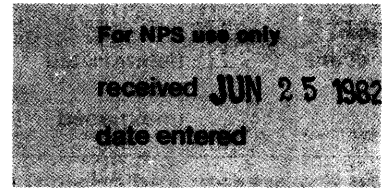


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Blanchard House

and/or common also known as Cordelia

2. Location

street & number @-2 miles ^W west of Boyce on Bayou Jean de Jean N/A not for publication

city, town Boyce ^W vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 county Rapides Parish code 079

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" 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 Ella James Keppinger

street & number Route 1, Box 20

city, town Boyce vicinity of state LA 71409

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray St., P. O. Box 952

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1948</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Blanchard House (1891) is in northern Rapides Parish on Bayou Jean de Jean, near the town of Boyce. It is a substantial one-story frame rural residence with a modified hip roof and a side wing. There is no appropriate stylistic label for the house. Aside from the 1948 move, the house has undergone few changes through the years.

The house was moved in 1948. Its proximity to the bayou and the construction of a levee in the early twentieth century left it on a flood plain. After the flood of 1945, it had to be moved to a higher part of the plantation about one quarter of a mile from its original location in order to be saved. However, since it was moved such a short distance, it is still in the same area and the setting is similar in character to the original. The house still retains the full measure of its historical associations.

The 1891 frame and clapboard house was built from locally cut pine. It has a wide central hall plan with double parlors and a two room side wing. Until recently the wing was separated from the house by an open corridor. This has been closed in. The house has an unusual roof configuration which takes the form of a hip roof with a flat top and chamfered corner. Each facade of the roof has a large central gable with an extra gable on the rear. The right side gable is extended out 40 feet from the house to encompass the side wing. A gallery encompasses the entire entrance facade.

The wide central hall has a heavy cornice, a high chair rail, and vertical board wainscotting below. The living room and the dining room have cornices which were recently added. The two rooms are connected by a pair of sliding paneled doors. The dining room has a wainscotting treatment similar to the hall. Both the dining room and the hall have cabinets framed with pilasters and aedicule motifs.

All of the original pine floors remain, as do all the paneled doors. All the ground floor windows extend to the floor, with the exception of the windows in the rear. All of the gables have long inset windows. All of the windows are capped with decorative molded lintels. The front and rear doors, which occur at each end of the central hall, have transoms and side lights decorated with pilasters which are similar to the ones in the interior cabinets. The gallery has square posts with molded bases and capitals surmounted by an entablature with double brackets.

Aside from the aforementioned move, the house has undergone few changes over the years. Changes include the above mentioned closed-in corridor and cornices, the installation of bathrooms and closets, and the removal of some canvas wall covering. None of these changes has significantly affected the house's appearance or visual identity.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Blanchard's period of productivity vis à vis his associations with the house: c.1890–c.1915

Specific dates House built in 1891, **Builder/Architect** Builder: Newton Crain Blanchard

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion B

The Blanchard House is of state significance in the area of politics/government because of its association with Newton Crain Blanchard, who served Louisiana as a United States Congressman, United States Senator, Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice, and governor. Because the house is the only extant residence associated with a historic personage of statewide importance, it is being nominated for significance at the state level.

The house was built in 1891 by Blanchard, who was at that time a United States Congressman. At about the same time he began construction on an elaborate Queen Anne house in Shreveport, which was destroyed in the 1930's. Apparently the present house was his country residence while the Shreveport house was his primary residence. However, since the Shreveport structure is no longer extant, the present house, as far as can be determined, is the only extant residence associated with Governor Blanchard.

There is no question that Blanchard was a prominent political figure in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Louisiana. In 1880 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served in this capacity until he was appointed as United States Senator in 1894. From 1897 until 1903 Blanchard was an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He served as governor of the state from 1904 until 1908.

As governor, Blanchard is, generally speaking, regarded as a reformer. Outstanding reforms accomplished during his administration include considerable progress in education, the enactment of the direct primary, a reduction in gubernatorial patronage, and the enactment of various conservation measures.

Of these, Blanchard's accomplishments in the area of education are the most significant. It must be remembered that education had been largely neglected in late nineteenth century Louisiana and the illiteracy rate was extremely high. Although Blanchard was not able to solve this problem, at least the beginnings of change can be seen in his administration. For example, under Blanchard and Superintendent of Education James B. Aswell, appropriations for public schools increased from \$1.5 million in 1904 to \$3.5 million in 1908, which made it possible for 66,000 more children to be enrolled. Another example is the requirement of stricter standards for teacher certification. Despite this progress, the school system was still far from adequate. However, the situation in 1908 (after Blanchard left office) was far better than it had been in 1900.

Blanchard's last public service was as president of the 1913 Louisiana Constitutional Convention. He died in 1922.

Upon Blanchard's death, his daughter, Ethel Blanchard Smith, inherited the Blanchard House. She sold it to DeWitt James, and the present owner purchased it from the James family in 1969.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property @.13 acre

Quadrangle name Boyce, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	5	2	8	4	3	0	3	4	7	1	8	4	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

See attached sketch map.

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 Ella James Keppinger

organization N/A date December 1980

street & number Route 1, Box 20 telephone 318-793-2474

city or town Boyce state LA 71409

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.

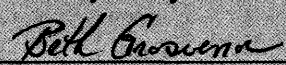
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 15, 1982

For NPS use only

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


for Keeper of the National Register date 7/22/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

9. Bibliography

Research Report on Blanchard House Prepared by Owner, Ella James Keppinger.
Report based on interviews with Blanchard family members and others,
primary sources, and secondary sources. Located in Blanchard House
National Register file, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

Shively, Hazel. "The Political Career of Newton Crain Blanchard." M. A. thesis,
LSU, 1945.

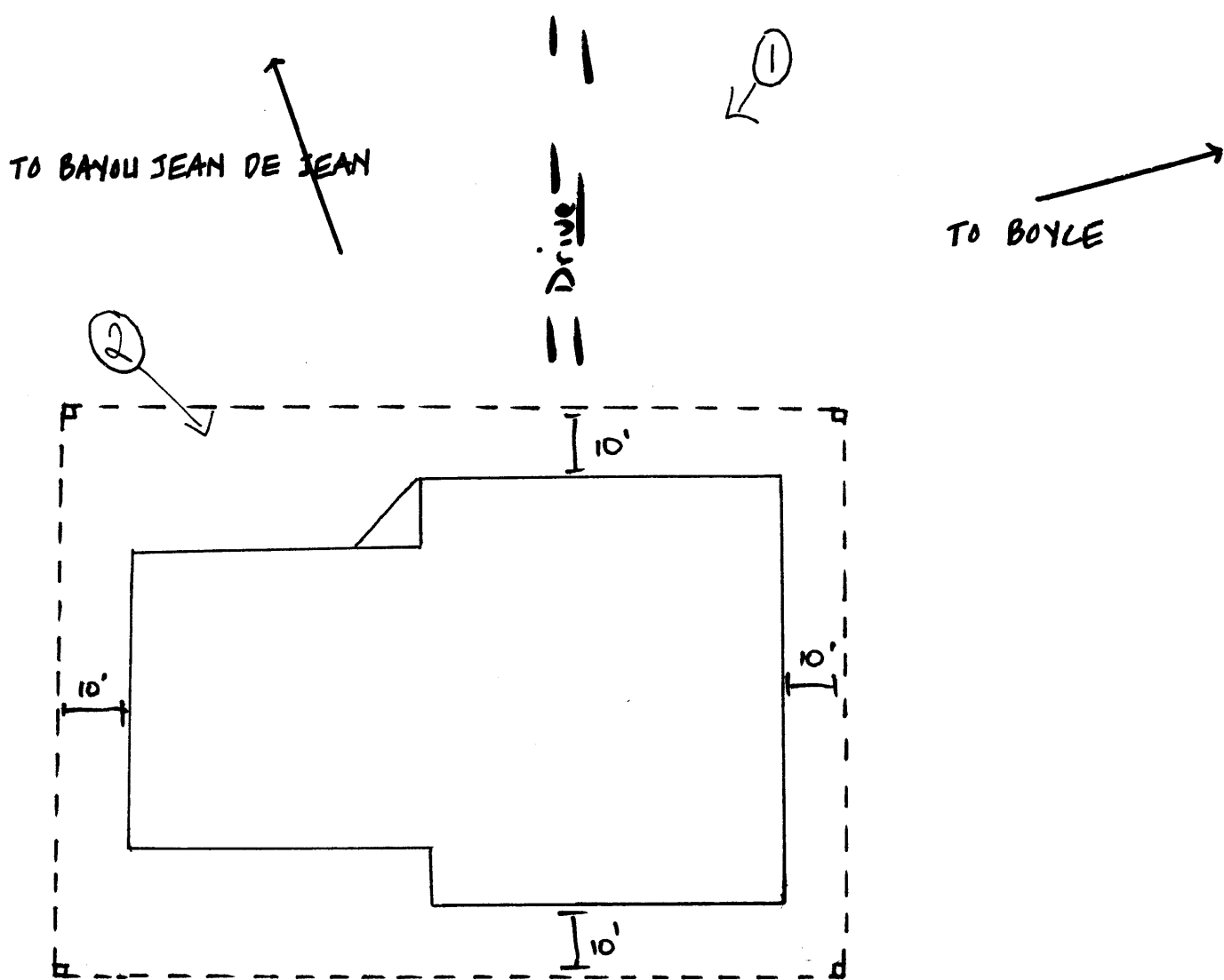
Taylor, Joe Gray. Louisiana: A Bicentennial History. New York: W. W. Norton
and Company, 1976.

Shreveport Times, May 15, 1977.

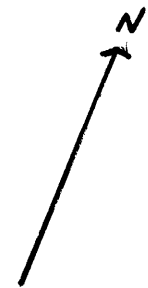
Rapides Parish Conveyance Records, Rapides Parish Courthouse, Alexandria

20

Blanchard House



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL
BLDG. FACADES AT DISTANCES
SHOWN.



SCALE 1" = 20' APPROX.