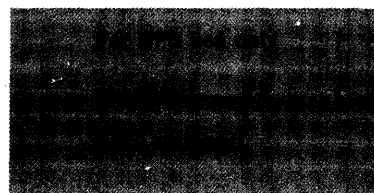


EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



982

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

1. Name

historic Darby House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 102 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baldwin N/A vicinity of congressional district

state LA code 22 parish St. Mary code 101

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Mary Bank and Trust Company Attention: W. McKerral O'Niell, Jr., President

street & number P. O. Box 537

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of state LA 70538

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (P. O. Drawer 1231)

city, town Franklin state LA 70538

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate           N/A          

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Darby House (c.1827) is a classic example of Louisiana French colonial style architecture. Although it was once the center of a 1386 acre sugar plantation, the house is now set in a residential area at the head of a long narrow lawn in the center of the small town of Baldwin. The Darby House has suffered some cosmetic alterations, but these are not unusual in a house of that age. In addition, most of the alterations could be easily reversed.

The house is a pure example of the Creole influence. Creole features include:

1. The Creole plan on each floor with three rooms across the front and two small cabinet rooms to the rear on each side of an open gallery,
2. The raising of the main living level of bousillage construction above a service basement of solid brick masonry walls, all surmounted by a steep single hip roof.
3. Typical Creole fenestration:
  - a. Batten shutters and doors mounted on heavy strap hinges and secured by large wrought iron hooks.
  - b. Glazed 12-light French doors on the main living level.
  - c. Unusually beaded double hung window sashes.
4. Other features favored by the Creoles include its:
  - a. Chamfered second floor columns with lambs' tongues.
  - b. Fireplaces located in the center of the floor plan.
  - c. The lack of focus on a "main" or entrance door.
  - d. Curved brackets or "outlookers" extending the roofline to form an overhang.
  - e. Wraparound mantels.

Darby is structurally quite sound, showing little evidence of damage, stress, or irregular subsidence after its approximately 150 years of existence, and probable continuous occupation. One strong possibility yet undocumented is that the entire building has settled into the earth six to ten inches, thus contributing to the "low ceiling" condition downstairs. Another foundation problem situation is the increased level of moisture in the lower brick walls due to the installation of concrete floor slabs throughout the downstairs.

The original main living level (second floor) is in remarkable condition, retaining:

1. Six of eight pairs of glazed French doors.
2. Two of two or possibly three original fireplace mantels.
3. Three of ten pairs of beaded batten doors converted c.1850 to "panel" doors.
4. All original floors.
5. Most original window sashes.
6. All bousillage intact but a small portion of one wall,

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

Darby House

Item number 7

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## 7. Description (cont'd)

7. All original beaded beams and overboards.
8. Eight of ten original chamfered colonnettes, with eight out of nine bays of original top handrail with very old (c.1840) lower rails and banisters.
9. All of the original beaded weatherboard in good condition (the greatest rarity of all).

Original features absent on the second floor:

1. All original window batten shutters, seven pairs of door battens, and their strap hinges.
2. The two rear porch colonnettes.

The raised basement on the first floor is in less original condition than the upper floor, having some of its original surfaces obscured by twentieth century coverings.\*\* Original features include:

1. All exposed beaded beams and overboards.
2. All but fifteen feet of its original masonry walls.
3. Six of eight original batten doors.
4. Some original window sashes.

Original features absent on ground level:

1. All window batten shutters and their hinges.
2. Two rear gallery masonry columns.
3. An entire window treatment in the location now occupied by the "drive-in" window.

The original building fabric which has been lost was listed above. It should be noted that this is an unusually small amount of loss given the age of the house.

The original setting of the Darby House has been lost, but this is the case with many Louisiana plantation houses. Although an open rural setting would have contributed to the appreciation of the plantation house, it should not be considered a major factor in its architectural significance.

\*\*Actually the entire original rear facade of the house has been obscured by an early-twentieth century lean-to extension. It should be noted that the original architectural fabric remains almost completely intact behind the addition. The extension is easily removable without harming the original structure. Indeed, at the time of this submission, work is in progress to accomplish this goal.

