gallery colonnettes with slender turned columns, 3) replacement of the original balustrade with one in the Victorian style, 4) removal of the front gallery's stairway, and 5) the insertion of plain joists to replace all but a few of the gallery's original beaded beams. The house required additional work in the 1930s, apparently as the result of storm damage. At that time several dormers were removed and two rear chimneys were cut down below the roof line.

Despite these changes, Austerlitz stands as a rare and significant example of Creole architecture. Its configuration as a raised plantation house, its heavy timber frame and bousillage infill, its French doors and wraparound mantels, its original umbrella roof with Norman truss, its encircling galleries, and its interior exposed beaded ceiling beams remain totally intact. Its Federal detailing also stands unchanged. The 1899 rear addition does not impact the facade, the upper gallery columns are in a style appropriate to the period of the home's construction, and the gallery itself still retains the configuration and overall appearance identified with the Creole architectural tradition. Finally, symmetrical and axial floorplans such as that at Austerlitz are extremely rare in raised Creole houses. For all of these reasons, Austerlitz is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

**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.1832-1836  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
c.1832-1836  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.**

Austerlitz is significant in the area of architecture at the state level because it is a rare and landmark example of the raised Creole plantation house which was the ultimate expression of French architecture in Louisiana. It also exhibits decorative elements and a particularly rare transitional floorplan which show the influence of both the French and the Anglo-American architectural traditions.

Although Creole dwellings once dominated the rural landscape of central and southern Louisiana, today perhaps only 300 - 400 examples of these buildings remain standing outside New Orleans. Of these, the majority are small or moderately sized one story houses, while only approximately thirty (30) are members of the distinct group of substantial raised plantation houses regarded as the apex of the Creole style. Austerlitz is one of these.

In addition, the house contains a collection of important Creole and Anglo-American features often lacking in the smaller houses. These features include the following:

- 1) Although one-story Anglo-French houses with transitional floorplans focused upon central hallways exist in Louisiana, raised Creole plantation house constructed with central hallways are very rare.
- 2) In terms of its interior space (eight rooms plus hallway on each floor), it is probably the largest raised Creole house in the state.
- 3) It features a complete Norman roof truss which is one of the finest examples surviving in the Mississippi Valley.
- 4) It also features a pegged timber frame and bousillage infill, elements which usually are found only in the earlier Creole houses.
- 5) Its French doors, interior exposed beaded ceiling beams, wraparound mantels, and significant elements of the exterior gallery decoration remain intact.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Seebold, Herman Boehm de Bachelles, Old Louisiana Plantation Homes and Family Trees.  
Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1941.

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Structures Survey of Pointe  
Coupee Parish.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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 @ 1.4 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
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6	4	5	9	0	0
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3	3	8	8	3	8	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 sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource and its immediate fenced yard setting. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including unnecessarily extensive acreage. In lieu of property lines, the yard's fence line seemed to be a natural, logical choice. (The boundaries recognize the oak allee and semi-formal garden to the front mentioned in Part 7.)

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

Revised by Div. of Hist. Preservation  
staff

name/title Dr. Jay Edwards and Talal Albagdadi

organization Fred B. Kniffen Cultural Resources Lab date June 1990

street & number Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU telephone (504) 388-2566

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70803

Owners: Florel C. Rougon  
Joseph Rougon  
P. O. Box 145  
Oscar, LA 70762

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

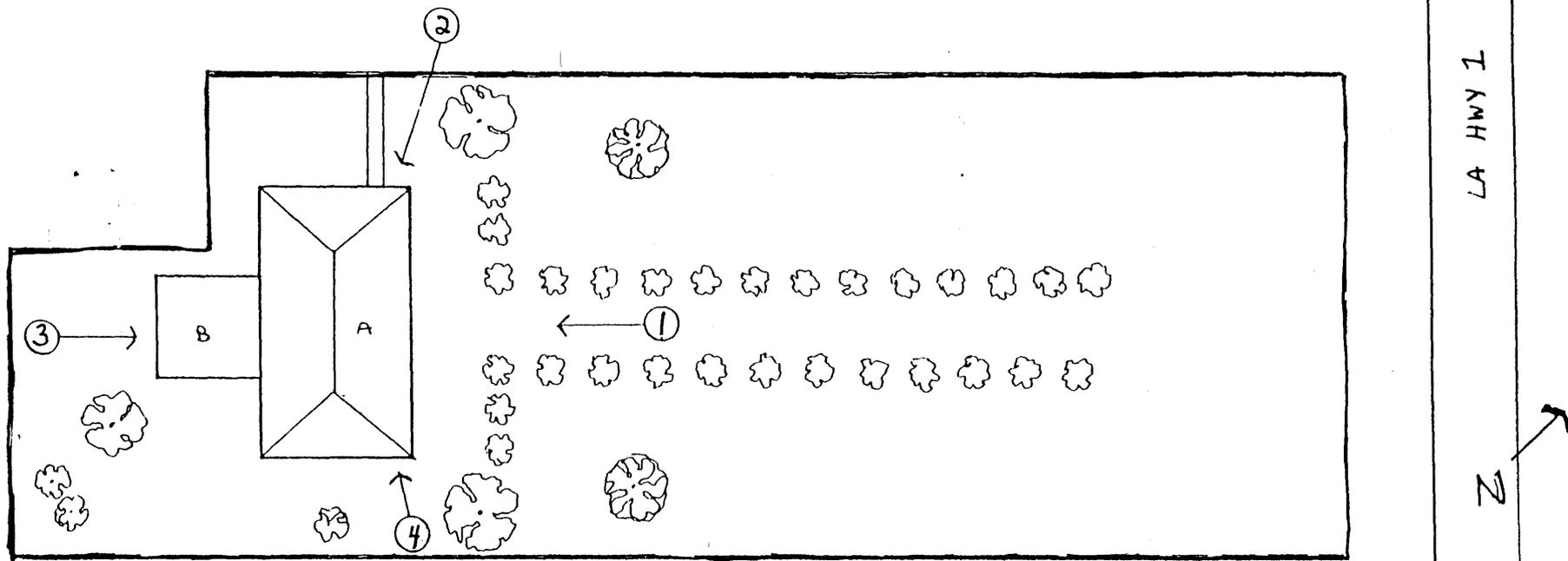
# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Austerlitz, Oscar vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

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- 6) The Federal gallery cornice has an unusual and intricate pattern of reeding and molding. We also believe the two surviving wooden chamfered octagonal columns to be exceedingly rare.



MAP FOR AUSTERLITZ PLANTATION HOUSE  
 LOCATED IN OSCAR VICINITY, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA.

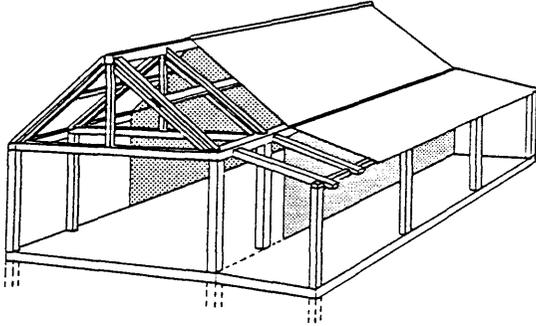
A HOUSE  
 B ADDITION (1899)

SCALE: 

BOLD LINES MARK SITE BOUNDARIES: 

