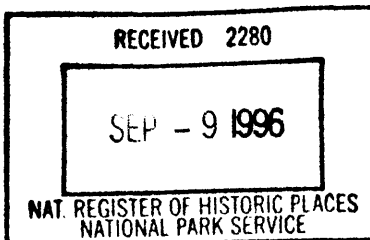


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 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 Salmen House

other names/site number Swiss Cottage; Le Chalet Suisse

2. Location

street & number 2854 Front Street NA  not for publication

city or town Slidell NA  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Tammany code 103 zip code 70458

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 9/5/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, 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 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10.10.96

Salmen House  
Name of Property

St. Tammany 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 - Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Swiss Chalet

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other shingles

**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**

Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The Salmen House was built c. 1895 in the form of a Swiss chalet. The one-and-one-half story frame residence faces an active railroad track and is located on a corner lot of an older residential neighborhood in the St. Tammany Parish town of Slidell. Although it has received alterations since its construction, the home remains eligible for National Register listing.

The following characteristics of the Swiss Chalet style are found in the Salmen House:

- 1) a marked verticality created by the presence of a moderately steep front facing gabled roof over a multiple story floorplan. The home's high brick pier foundation also contributes to its vertical appearance.
- 2) a small second story balcony with a decoratively cut balustrade (see below). A shed roof hood (not an element of the chalet style) protects the window behind this balcony.
- 3) wide overhanging eaves on all four sides, and
- 4) the presence of elaborately formed pieces of woodwork used as decorative and structural elements. These include:
  - a) large brackets, reminiscent of the Stick style, located beneath the eaves,
  - b) additional stick work brackets attached to the gallery posts on one side of the home and part of the other side (see below),
  - c) smaller scroll sawn brackets on beams running from the side of the house to the edge of the eaves,
  - d) shaped rafter tails,
  - e) exposed chamfered beams on the ceilings of the home's side galleries,
  - f) balustrades composed of turned newel posts and elaborate cutwork

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Salmen House, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   2  

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- balusters outlining the balcony and parts of the gallery,
- g) a decorative band consisting of large and small molded roundels on the facade. The upper and lower edges of this band are also molded.
  - h) the presence of patterned shingles covering the front facing gable above the roundel band,
  - i) a sawtooth shaped bargeboard outlining the home's front and rear gables, and
  - j) heavily molded lintels above windows and doors.

The home's interior is very plain, especially when compared to the highly elaborate exterior. Its floorplan originally contained one large and two small rooms on the first floor. An open staircase led to the second floor. The first floor rooms were encircled by a gallery, and each room had at least one Eastlake style door opening onto this gallery. The second floor contained one large open space. Over the years the following alterations were made to the home:

- 1) Changes to the floorplan, including:
  - a) the construction by 1911 (per Sanborn map) of a kitchen created by enclosing part of one side gallery and the construction of an additional small room behind the kitchen. The latter's space was taken from part of the rear gallery. Later the smaller room was expanded slightly to become a modern utility room. The side enclosure resulted in the loss of most of the decorative gallery posts and brackets which matched those on the other side of the home.
  - b) the addition of a large fireplace to the home's biggest room. It is served by a central chimney which a second fireplace also uses. The latter is a corner fireplace located in the front smaller room. Although its mantel appears to be contemporary with the home's construction, this mantel may have been salvaged from another building and installed at the same time as the larger one.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

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- c) the construction of a closet in the small front room, and the addition of a downstairs bath made by carving space from the rear small room. This change necessitated the conversion of one of the former outside doors into a window.
  - d) the enclosure of the stairway to the second floor, and
  - e) the subdivision of the upper level into a series of small rooms.
- 2) the installation of several aluminum windows on the second floor where none previously existed, the installation of storm doors and windows over the home's original openings, and the addition of shutters to the front windows, and
- 3) the loss of almost all of the gallery's front balustrade, the installation of new concrete steps and an accompanying cast iron stair railing on the rear elevation, and the connection of a carport with an attached shed to the rear elevation.