# 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. 1827 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Darby House is nationally significant in the area of architecture as one of the nation's finest examples of Louisiana French colonial style architecture. It is being nominated for significance on the national level because it is a classic example of a nationally recognized style found in limited numbers exclusively in one state and because it represents one of four or five major colonial architectural traditions indigenous to the United States. Though many houses were built similar to it in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, few of these have survived.\* The most famous of these "survivors" is Parlange (N.H.L.). In addition, Darby is further distinguished by its intactness and purity.

Features which make Darby a classic example of the Louisiana French colonial style include:

- (1) its flared hip roof;
- (2) its chamfered upper gallery columns;
- (3) its stucco over brick circular lower gallery columns;
- (4) its large hall-less cabinet plan;
- (5) its use of bousillage on the upper story;
- (6) its use of French doors, exposed beaded beams, and wraparound mantels; and
- (7) its placement of chimneys against the interior partition walls.

The Darby House is especially significant because most examples of French colonial influenced architecture in Louisiana also bear some imprint from the Anglo-American architectural tradition (exterior chimney, central hall, central front door, Adams mantels, etc.). Darby is different because it is a pure example of the French colonial style. Unlike many houses built by Creoles in the nineteenth century in Louisiana, it shows virtually no Anglo-American influenced features.

Finally, Darby is also significant because it is remarkably intact (as described in Item 7). Most of the state's surviving examples of the French colonial style have suffered considerable alteration and deterioration through the years.

\*Although Louisiana has not been completely surveyed, it is apparent from the survey material presently compiled that in all likelihood fewer than thirty (30) first-rate examples of large French colonial style plantation houses remain in the state.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Title Search, St. Mary Parish Conveyance Records.

Louisiana: A Guide to the State. Compiled by the W.P.A., 1941.

Stahls, Paul F., Jr. Plantation Homes of the Teche Country. Gretna: Pelican Publishing Company, 1979.

CONTINUED

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property @ 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name Jeanerette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

### UMT References

A 

1	5	6	4	0	6	9	0	3	3	0	1	4	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map and continuation sheet.

### 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 Robert E. Smith and Mrs. Harold H. Dinkins

organization N/A

date July 22, 1981

street & number Route 2, Box 1220

telephone 318-332-2852

city or town Anse la Butte

state LA 70517

## 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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



date 8-11-82

Keeper of the National Register

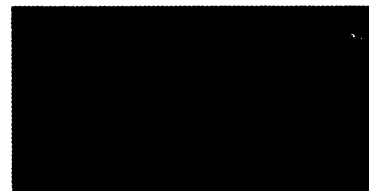
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Darby House

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9

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9. Bibliography (Continued)

Overdyke, W. Darrell. Louisiana Plantation Homes, Colonial and Antebellum. New York:  
Architectural Book Publishing Company, Inc., 1965.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Darby House

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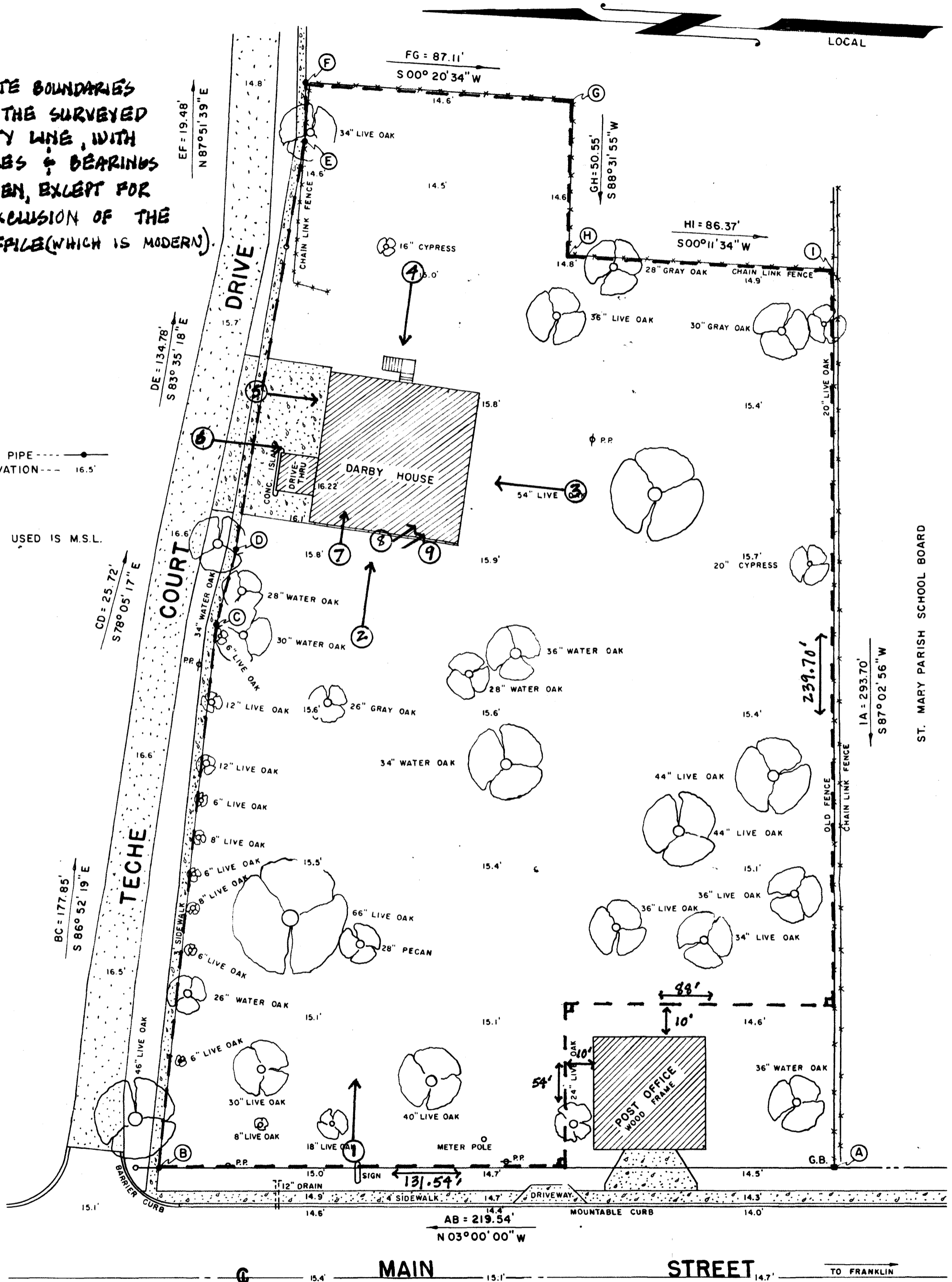
## 10. Verbal boundary justification:

The large lot on which Darby stands was included in the nominated area almost in toto because Darby was originally the center of a 1386 acre sugar plantation, and the present wooded lot conveys a measure of this one-time rural setting (See Photo 1). The post office was excluded because it is a modern building.

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES FOLLOW THE SURVEYED PROPERTY LINE, WITH DISTANCES & BEARINGS AS GIVEN, EXCEPT FOR THE EXCLUSION OF THE POST OFFICE (WHICH IS MODERN).

LEGEND: IRON PIPE --- ELEVATION --- 16.5'

NOTE: DATUM USED IS M.S.L.



MILLER ENGINEERS & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS  
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA  
*Glenn E. Miller*  
GLENN E. MILLER - L.S. NO. 4377  
OCTOBER 1, 1981

SCALE: 1" = 30'

**PLAN OF LAND**  
SHOWING PROPERTY OF  
**THE ST. MARY BANK & TRUST COMPANY**  
BEING TRACT  
SITUATED IN  
THE TOWN OF BALDWIN  
ST. MARY PARISH, LOUISIANA

DRAWING NO. 6154

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD