

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 6 1986

date entered NOV 6 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Homestead Plantation Complex

and/or common Variety Plantation

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 3066, 3 miles SW of Plaquemine N/A— not for publication

city, town Plaquemine X vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Iberville code 047
~~county~~

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John W. Wilbert, Jr. (o) (504) 388-9545 (h) (504) 659-2510

street & number Route 4, Box 212

city, town Plaquemine X vicinity of state LA 70764

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Iberville Parish Courthouse

street & number Railroad Avenue (no specific address) ; P. O. Box 423

city, town Plaquemine state LA 70764

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1976
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Homestead Plantation Complex (c.1855) consists of a frame Greek Revival plantation cottage, a doctor's office, and a kitchen house located in a bucolic live oak setting on Bayou Plaquemine. Despite a recent move and some alterations, the complex retains its National Register eligibility.

The three buildings were moved from Homestead Plantation to their present location at Variety Plantation in 1976 (both in Iberville Parish). For the record, nothing historic remains from the original Variety Plantation. The three mile move was necessary in order to save the buildings. The former site, which is now a car dealership, was slated for development, and the buildings were sold to the present owner on condition that they be moved. The new setting is very sympathetic, and the buildings were set in the same configuration that they had in their former location. The only difference is that the doctor's office was placed ten feet further from the main house. Both dependencies appear to be contemporaneous with the main house, although there is no proof they were built all of a piece.

Local tradition indicates that the three buildings were not original to Homestead Plantation, but were moved there at the turn-of-the-century. One story has it that the original site was a place called Hunters Lodge near the town of Plaquemine. There is no way to confirm this but two things are certain; (1) The vintage and architectural history of the three buildings is beyond question, (2) The buildings have been in their present configuration for as long as any of the locals can remember.

The Main House

As originally built, the main house had a symmetrical plan three rooms wide and two rooms deep with the front center room serving as an entrance hall. Sometime prior to the 1976 move the rear wall of the entrance hall was removed. After the move one of the walls in the rear center room was moved over a few feet. The combined effect of these two alterations was to create a central hall plan. Noteworthy interior features include shoulder molded openings, four panel doors, and shoulder molded mantels with unusual cyma recta moldings. The exterior features flush board walls under the front and rear galleries, six over six windows, and French doors with transoms overhead. The solid gallery posts are plain and untapered and feature cove molded capitals. The gallery entablatures are a bit light in proportion to the columns, but the effect is not displeasing.

Sometime in the late nineteenth century the house was enlarged and embellished. The entablatures of the front and rear galleries were fitted with Downingesque Gothic vergeboards with a repeating foil motif. In addition, a one room side wing was built with similar vergeboards, an Eastlake gallery, and an imbricated shingle gable. In all likelihood this work predated the turn-of-the-century move, if there was one.

More recent changes:

In addition to the previously mentioned change in floor plan, the house received two downstairs bathrooms and a finished attic upstairs after the 1976 move. The only other major change has been the recent glazing in of part of the rear gallery to provide sheltered access to the kitchen.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Homestead Plantation Complex item number 7

Page 1

7. Description Iberville Parish, LA
(cont'd)

The Doctor's Office

The one room doctor's office is entered via a four column porch under a gable. Although there is no entablature, the solid columns are treated with beveled capitals and "ring necks." Both the entrance and the gable vent have crude shoulder molded frames. The interior features a single conventional aedicule style mantel. Like the main house, the doctor's office received a Downingesque embellishment in the late nineteenth century. But in this case the design of the vergeboards was simpler and more conventional.

The only change in the doctor's office since the turn-of-the-century has been the installation of a closet.

The Kitchen

After the 1976 move the kitchen was connected to the main house rear gallery by means of a glazed in passageway. It is a simple frame building with a single six over six window on three sides and a door. One of the windows is a recent addition. Obviously there must have been a chimney at one time, but it is long gone.

Assessment of Integrity

Despite the alterations the buildings have undergone, they still retain the features which establish their individual and collective architectural significance (See Item 8). Although the buildings were moved in 1976, they are in the same configuration that they had in their previous location, and the present setting is entirely appropriate. Moreover, the buildings were only moved three miles within the same parish, and hence they are still within the area which is the context for their architectural significance.

Contributing Elements

For the record, all three buildings in the nominated area (house, kitchen, and doctor's office) are listed as contributing elements.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1855 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Michel Schlatre

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Homestead main house has local architectural significance as a rare surviving Greek Revival plantation house in Iberville Parish, where there were once a great many. In addition, the plantation grouping is locally significant because it constitutes Iberville Parish's only example of the use of Downingsque decorative woodwork. Moreover, the two outbuildings are rare and early examples of plantation dependencies in the parish.

Iberville Parish developed during the first half of the nineteenth century as a center for the growing and refining of sugar. Like most of Louisiana's sugar parishes, the parish's economy boomed in the thirty years or so prior to the Civil War. As a result, during this period a large number of Greek Revival plantation houses were built which represented something of an architectural "flowering" for the parish.

It is impossible to determine with certainty the exact number of Greek Revival plantation houses built in Iberville Parish in the three decades prior to the Civil War. Reliable clues, however, can be found in Statement of the Sugar Crop Made in Louisiana and slaveholding statistics found in the 1860 census. The 1854 Statement of the Sugar Crop reveals that there were 133 sugar plantations in the parish. The 1860 census lists seventy-six large slaveholdings (fifty or more slaves), with only two involving non-residents. In addition, there were numerous good size holdings of less than fifty. Given the foregoing, it would be safe to conclude that there were scores of Greek Revival plantation houses and cottages in Iberville Parish on the eve of the Civil War. However, the historic structures survey for the parish reveals that there are only eight remaining examples. Consequently Homestead Plantation House is of special importance in the architectural heritage of the parish.

Homestead is also significant for its late nineteenth century alterations. The main house and doctor's office are Iberville Parish's only Downingsque buildings, and hence are of great importance given the nationwide popularity of the style.

The doctor's office is also important as a styled dependency. The vast majority of the parish's historic plantation dependencies are plain functional buildings with no architectural treatment at all. The doctor's office is one of only two instances in which a dependency is styled to go with the main house.

Finally, the doctor's office and kitchen are significant as rare surviving pre-Civil War plantation dependencies. The vast majority of Iberville Parish's extant plantation dependencies date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Riffel, Judy, ed. Iberville Parish History. Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane, Baton Rouge, 1985.
Menn, Joseph K. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana - 1860. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ $\frac{1}{4}$ acre _____

Quadrangle name Addis, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	6	6	7	6	0	3	3	4	8	4	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Because the complex was moved, there is no historical setting to recognize. Hence boundaries were cut closely around the buildings. In any case, the total property consists of 25 acres and contains several unrelated elements which, of course, had to be excluded from the nominated area.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date August 1986

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 30, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

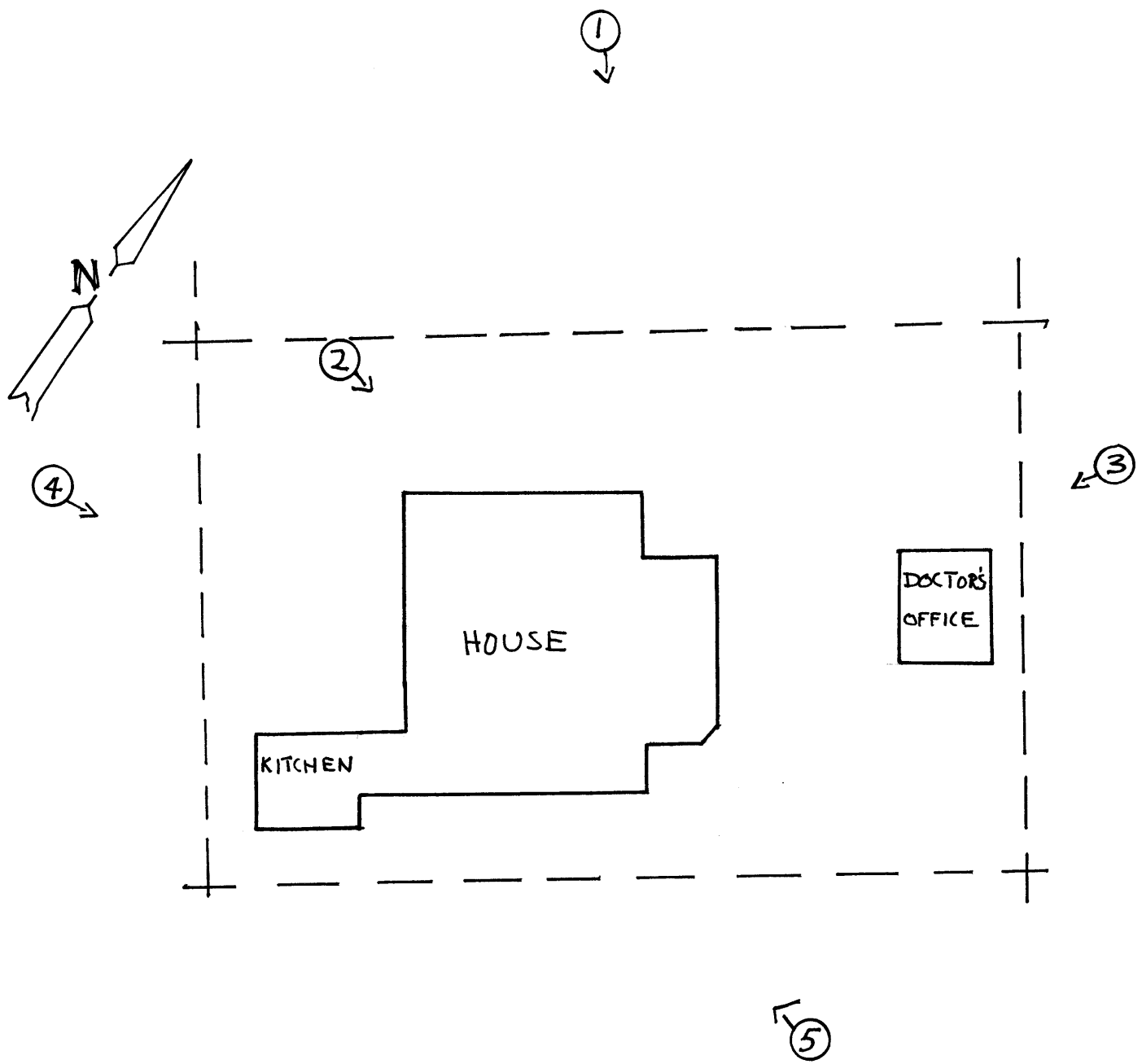
date 11-6-86

Alfred Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration



SCALE 1"=25'

BOUNDARY

HOMESTEAD PLANTATION COMPLEX
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA