

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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 Friscoville Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 100 - 900 blocks Friscoville Street NA not for publication

city or town Arabi NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Bernard code 087 zip code 70032

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker

June 2, 1998

Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

Edson H. Beall Date of Action 7-9-98

Friscoville Street Historic District

Name of property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>76</u>	<u>21</u>	buildings
—	—	sites
—	—	structures
—	—	objects
<u>76</u>	<u>21</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial 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.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" next to 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" next to all that apply.)

NA

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

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906-1948

Significant Dates

1906

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 16 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 789360 3317500

3 15 789040 3316580

2 15 789400 3317480

4 15 788940 3316600

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared by

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1998

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state LA zip code _____

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The boundaries of the Friscoville Street Historic District encompass 97 buildings in the small community of Arabi, almost all of which are residences. Non-residential uses include a church, a small building historically used as a jail, a small commercial building, a large brick school, and a two-story building which housed a casino in the early-twentieth century. Contributing elements date from 1906, when the street was platted, through 1948, the present fifty year cutoff. Eighty to eighty-five percent of the buildings are one story, and most of the contributing elements are of wood frame construction. The predominant styles are Colonial Revival and Bungalow, with a important scattering of twentieth century eclectic houses which add interest and variety to the historic neighborhood. The non-contributing rate is a respectable 22%, and contributing elements on the whole are well-preserved.

METHODOLOGY

The nomination of the Friscoville Street Historic District to the National Register is the result of a request made to the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office by the St. Bernard Parish Council, the local governing authority. Initial fieldwork conducted by the state's Register coordinator revealed that there were two viable districts in Arabi separated by a wide transportation corridor (historically a rail-industrial corridor). The earlier of the two is being nominated as the Old Arabi Historic District, while the other takes its name from its long street, Friscoville. Fieldwork (conducted by the Register coordinator) included identifying each building by style and contributing/non-contributing status, photography and mapwork. The survey produced a breakdown by style (see below). Because shotguns were perceived to be an important building type, they were noted in order to arrive at a percentage figure.

SETTING

There are two factors critical to understanding the architectural development and significance of the Friscoville Street Historic District. Firstly, Arabi abuts the City of New Orleans and its architecture has been influenced in large part by the Crescent City. In the case of the Friscoville district, this can be seen in a collection of strongly styled shotguns (roughly 20% of the overall building stock, with double shotguns being in the vast majority). Secondly, Arabi is located in a parish largely given over to marshes and water. In fact, because there is relatively little inhabitable land in St. Bernard, there are very few towns. And the ones that do exist are small.

The district includes both sides of Friscoville Street between St. Claude (a four-lane highway) and the Mississippi River, with the exception of a few non-historic buildings at each end (see map). The neighborhood for the most part is densely packed, as is true of the Old Arabi Historic District and New Orleans. There are also a handful of houses with enough land to have reasonably-sized yards (at least by the standards of New Orleans and vicinity).

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STYLES

The stylistic breakdown below reveals the later development of Friscoville Street (platted in 1906) in comparison to its neighbor, the Old Arabi Historic District (beginning in the 1870s-80s).

Queen Anne/Colonial Revival	2%
Colonial Revival	17%
Bungalow	36%
Twentieth Century Eclectic	11%
No Style	12%
Non-contributing	22%

Queen Anne/Colonial Revival (2%)

There are three residences in this category. One (520 Friscoville) is a two story house with Queen Anne massing and a Colonial Revival porch. The rambling one-and-a-half story house at 322 Friscoville features Queen Anne massing and shinglework and a Colonial Revival porch. The third example has the least Queen Anne influence -- featuring shinglework in the gables of what is otherwise a Colonial Revival house.

Colonial Revival (17%)

Almost all buildings in this category are shotguns with Tuscan columns, occasionally with a fanlight over the front door or windows. The most important exception is a galleried one-and-a-half story cottage at 420 Friscoville which has particularly well-detailed dormers. Another exception is a two story building which in the early-twentieth century housed a casino known as the Riverview Club. It appears that the present building is an older house whose facade was remodeled in the 1920s. Large windows with semi-circular heads are visually dominant.

Bungalow (36%)

Here the term is being used in its stylistic sense (porch posts on flared brick bases, angle brackets, etc.) rather than as a building type. Bungalow features are found mainly in the district on shotguns. Two particularly eye-catching examples feature prominent flared piers which rise almost to the roofline. While most of the district's Bungalow style shotguns are symmetrical, four doubles (all in a row) have asymmetrically massed porches. There are also a few instances of two story houses with Bungalow style details.

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This general term is being used for about a dozen buildings which exhibit the eclecticism of the early twentieth century -- i.e., buildings in the various popular historic revival styles or those which display a mixture of revival styles. Except for the Arabi School, all are residences, and many would be regarded as landmarks within their local context. They include two houses with "English cottage" massing, four which are loosely Mediterranean in character, and a large two story house with columns and brackets which perhaps should be viewed as a builder's version of the early twentieth century Renaissance Revival. The largest building in this category is the Arabi school, built in 1929 to the designs of William R. Burk. Featuring a five-part articulation common for schools of the period, the two story building has a richly detailed Romanesque Revival entrance pavilion crowned by a shaped parapet accented with blind arcading. The entrance takes the form of three round arches emphasized by contrasting materials. Each side pavilion has a round arch decorative brick panel and a particularly elaborate pattern formed by contrasting bricks. Cast concrete quoins define the edges of the pavilions, adding even further visual energy.

No Style (12%)

This is a standard category for districts -- i.e., legitimately historic buildings which happen to be completely or largely unornamented. While they do not contribute stylistically to the district, they contribute in matters of massing, fenestration patterns, etc. Many in the Friscoville Street district are small cottages from the 1930s and '40s.

Non-contributing (22%)

Virtually all of the non-contributing elements are altered one story historic residences. Hence they conform to the massing of a given streetscape. And even in the one or two instances when they appear in "clumps," their effect is not as disruptive as one might think (see Photo 9). A few non-contributing buildings are small slab-on-grade ranch houses. There are two or three two-story non-contributing residences, but they are located amongst historic two-story residences.

INTEGRITY OF CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS

Each building was examined during the survey. Those which had been so altered that they no longer conveyed their architectural identity were counted as non-contributing. The most common alterations to contributing buildings are replaced porch columns and substitute siding, although it should be stressed that on the whole, contributing elements are well preserved. In cases where alterations were present, a building was counted as contributing only if surviving historic elements were dominant.

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The Friscoville Street Historic District is of local architectural significance because it and the nearby Old Arabi Historic District are easily the finest groupings of historic structures in St. Bernard Parish.

The land area that in 1807 would become St. Bernard Parish, located just below New Orleans, had been settled early in the colonial period. The population, however, during the historic period was always sparse because the parish has relatively little arable, inhabitable land, with most of it being given over to marshes and various bodies of water. In 1900 the population for the entire parish was 5,031. By 1940 it had grown to 7,280. Because of the very nature of the parish, there historically were no towns of any size.

Arabi developed in the late-nineteenth century from former plantation lands and essentially was an adjunct to New Orleans. It traces its origins to the location of major stockyards there in the 1870s after they had been banned within the New Orleans city limits -- most notably the huge Crescent City Stockyard and Slaughterhouse. These no-longer-surviving facilities were located on a wide railroad-industrial corridor which is now a trucking corridor separating the two historic districts in Arabi. Further economic growth occurred in 1906 when the mammoth American Sugar Refinery was built. A newspaper had been founded in the little community in 1890, and in 1906 a post office was located there. Arabi's few commercial buildings were located along the Mississippi, but they do not survive. According to tradition, the community's unusual name can be traced to a Sudanese figure named Arabi Pasha who led a group of insurrectionists in raids against the British in the Sudan and Egypt during the early 1880s. Most of the population of what was then called Stock Landing, being of French and Irish descent, regarded Pasha as a hero and named their post office in his honor.

Because of the stockyards and sugar refinery, Arabi developed as an important population center -- at least within the context of St. Bernard. The employment provided by these industries made possible the building of today's Friscoville Street Historic District. Of the two, the American Sugar Refinery, located quite close to the district, was undoubtedly the most important. In fact, the platting of Friscoville Street and the arrival of American Sugar both occurred in 1906. In that year Friscoville Realty Company purchased the LeBeau tract (from the plantation of the same name, whose house is still standing nearby) and platted the neighborhood. A 1906 publication describes "a fine shell road" (Friscoville Street) which had just been completed. A further boost to the economy came with the location of a Ford Motor Company assembly plant between Friscoville Street and American Sugar.

