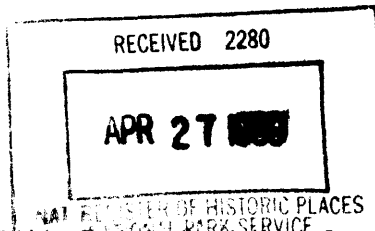


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



634

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 Dixon House

other names/site number Moore House

2. Location

street & number 38127 Highway 42 NA not for publication

city or town Prairieville NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Ascension code 005 zip code 70769

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.)

*Terri Hobdy*

April 8, 1999

Signature of certifying official/Title Terri Hobdy, Date  
LA 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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

*Elson H. Beall*

5/27/99



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

The Dixon House (c. 1850) is a frame one-and-one-half story galleried cottage with a large front facing dormer and a rear wing dating from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The design has a rather vernacular character which partakes slightly of the Greek Revival style. However, because stylistic influences are not strong, the term "no style" is being used for the purposes of this nomination. The building stands in a lush, semi-rural setting amid an impressive stand of live oak trees. Despite alterations, the home retains its National Register eligibility.

The house began as a story-and-a-half cottage with a three-bay facade, a narrow central hall, and a pair of squarish front rooms with two shallow rooms behind. The capacious gable roof attic included a large front-facing dormer which incorporated a balcony. (The dormer was later reworked – see below.) The home's framework is constructed using French joinery, nailed in place with square nails. The central hall culminates in a front entranceway featuring a transom and sidelights. The most distinctive feature in the house is the entablature above the front gallery, which is formed of a series of beaded strips applied to form a paneled effect. This would appear to be a vernacular attempt at a Doric frieze with triglyphs and metopes. Another interesting feature of the exterior is the clapboard facade, in which the boards are heavily beaded. The interior has flush board walls and ceilings and four-panel doors. The two exterior end wall chimneys are original, but both mantels have been lost. The Italianate mantel in the west parlor was purchased from a salvage yard in the 1980s.

Alterations

In the late nineteenth or early twentieth century a rear board and batten ell wing was added. This incorporated one of the rear rooms of the original house. In addition, a lean-to was added on the opposite side of the house, extending the main block one room deeper. Notably, the previously mentioned front-facing dormer and balcony were renovated in the Queen Anne Revival style with a combination of imbricated shingles, vertical beaded boards and a lunette. At some point in its history, the attic story was finished off for bedrooms. How this space was originally accessed is unclear. The present exterior staircase, which leads to a side door, appears to be early twentieth century.

Also unclear is the date when the front gallery posts were replaced. The spacing is correct, but the present posts, although somewhat old, are not original. They feature

CONTINUED

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   2  

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small brackets which support a slight "false gallery" roof. In addition, the present porch balustrade is relatively modern. A chimney has been removed from the rear wing, and a wall taken out to create a very large, in effect, double parlor.

Assessment of Integrity

Despite the aforementioned alterations, the Dixon House retains the elements which establish it as a local architectural landmark. Its age is evidenced by its form as a classic Louisiana galleried cottage and by the use of French joinery, which was dying out in the period when the house was under construction. The home also retains other character-defining elements such as the distinctive roofline with its prominent balconied dormer, the vernacular frieze, and the unusual heavy beaded clapboards on the front gallery. The house still conveys the great majority of its historic appearance, especially from the exterior. It therefore retains local landmark status and, hence, National Register eligibility.

Non-Contributing Element

A modern one-story wood frame building also stands on the property. It serves as a professional office for one of the Dixon Home's owners.

**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**

NA

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

- 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

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**Period of Significance**

c. 1850

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**Significant Dates**

c. 1850

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

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**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

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The Dixon House is locally significant within the context of the Ascension Parish community of Prairieville because its rarity and age accord it the status of a local architectural landmark.

The unincorporated community of Prairieville is prominently featured on the U.S.G.S. topographic maps for Ascension Parish. Set in the parish's northern sector, it stretches for approximately twenty square miles in a trapezoidal shape. Historically the area was agricultural, but in recent years it has experienced an explosion in population as a bedroom suburb of the nearby Baton Rouge metroplex. In many ways this is due to its proximity to the Interstate 10 corridor and U.S. Highway 61 (Airline Highway). Although there is no central business district, the community now has a sizeable and growing building stock, most of it slab-on-grade ranch houses.

In the early to mid-1980s, the parish was covered by the Division of Historic Preservation's comprehensive Historic Structures Survey, which records each building over fifty years old. These records reveal a total of fifty-one buildings which can be considered historic because of their age. The vast majority of these are bungalows or late nineteenth/early twentieth century unadorned cottages. There are also a few cottages with modest Queen Anne Revival features such as a polygonal bay. The Moore House is conspicuous in Prairieville as one of only five structures from the mid-nineteenth century. All five are galleried cottages with relatively plain detailing. One of them has replacement Eastlake columns. Another has been moved and raised a full story above grade on concrete blocks. The Dixon House and one or two of the other mid-nineteenth century houses can legitimately be seen as landmarks in Prairieville because they collectively represent the community's earliest extant architectural heritage. They also stand as rare surviving historic relics in a rapidly changing, now largely suburban landscape. In addition, the Dixon House derives significance from its very unusual vernacular attempt to create a Doric frieze, a feature not found on any other house in the region.

Historical Note

Although the identity of the original owner/builder of the home is unclear, the candidate has been in the hands of the Dixon family for the majority of its life. It is known that Michael Dixon purchased the house and accompanying land from Paris Moore in 1865. However, because of confusion (and resulting court cases) over the

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2  
9 1

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legal status of colonial-era land grants, the title to the site remained clouded until 1892. According to family history, Dixon converted a cotton mill on the property into a sugar mill. After the mill closed, Michael's son Elijah became an area representative for the Godchaux Sugar Mill, contracting with local farmers to grow sugar cane for the company. Elijah Dixon also began the family's tradition of service to the public by acting as one of the original board members for the Bank of Gonzales. Elijah's son Charles and grandson, E. D. Dixon, also served on this board during their lifetimes.

Other former owners of the home include Dr. Milton Newton, a Louisiana State University cultural geographer who studied the state's vernacular colonial architecture, LSU professor Jerry Redfern, and current owners Aprill Heckman and Ann Buie. The latter is a psychologist who uses the home's peaceful setting in her practice with troubled children and adolescents.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Division of Historic Preservation. Historic Standing Structures Survey of Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

History of Dixon House provided by owner; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Dixon House  
Name of property

Ascension Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 1.6 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 15 695040 3355780

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 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 1999

street & number P.O. Box 44247      telephone (225) 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 Aprill Heckman and V. Ann Buie

street & number 38127 Highway 42      Telephone (504) 673-9603

city or town Prairieville      state LA      zip code 70769

**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.



Dixon House  
Name of property

Ascension Parish, LA  
County and State

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**


Please see attached Plat Map.


**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

Boundaries follow current property lines. Because the plantation of which the Dixon House was a part has been subdivided, it is not possible to use the property's historic boundaries. However, the current boundaries encompass the original home site and its historic setting.

DIXON HOUSE  
 Prairieville, Ascension Parish, LA

N  
 1" = 30'

Contributing Element: 

Non-Contributing Element: 

Boundary: - - - - -

NORTH LAKE DRIVE  
 (ASPHALT ROADWAY)  
 (60' R/W)

