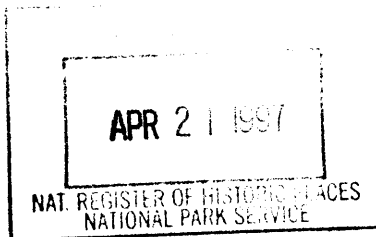


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



H66

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 an 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 Soulier House

other names/site number Maison Bleue Bed and Breakfast

2. Location

street & number 417 North Main not for publication

city or town St. Martinville vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Martin code 099 zip code 70582

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 4/16/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date
State of 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 5/23/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Soulier House
Name of Property

St. Martin 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The Soulier House is a one-story frame Queen Anne Revival style dwelling with primarily Eastlake detailing. It stands within a mixed commercial and residential block on St. Martinville's Main Street only a short distance from the parish seat's central business district. A Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that a small house with a bay window stood on the site in 1903. A Sanborn map (1909) and architectural evidence clearly indicate that the house was greatly enlarged during the six years between publication of the two maps to create the dwelling one sees today. (The latter evidence consists of the outline of a removed bay in the floor of one enlarged room and the fact that the woodwork surrounding the windows and doors does not match throughout the home.) Thus, for all practical purposes, the house can be said to date to c. 1905, and that date will be used for this nomination. Although it has experienced alteration over the years, the c. 1905 Soulier House maintains its National Register eligibility.

Three important architectural features define the style of the Soulier House as Queen Anne. These include:

- 1) a wraparound gallery (whose Eastlake styling will be described below),
- 2) complex massing created by:
 - a) an asymmetrical floor plan which can best be described by dividing it into parts. The front range features a central hall flanked by a room on each side. The middle range contains several spaces, one of which projects sideways beyond the side portion of the wraparound gallery. The third portion of the floor plan projects toward the rear and contains a dining room and rear hall. A cross gable roof surmounts the asymmetrical footprint this plan creates.
 - b) the positioning of a conical roof, capped by a finial, at the corner of the previously mentioned wraparound gallery. This roof is highly suggestive of a turret, one of the hallmarks of the Queen Anne style.
- 3) the use of textured surfaces in certain areas. These include a decoratively-cut bargeboard outlining the front gable and corbeling outlining the chimney tops.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 2

Most of the home's Eastlake decoration is found on the gallery. It consists of turned columns resembling table legs and an elaborate combination of elements outlining the gallery's roofline. These elements include a spindlework screen featuring short abacus-like rods. The lower edge of the screen is trimmed with a scalloped band. In addition, each of the gallery's bays is highlighted by knobs and pierced brackets. Although unusual, the gallery's balustrade (consisting of punch work openings) is not specifically Eastlake or Queen Anne Revival. Other architectural features of interest found on the exterior of the c. 1905 home include a large front window which combines elements of the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles and an Italianate door serving as a side entrance to the home from the gallery. Interior elements dating to c. 1905 include a Colonial Revival screen separating two rooms, a set of pocket doors, four simple mantels with bull's eye corner blocks, and bull's eye corner block molding above many doors.

The Soulier House has experienced two additional renovations since the c. 1905 work which determined its size and exterior appearance. These alterations have greatly changed the original floorplan, although the footprint as described above remains intact. The majority of changes appear to have occurred during the early 1970s, the rest during the 1990s. They include:

- 1) the installation and later modernization of two bathrooms and the creation of a third. The later project necessitated the removal of one interior door and the reconfiguration of space in the middle of the house. Thus, the work created a major change in the floorplan.
- 2) the modernization of the kitchen.
- 3) the addition of a one-room side projecting space at one rear corner. Although connected to the main house, the newer space must be entered from its own porch or its rear door rather than from the house itself. The balustrade on the addition's front porch has purposely been made to match that on the home's wraparound gallery. A utility room and carport have also been added to the rear of the home.
- 4) the installation of two sets of French doors used to close off parts of the house which serve as a bed and breakfast operation, the addition of a large stained glass window to the facade wall of one room, and the alteration of the glass within the front door.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

The majority of the alterations discussed above have impacted the interior only, and the home's exterior Queen Anne Revival and Eastlake styling remains intact. It is these stylistic elements upon which the home's National Register eligibility rests. As a superior example of the Queen Anne-Eastlake taste within the town of St. Martinville, the Soulier House is a meritorious candidate for National Register listing.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for 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.
[X] 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: NA

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

c. 1905

Significant Dates

c. 1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 5 6 1 2 8 6 0 3 3 3 3 2 3 0
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

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 February 1997

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name George F. Kranske, Jr. and Deborah LeBlanc-Kranske

street & number 417 North Main Street telephone (318) 394-1215

city or town St. Martinville state LA zip code 70582

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Soulier House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a superior example of the Queen Anne Revival/Eastlake taste in the town of St. Martinville.

The St. Martin Parish seat of St. Martinville is among Louisiana's oldest communities, having been settled in the eighteenth century and incorporated as a town in 1817. Located at the head of navigation on Bayou Teche, it thrived in the antebellum period, and up until the late nineteenth century, due to its status as a major interior port. At the turn of the century the town experienced new prosperity due partly to the re-emergence of the sugar industry as a staple of the local economy. Thus, today's St. Martinville is predominantly a late nineteenth/early twentieth century townscape. A standing structures survey of St. Martinville completed in 1986 verifies this assessment. In addition, it indicates that the majority of historic residences (50 years of age or older) found in the town are undistinguished folk bungalows, simple galleried cottages and shotguns showing little or no attempt at architectural style. The only exceptions to this are a few notable early landmarks, a handful of twentieth century eclectic houses, and a larger number of dwellings exhibiting the Queen Anne/Eastlake taste. Most of the latter exhibit only one or two characteristics of the styles such as a projecting bay, fishscale shingles, or Eastlake columns. Only six of this group can be described as more well developed examples of the Queen Anne style. As is typical in Louisiana, all are one story rambling cottages. These six are considered well-developed examples because they incorporate numerous Queen Anne/Eastlake characteristics into their designs. The Soulier House is one of these landmark examples because of its complex massing (including the suggestion of a turret) and elaborate Eastlake detail as described in Part 7.

Historical Note

The land upon which the Soulier House stands was purchased by Edward E. Soulier from Duhamp C. Labbe in 1898. Soulier lived in the house until his death in 1935; it is believed that his second wife, Amelie Locker Soulier, lived in the house until her death (date unknown) as well. After Amelie's death the home became the property of Edward Soulier's children by his deceased first wife, Eugenie Marie Olivier Soulier. It now belongs to George Kranske and Debbie LeBlanc-Kranske, who operate it as the Maison Bleue Bed and Breakfast.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA
Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation, Standing Structures Survey of St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Will of Edward E. Soulier, filed July 23, 1935, in St. Martin Parish; copy in National Register file.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Soulier House, St. Martin Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Legal Property Description:

That certain lot or parcel of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and thereunto belonging, situated in Section 81, Township 10 South, Range 6 East, City of St. Martinville, Parish of St. Martin, Louisiana, said lot containing 12,147 square feet and is more fully described as follows: Beginning at a found iron rod being the southwesterly most corner of the parcel of land and the point of beginning herein; thence go N21°12'18"E for a distance of 12.0 feet to a Set P-K Nail; thence go S67°26'13"E a distance of 90.0 feet; thence go N21°11'58"E a distance of 63.0 feet to a set iron rod; thence go S67°25'31"E for a distance of 144.35 feet to a set iron rod; thence go S14°24'19"W a distance of 75.0 feet to a found iron rod; thence go N67°35'58"W a distance of 243.22 feet to a found iron rod - being the point of beginning, all as per plat of survey dated April 22, 1992, prepared by Edmond E. Dupre, Jr., Inc., attached to act recorded under Entry No. 263703 of the records of the St. Martin Parish Clerk of Court's Office. Said lot bounded northerly in part by property of Bella Broussard or assigns, and in part by property of Willie Bienvenu or assigns, easterly by N. Main Street (La. Hwy. 31), southerly by property of Dr. Elmore F. Bonin, Jr. or assigns, westerly in part by Lewis Street and in part by property of Bella Broussard or assigns.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.