Although this list of alterations may seem significant, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility. The home's most notable change is the partial enclosure of one of its side galleries, which impacts the building's wide overhang. However, this alteration is located near the rear of the structure and, thus, has less impact that it would have had in a more prominent location. The other unfortunate exterior alteration is the installation of additional windows beneath the eaves. For the most part these are located high beneath the eaves and are not noticeable until one approaches close to the house. Despite these changes, the overwhelming majority of Swiss Chalet style features upon which the building's architectural significance is based remain intact. As an example of a rare architectural style, and as a landmark within the architectural patrimony of Slidell, the Salmen House is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

**NOTE:** Thick vegetation partially hides the Salmen Home and makes it extremely difficult to photograph.

**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.
- 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.)

NA

Property is:

- 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. 1895

**Significant Dates**

c. 1895

**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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Salmen House  
Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA  
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
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2	3	1	7	4	0
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3	3	5	1	4	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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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 Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation date May 1996

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 Mrs. C. Eulalie LaBarge

street & number 2854 Front Street telephone (504) 649-6440

city or town Slidell state LA zip code 70458

**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**

Salmen House, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Salmen House is locally significant in the area of architecture. It is the only example within Slidell of the rare Victorian era house type known as the Swiss Chalet, and as such, is a landmark within the town's architectural patrimony.

The presence of Swiss Chalet-like houses in the United States was a product of the Victorian era's romantic fascination with anything considered exotic or far away. One of the first proponents of the style was horticulturalist and architectural commentator Andrew Jackson Downing, whose books on residential architecture, published in the mid-nineteenth century, featured picturesque wooden houses with large shaded verandas, wide overhanging eaves, projecting rafter ends, and large brackets which Downing associated with Italian and Swiss domestic architecture. Only hinted at in his early writings, a "Swiss Cottage" was a featured design in one of his later books. Despite his belief that such houses were more suitable for untamed rural landscapes than tame urban settings, he nevertheless believed them to be very appropriate for domestic use, since they featured a variety of ". . . gables, balconies, large windows, and other features indicative of home comforts." At least one "Swiss cottage" was built during the 1840s. Interest in the type grew when it was featured at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition and on a few of the less important buildings of the 1898 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Nevertheless, chalet-like houses never reached the popularity achieved by other Victorian era styles, many cities and towns never had an example, and relatively few survive today. Because of this rarity, the Swiss Chalet style is not generally discussed by architectural history handbooks. The Division of Historic Preservation's standing structures survey, which documents Slidell's 367 buildings which are 50 years of age or older, reaffirms this rarity; for it clearly documents that the Salmen House is the only example of this rare and unusual nineteenth century style within Slidell.

The status of the Salmen House as a local architectural landmark is related to the developmental history of the community. Slidell was one of the last towns to be founded in St. Tammany Parish. Its birth coincided with the arrival of the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad, which surveyed the townsite in 1883. The town became a center of brick making when Fritz Salmen established his first business in 1886. This industry, and the lumber yard the Salmens also founded, would remain the mainstays of the town's economy for many years. Although a handful of antebellum cottages and dwellings showing Creole influence stand in outlying areas of the community, the collection of 50+ year old houses surviving in Slidell are low-key vernacular

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA  
Section number 8 Page 2

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structures from c. 1890-c. 1940. In fact, a number of them were constructed by the Salmens for their workers. The majority of these houses are small, low shotguns or unstyled cottages with little or no ornament. In addition, the surviving examples of the Queen Anne Revival and Eastlake styles popular during the town's formative years are very plain. Surviving examples display only one or two features such as a projecting bay, shingled gable, or Eastlake brackets. Against this restrained and orthodox background, the Swiss Chalet-like Salmen House is a distinctive landmark within an otherwise architecturally conventional community.

**Note Concerning Name of Building**

Conflicting information circulates in Slidell concerning which member of the Salmen family was the builder of the Swiss Chalet style home. Some Salmen family members believe that the structure was built for Jacob Salmen, brother of family patriarch Fritz Salmen. Others believe it was constructed by Fritz's son Fred. Deeds on file at the parish courthouse indicate that Rosa Liddle Salmen (wife of Fritz) purchased the land in 1894. Rosa apparently played a role in the home's construction because some surviving timbers in the home's attic are marked "Save for Mrs. F. Salmen." Rosa died in 1897 and left the property to three family members--Fritz, Ella Rosa (apparently her daughter), and Fred. It is interesting to note that the Salmen family came to Louisiana from Switzerland, and that Fritz sent son Fred back to that country to complete his education.

There is some speculation within Slidell that the building was constructed for use as an office for the Salmen family's business concerns. However, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1911 clearly shows that it was used as a residence by this time.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Salmen House, St. Tammany Parish, LA  
Section number  $\frac{9}{10}$  Page  $\frac{1}{1}$

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Labarge, Eulalie. "Le Chalet Suisse," typescript, copy in National Register file.

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Slidell, 1911.

Scully, Vincent J., Jr. *The Shingle Style and The Stick Style: Architectural Theory and Design from Downing to the Origins of Wright, 2nd edition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971.

Title Search Results; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

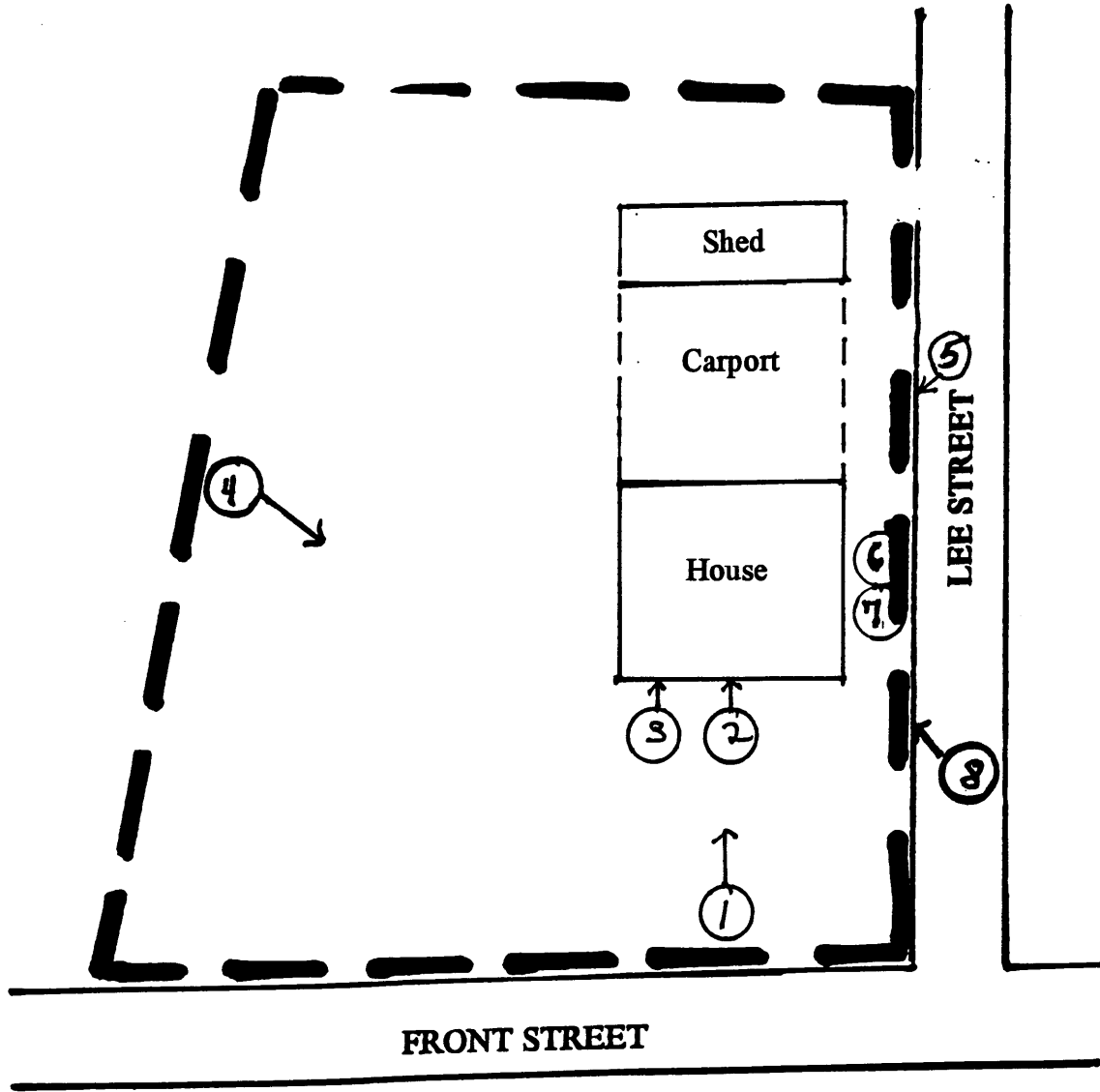
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Boundary Description: Please refer to attached map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.

# SALMEN HOUSE

Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, LA



NORTH

SCALE: 1" = 25'

BOUNDARY: — — —

