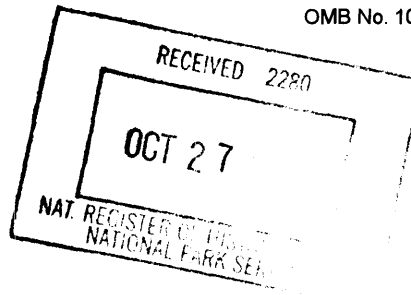


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Belle Alliance

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA HWY 308, approx. 4 miles north of intersection with LA HWY 70 NA not for publication

city or town Donaldsonville X vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Assumption code 007 zip code 70346

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 October 21, 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 Date of Action 11-23-98

Belle Alliance
Name of property

Assumption 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)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Work in Progress

Sub.

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Stucco

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 1

Belle Alliance is a large, two-story, stucco-over-brick plantation house located on Bayou Lafourche on a sizeable parcel of land with broad sweeping lawns and mature trees. The house was constructed in two stages. The well-styled Greek Revival front portion dates from c. 1846, the somewhat larger rear portion from an 1889 expansion and remodeling program. Interestingly, the 1889 addition in many ways continues the Greek Revival styling of the original house. And, while a few modifications were made in 1889 to the original portion of Belle Alliance, they have not unduly impacted its strong Greek Revival character. Except for deterioration, the house has received very little alteration since the late nineteenth century. Hence it retains its National Register eligibility.

The Original House

Local sources place Belle Alliance's date of construction at 1846, which is entirely plausible given the architectural evidence. Certainly the home's grandest feature is its colossal five bay front gallery, which embraces the entire facade. Here graceful rectangular pillars ascend to strong drip-molded capitals. These support a full entablature surmounted by a high parapet which obscures the system of hip roofs behind. This treatment gives the house a very finished and polished Greek Revival appearance. The entablature is also distinguished by a boldly formed row of dentils which are part of the cornice. Belle Alliance derives additional distinction from its stucco, which is scored to resemble cut and dressed stone. A wide flight of steps ascends to the front gallery, where the main entrance is set within a relatively massive aedicule motif with a transom and sidelights. Floorplans prepared at the time of the 1889 expansion indicate that the house also had a full length rear gallery at that time. A historic photograph taken before the expansion shows a one-story polygonal bay attached to one side of the house. (Because only one side of the building is visible in the image, it is not known whether this bay was duplicated on the home's other side.) This bay is believed to have been added some time after the original construction date. It was probably removed before the 1889 expansion, as it is not shown on the previously mentioned plans.

Both floors at Belle Alliance contain a relatively wide central hall with three rooms on each side. As was the case in many Louisiana plantation houses, the upper story is the principal floor where all of the formal rooms are found. The two forward rooms on the north side are joined by majestic pocket doors to form a double parlor. The height of the first story, which contains bedrooms and other secondary spaces, is considerably lower than that of the second floor.

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The principal story contains mainstream American Greek Revival features such as shoulder molded door and window surrounds. In the more formal rooms the shoulder moldings are capped by a drip molded cornice. In addition, these rooms also feature a heavy entablature below the ceiling. At one time each of the rooms in the double parlor had a black veiny marble aedicule-style mantel; one survives. Across the hall the formal front room features a black marble shoulder molded mantel. The room immediately behind it has a black aedicule-style mantel matching the surviving mantel in the double parlor. The upper story also has floor-length slip-head windows throughout (see below for fuller explanation). It is not known how many decorative ceiling medallions once existed on the principal story; one survives in the south formal front room. On the lower story three identical wooden aedicule style mantels survive. These feature an unusual scallop design in the entablature and the mantel shelf. At one time there was a fourth mantel but it has been lost.

The 1889 Renovation and Expansion (see attached floorplan)

As was mentioned previously, the house underwent a major building program in 1889. Surviving plans for this work identify the architect as Paul Andry. As in the original section, the upper story of the addition serves as the main living space. Wider than the original house, the addition consists of a range of relatively small rooms on each side with a wide single central space between. On the lower story the central space is open. On the upper story it takes the form of a large, almost baronial hall which apparently served as a dining room. Not quite square, the massive dining room measures twenty-six by twenty-eight feet. It features a high raised panel wainscot, a deep cove-molded ceiling, and a wide polygonal bay which opens onto a rear loggia where a stairway connects to the lower floor. The bay, which encompasses the entire rear wall, contains two large windows and a central three-part system of French doors. The openings feature decorative glazing bars in a lozenge pattern. The dining room culminates in a massive, intricately-made mantel which serves, in many ways, as the "altar" of the space. The lower portion is in the aedicule style but with extra visual energy given by the use of a decoratively encribed pillar and a free-standing fluted column on each side, both with composite order capitals. The undulating entablature is surmounted by a massive demilune overmantel with anthemion plant motifs and a central keystone. The demilune is inset with a central Rococo cartouche. This mantel/overmantel set should probably be viewed within the context of the Italianate taste, but it has an almost Beaux Arts monumentality.

Like the dining room, most of the side rooms of the addition's principal story have cove-molded ceilings (although somewhat deteriorated). A curious aspect of these

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secondary rooms is that they feature a great number of Greek Revival (looking) shoulder molded door and window surrounds. Indeed, these almost match their counterparts in the original house. The doors almost match also, although the hinges are late nineteenth century. Evidently, architect Andry elected to copy these details from the original house. The only significant difference is that in the older section the doors were false grained (since painted over), while in the addition they have a clear finish. Mantels in the upstairs side rooms are obviously of late nineteenth century vintage, mostly Eastlake. Another curious feature is the presence of Greek Revival (looking) aedicule style mantels in two downstairs side rooms. All of the mantels in the side rooms are set within corner fireplaces.

Equally curious is the addition's exterior. It duplicates the rusticated block, entablature, and parapet treatment of the earlier house to the point that it is virtually indistinguishable from the home's original Greek Revival architecture. Here, too, the architect evidently chose to copy the original detailing. Andry also installed a primitive cast iron I-beam to support the rear loggia, along with two cast iron columns. Another pair of cast iron columns supports the polygonal bay of the dining room. Apparently the architect also repaired the front gallery with the same type of cast iron I-beams to support the front parapet. Finally, the tie rods that are anchored into the front gallery pillars with decorative tie-bar ends also date from this period.

The 1889 building program also incorporated various changes to the original house, including the addition of a flamboyant Italianate archway in the main floor's central hall, the installation of a fairly large leaded and stained glass skylight in the hall's ceiling, and the replacement of the original front entrance transom and sidelights with decoratively etched leaded glass. An important change was the removal of a staircase which occupied the upper and lower narrow north rear corner rooms. This alteration was made to accommodate the installation of a bathroom in the resulting space on the upper floor. A second bath was added in the narrow rear corner room across the upper hall. In addition, a flue was added in the upper central hall to service a decorative parlor stove which no longer survives. However, the most notable change was the addition of side galleries to the original house. Each is a two-stage affair with heavy stuccoed brick piers below and iron poles above supporting a lean-to galvanized iron roof. The gallery floor connects with the original front gallery, but the roofing system is recessed, thus allowing the original Greek Revival front gallery to dominate. In addition, the iron roofs are attached to the building below the entablature line, a factor which lowers their profile. The upper side galleries feature decorative cast-iron scrollwork brackets, screens between each bracket, and balustrades. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 4

balustrades on the side and front galleries match. The previously mentioned pre-renovation photograph shows the original balustrade on the front gallery and, thus, indicates that architect Andry copied it for the 1889 galleries.

The construction of the side galleries raises an interesting question concerning the previously mentioned slip-head windows in the original main story. It is clear that they are original to the earlier period of construction, and those on the building's sides match in every respect those which open onto the (original) front gallery. Yet if the 1889 expansion plans are to be believed (and there is no reason not to), there was a period of over fifty years in which the side slip-head windows opened onto nothing, and there is no evidence of any interior bar or balustrade to keep people from falling out. The consensus opinion among architectural historians who have studied Belle Alliance is that originally these slip-head windows must have been fitted with some kind of exterior iron railing which was removed when the side galleries were built.

Other Alterations

As previously mentioned, Belle Alliance has experienced little deliberate alteration since the work completed in 1889. In fact, the only non-historic change of note has been a modernization of the two bathrooms added to the c. 1846 section. The house is currently undergoing restoration to repair the deterioration and losses of materials cited in the above narrative. As part of this work, cabinets located in one of the 1889 side rooms (formerly used as a pantry) have been removed, as have the damaged plaster walls within some of the 1889 side rooms.

Assessment of Integrity

None of the non-historic or the current restoration work has had a significant impact upon Belle Alliance's architectural character. And despite the modifications and additions made in 1889, the house remains a superb example of the Greek Revival style. Although the loss of the interior staircase which occurred at that time is regrettable, the other interior changes have not significantly impacted the older portion's strong Greek Revival character. Furthermore, the design of the 1889 side galleries ensures that they do not unduly detract from the grand Greek Revival facade, and the exterior of the rear addition copies in almost all respects the Greek Revival treatment of the 1846 main block. Because the house is a rare landmark within Assumption Parish, and a very rare example of the Greek Revival style within that context, Belle Alliance ranks as an outstanding candidate for National Register listing.

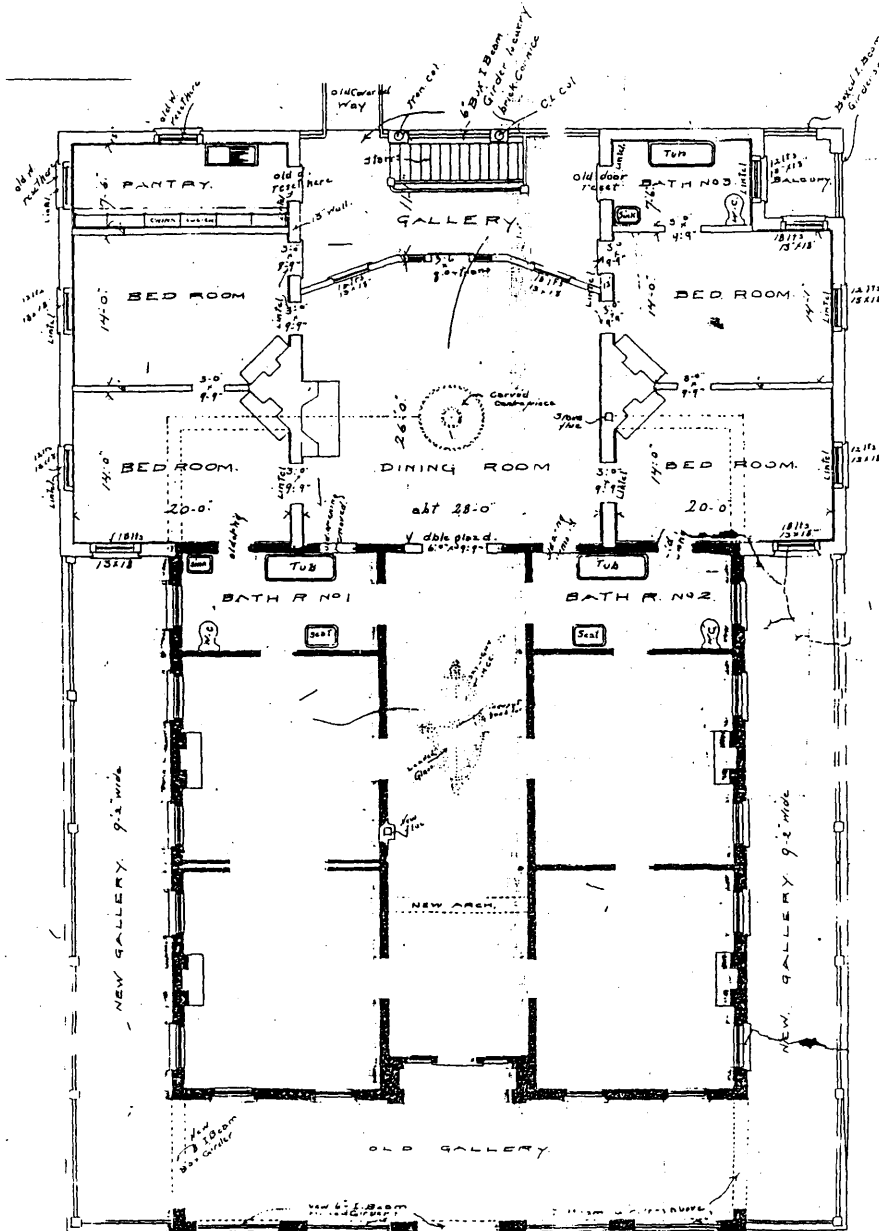
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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BELLE ALLIANCE
1889 Renovation Plans
Paul Andry, Architect

Upper Floor



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.
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" 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

c. 1846

1889

Significant Dates

c. 1846

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

1889 portion: Paul Andry

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):

- 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
X recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # not assigned
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:

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 8 Page 1

Belle Alliance is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark within the architectural patrimony of Assumption Parish. It is also significant as a rare surviving example of the Greek Revival plantation houses which once dotted the parish's landscape.

Architectural Significance as a Parish Landmark

Assumption is one of Louisiana's older parishes, having been legally established in 1807. Its early population consisted of persons of French, Spanish, Acadian, and German descent. This mixture was expanded by the addition of Anglo-Americans after Louisiana became, first a territory (1803), and finally a state within the United States (1812). Agriculture has always been the parish's economic mainstay, with sugar cane the dominant crop. Perhaps because of its rural focus, Assumption has never developed large communities. The small town of Napoleonville is the only place of any size, and its population is only 802.

Despite its long history, Assumption Parish has few real architectural landmarks. The Division of Historic Preservation's Standing Structures Survey for the parish records approximately 2,000 buildings defined as historic (50 years old or more). According to survey records, the vast majority of Assumption's residences are small Creole cottages, shotguns, bungalows, and simple versions of Queen Anne Revival and Eastlake cottages. A handful of the latter display well-developed gallery decoration, and a few houses have projecting Queen Anne bays. Nevertheless, most of the parish's domestic architecture can only be described as undistinguished. The survey also shows that, for the most part, the region's commercial buildings also fall into the undistinguished category. Against this background the parish's few landmark buildings assume added importance. These include one otherwise simple cottage whose major feature is a large octagonal turret reflecting the influence of the Queen Anne Revival style, a handful of architecturally important churches, two historic school buildings (one a restrained version of the Beaux Arts style, the other displaying a restrained Neo-Classical design), a small Neo-Classical style bank, two Romanesque commercial buildings, an Italian villa style parish courthouse with its accompanying Italianate jail, and two major antebellum Greek Revival plantation houses found along Bayou Lafourche. These dwellings are Madewood (National Register) and Belle Alliance.

Belle Alliance is also architecturally significant because the dining room in the 1889 addition is believed to be by far the finest late nineteenth century interior in the

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 8 Page 2

parish. The only other possibility for an interior as impressive as the dining room would be the parish courthouse, but here the public spaces were never richly styled. Nothing can rival the dining room at Belle Alliance for its impressive scale, elaborate wainscoting, intricate Queen Anne Revival glazing and, above all, its well-detailed and monumental Italianate mantel. This mantel/overmantel set has the presence and scale which one would expect to find in a grand hotel lobby of the period rather than in a rural plantation house.

Architectural Significance as a Rare Surviving Example of the Greek Revival Style

Like the economies of other Louisiana sugar parishes, that of Assumption Parish boomed in the thirty or so years prior to the Civil War. Sugar planters were among the wealthiest of the wealthy, building fine residences to reflect their standing. Almost all of the houses they built were in the wildly popular Greek Revival style. The number of major Greek Revival plantation houses produced during this architectural "flowering" will never be known exactly, although the census schedules for 1860 provide clues. On the eve of the Civil War, there were forty-five large slave holdings in Assumption Parish. Of this number, sixteen involved plantations with over one hundred slaves; the other twenty-nine had between fifty and one hundred slaves each. Only two of the forty-five holdings involved individuals who did not reside in the parish. Given the foregoing, it is clear that Bayou Lafourche, the parish's major waterway, was once lined with plantation houses, which for the most part would have been in the Greek Revival style. Today, however, only Belle Alliance and Madewood remain.

Historical Note

According to tradition, the plantation known as Belle Alliance came into existence when German immigrant Charles Kock combined three smaller Bayou Lafourche plantations into a seven thousand acre holding some time before 1846. According to tradition, a fire destroyed the original house in that year; the candidate was erected on the location of the first house at that time. By 1860 the extremely prosperous Kock family owned 176 slaves. Although Kock died in that year, his heirs managed to retain ownership of Belle Alliance until 1915. It was Kock's son James who expanded the home in 1889, hiring Paul Andry (presumably of what would become the New Orleans firm of Andry & Bendernagel) as his architect. By 1926 C. Stewart Churchill managed the property, of which he and partner Dubourg Thibaut became owners in 1944. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill lived in the home, gradually repairing and improving it over the next

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**United States Department of the Interior
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several years. After their deaths family members continued in residence until 1985. The property eventually came under the ownership of the Evan Belle Corporation, which sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Grieve in 1998. The Grieves are restoring the house as a tax act project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andry, Paul. Drawings entitled *Additions to Residence of James P. Kock, Sq. Situated at Belle Alliance Plantation, La.*; copy in National Register file.

Baton Rouge *State Times*, September 19, 1949; May 1, 1952.

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Standing Structures Survey of Assumption Parish.

Historic American Buildings Survey Drawings of Belle Alliance, Fall 1997; copy in National Register file.

Historic photograph of Belle Alliance taken before 1889 expansion and renovation; copy in National Register file.

Menn, Joseph K. *The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana, 1860*. Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, 1976.

Price, C. W., Jr. "Mansion Is Second Building to Stand On Lafourche Site," article from April 21, 1939 issue of newspaper identified only as "*Progress*;" copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Belle Alliance
Name of property

Assumption Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.98 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 689620 3326380

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 August 1998

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 Mr. and Mrs. Philip Grieve

street & number 351 Jackson Avenue, #3B telephone (228) 688-1494 work
(504) 624-9830 home

city or town Mandeville state LA zip code 70448

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

**United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Boundary Description:

That certain lot or tract of land, together with all buildings and other improvements thereon, located in Section 71, Township 12 South, Range 14 East, Assumption Parish West of the Mississippi River, Southeastern Land District, State of Louisiana, on the left descending bank of Bayou Lafourche, in the First Ward of said Parish, in the settlement commonly known as Belle Alliance, and shown on that map of survey made by Cletus Langlois, R.L.S., of Patin Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., dated December 10, 1997, entitled "Plat Showing the Removal of Lots 1-A, 1-B, 2-A, 2-B, 3-A, 3-B, 4-A, 4-B, 5-A & 5-B from Belle Alliance Plantation for Evan Belle Corporation," a copy of which map is on file and of record in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Assumption Parish in COB 204, as Entry No. 186159, as **LOT 4-A**; said Lot 4-A measuring 355 feet, more or less, front on the southerly side of the right of way of Louisiana Highway 308 South, by a depth between parallel lines of 732.32 feet, more or less on its westerly side, and 737.39 feet, more or less, on its easterly side, and containing approximately 5.98 acres, together with all rights, ways, privileges and servitudes thereon and thereto belonging and appertaining, which is more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a 1/2" diameter iron pipe at the intersection of the easterly right of way limits of Louisiana Highway 308 and the southerly right of way limits of Massey Lane, also being the Northeast Corner of Tract 2 now or formerly of William Thibault; thence North 37°55'16" East along said right of way limits a distance of 878.18 feet to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe; thence North 38°02'14" East along said right of way a distance of 353.01 feet to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe, being the Northwest Corner of Lot 4-A, which point is the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue North 38°02'14" East a distance of 355.00 feet along said right of way of Louisiana Highway 308, to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe and corner; thence South 54°26'12" East a distance of 737.39 feet to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe and corner; thence South 38°51'24" West a distance of 355.00 feet to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe and corner; thence North 54°27'24" West a distance of 732.32 feet to a placed 1/2" diameter iron pipe on the easterly right of way limits of Louisiana Highway 308 and the Point of Beginning.

CONTINUED

Belle Alliance

Name of property

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

Assumption Parish, LA

County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 2

Boundary Description, continued:

The above-described tract or parcel of land is bounded as follows:
Northerly by right of way of Louisiana Highway 308; Easterly by Lot 5-A
(Belle Alliance Plantation); Southerly by the remainder of Belle Alliance
Plantation; and Westerly by Lot 3-A (Belle Alliance Plantation);

Boundary Justification:

Belle Alliance plantation has been subdivided, making it impossible to follow historic
property lines. The 5.98 parcel described above recognizes the home's immediate
historic setting. Hence current property lines are appropriate boundaries.