The foregoing developmental history, of course, can be read in today's building stock. For example, because of the absence of Italianate and Eastlake shotguns, it is clear that the Friscoville district developed later than its upriver neighbor in Arabi (the Old Arabi Historic District). Conversely, the Old Arabi District has none of the interesting 1920s eclecticism found on Friscoville Street (English cottages, Mediterranean looking houses, etc.).

Within the context of St. Bernard, the Friscoville Street Historic District is a major architectural expression. It and the Old Arabi Historic District are really the only major groupings of historic buildings in the parish -- both in size

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and quality. By contrast, other communities have either largely modern buildings or perhaps a scattering of fairly basic, nondescript historic buildings. In terms of individual buildings of note, there are about a dozen (plantation houses, institutional buildings, and industrial facilities).

In almost all stylistic categories from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, St. Bernard's finest examples are found in the two nominated districts. The Friscoville Street district is particularly notable in two respects: its collection of richly styled shotgun houses and its dozen or so landmarks (within the context of St. Bernard) which represent the various historic revival styles of the 1920s.

Shotguns are found across the South, but virtually all collections consist mainly of plain humble structures with little or no architectural treatment. New Orleans and vicinity is the only place where one finds shotguns which are intensively styled. As noted previously, shotguns comprise twenty percent of the overall building stock in the Friscoville Street Historic District. Almost all of them are strongly articulated in either the Colonial Revival or Bungalow styles. Collectively these buildings represent an important architectural "flowering" that in many ways is the signature of the area.

Friscoville Street is also noteworthy within St. Bernard Parish for its historic revival style buildings from the 1920s. While these buildings would be typical within, for example, New Orleans, they are "high style" landmarks within St. Bernard (due principally to its lack of population centers). They have a much stronger visual presence than their small number would indicate -- due to their size and/or quite distinctive styling.

The most noteworthy examples are:

- (1) 146 Friscoville, a stuccoed, tile-roofed house with a small entrance tower and a large front window featuring a fanlight and glazing bars which form lancet arches;
- (2) 825 Friscoville, a large rambling two-story "villa" with numerous curved parapets and round arch openings;
- (3) 948 Friscoville, with a tile roof, Persian columns, and a strongly articulated entrance crowned by a rooftop shell design;
- (4) 341 Friscoville, the previously mentioned two story builder interpretation of the Renaissance Revival, with its paneled columns set off by brackets;
- (5) the tile-roofed old Arabi school, with its impressive Romanesque Revival entrance pavilion and elaborate contrasting brickwork.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Survey of proposed district by National Register Coordinator.

St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana: Its Natural Resources and Advantages. Published by authority of the Parish Immigration League, St. Bernard, Louisiana, 1906.

St. Bernard Parish Celebrates Its Bicentennial, 1780-1980. Published by the St. Bernard Bicentennial Committee, 1980.

Sanborn Map, updated to 1950.

Friscoville Street Historic District

Name of property

St. Bernard Parish, LA

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
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Boundary Description: See enclosed sketch map.

Justification:

Seldom are boundaries as clearcut as in this instance. They were chosen to encompass the concentration of historic buildings along Friscoville Street. A few buildings on the ends of Friscoville were not included because they are non-contributing. To the north is St. Claude Ave., a modern four-lane road. To the south is the Mississippi River. To the east is LeBeau Street, which is characterized largely by non-historic residences and altered historic residences. To the west is a wide transportation corridor separating the Friscoville district from the Old Arabi District. The SHPO hopes to nominate three resources near Friscoville St. to the National Register individually (LeBeau Plantation House, the Ford plant, and American Sugar Refinery). In addition to individual nominations being appropriate, these three resources are separated from the Friscoville district.

St. Claude

FRISCOVILLE ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT
ARABI, ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA

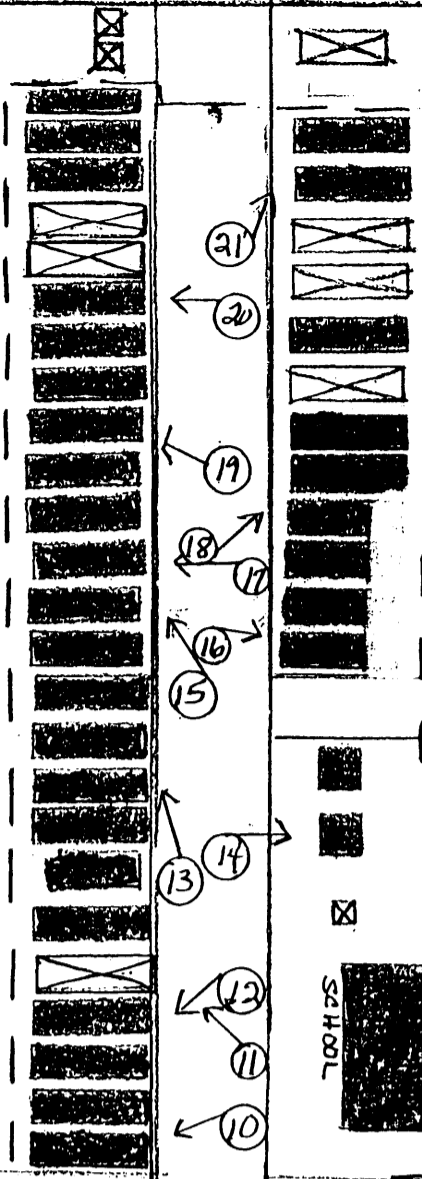
--- BOUNDARY

■ CONTRIBUTING

⊠ NON-CONTRIBUTING

(Exact building shapes not shown.)

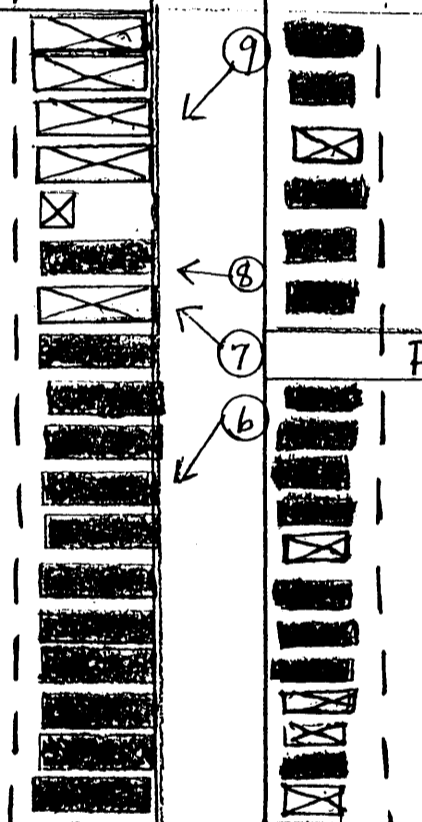
↑ N
1" = 200'



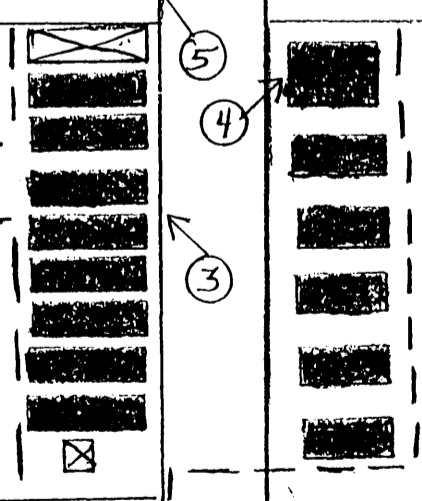
Burgundy

SCHOOL

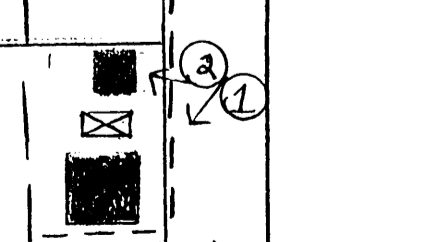
Royal



Poplar



Bienvenu



N. Peters

FRISCOVILLE

MISSISSIPPI RIVER