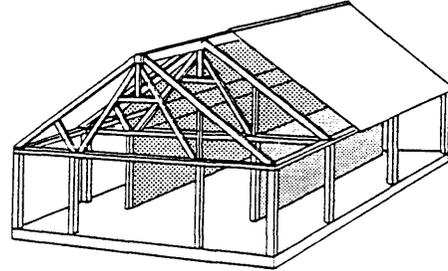
# FIGURE 5

## SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



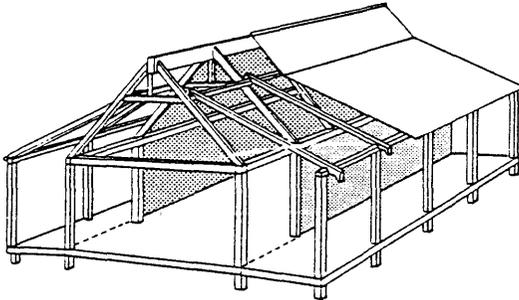
**CLASS I**

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



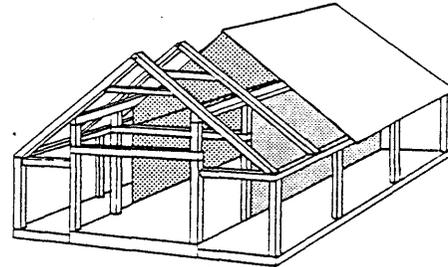
**CLASS IIIa**

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



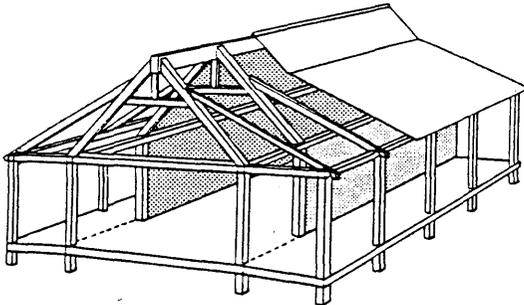
**CLASS IIa**

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



**CLASS IIIb**

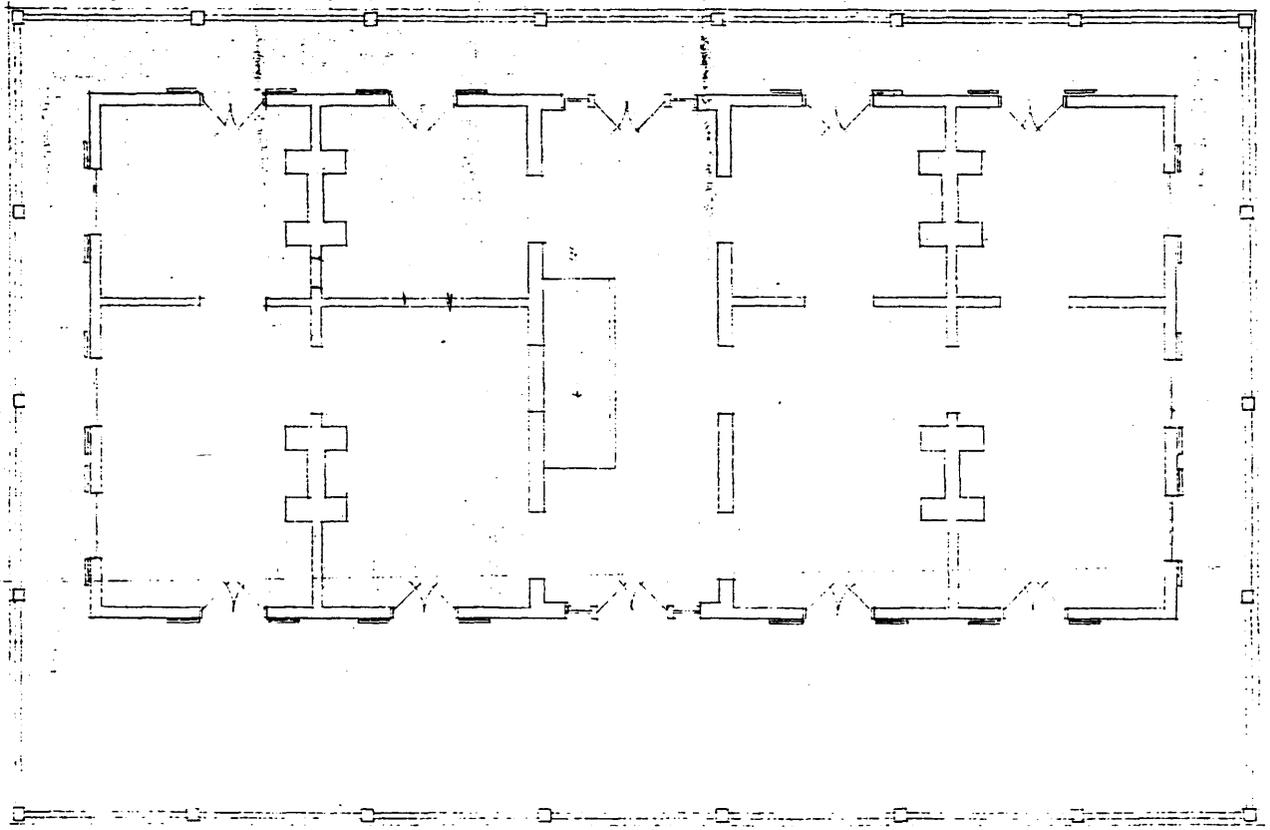
Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.



**CLASS IIb**

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.

AUSTERLITZ, POINTE COUPEE PARISH, LA



SECTION THROUGH PLAN

Mxe