

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 2 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1979

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

Richland Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

same

LOCATION

5 W of Norwood on LA 442

STREET & NUMBER

La. Hwy 442

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Norwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF

6th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

East Feliciana

CODE

037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jack R Jones, M.D.

STREET & NUMBER

Richland Plantation

CITY, TOWN

Norwood

STATE

X VICINITY OF

Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

East Feliciana Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

___FEDERAL X STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Richland is set on one of the highest points of land in East Feliciana Parish, from which it commands an impressive view of the surrounding rolling farmland. There are no outbuildings standing. There are no intrusions in view of the plantation house, and as a result the essential character of its setting remains intact. The front lawn is encompassed by two broad parteres formed of clipped hedges, which are separated by the central front path. To the rear of the house are groves of trees and a family cemetery.

The house itself faces south and has a central hall plan with double rooms on each side. This plan occurs on the first and second floors with one room on each side of the hall on the garret third floor. The chimneys and fireplaces are arranged in a way that might be expected in one of the larger Federal period farmhouses along the eastern seaboard. The first and second floor rooms have fireplaces, and all fireplaces are set against the side walls of the house.

Each side wall has a pair of chimneys symmetrically set and terminating in a Federal double chimney gable with gable parapet and central lunet. The front portion of the central hall on each floor is wider on the east side, to accommodate a graceful three-quarter turn winding stair. There is a large double parlor on the west side of the hall which appears to have been two separate rooms at one time. Although this is not evidenced by the floor boards, a beam cuts the long room in half, and cuts through the cornice, suggesting that at one time it may have been partitioned. Today it is one room. Two bathrooms have been created (one on the second floor and one on the third floor) by partitioning off one end of the central hall. But the partitioning was done with sensitivity in terms of moldings, doors, and materials. (Two parlor doors from the ground floor were apparently installed in the second floor bathroom). So the work had no dramatic effect upon the second and third floors or upon the ground floor.

The present owners added a one story wing on the east side which contains a kitchen, den, bathroom, and family room. Because the wing is constructed with brick pillars and shallow pitch roofs, it blends in well with the old house. In addition the wing is low in scale and consequently does not interfere with the massing of the building.

The house is constructed of brick bearing walls with pit sawn joists approximately 18" on center.

Although the gable ends of the house are articulated in Federal style, many of the other features of the house were inspired by the Greek Revival. These include the handsome Tuscan colossal order pedimented portico, the rear pedimented and pillard vestibule, the dormers, and the exterior walls whose stucco is scored to resemble cut stone. The doors are large with two vertical panels and the door frames have simple molded boards with corner blocks. Each mantel is of wood with pilaster strips, an entablature, and a molded shelf. The double parlor mantels are replaced with more elaborate examples from the period.

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 1830's (?) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Elias Norwood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richland plantation is one of the finest plantation houses in the Feliciana parishes. This can be seen in its wide central hall plan, its graceful winding stair, its colossal Tuscan order portico, its cut stone appearance and its other classical features. The pedimented portico is particularly well proportioned, and is a relatively unusual feature in the grander Louisiana plantation houses, where the peripteral style predominated.

In addition, the chimney gable ends, like the 2½ story design and the floor plan, mark Richland as a house built distinctly under the English influence of the east coast rather than the Creole or French tradition. It therefore stands as an excellent representative of English cultural heritage of the Feliciana parishes.

One of the earliest settlers in the area of the present-day town of Norwood in East Feliciana Parish was Major Sam Norwood, who arrived about 1806 with his six children, having migrated from South Carolina. They settled in the area of the Comite River and Richland Creek, in the vicinity of what was to become Richland Plantation.¹ According to numerous secondary sources the builder of the house at Richland was the Major's son Elias Norwood. The date of construction that is usually given is 1820, but since so early a date seems inconsistent with the home's architecture, it seems likely that an 1820 house was built and subsequently replaced by the present house, probably in the 1830's.²

Elias Norwood is listed in the 1820 Census as head of a household consisting of two adults (including himself) and three small children. In addition, he owned 17 slaves. His name also appears in an 1823 list of taxables for Feliciana Parish. By 1830 he was head of a household of six adults and five children and 65 slaves. In 1840 the figures were three adults, two children, and 91 slaves. There were 55 people employed in agriculture. It appears that Norwood's plantation was prospering.³

In 1845 Elias Norwood died, and his widow Catherine Chandler Norwood and their son Abel J. Norwood took over management of the plantation. Many years later, in the early 1880's, Abel Norwood, who was both a planter and a businessman, earned the title of "founder of the town of Norwood" by giving 75 acres of land and a right of way through his property to the railroad in return for the railroad men's agreement that all passing trains would stop in the town.⁴

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Capitol Region Planning Commission, Historical Landmarks in the Capitol Region: Land Use Report 2A, July 1973.

Census of 1850, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish. Agriculture Census; Population Schedule; Slave Schedule.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 25 acres

UTM REFERENCES

<u>DN</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>688200</u>	<u>3430400</u>	<u>AE</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>688500</u>	<u>3430400</u>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
<u>BC</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>688500</u>	<u>3430060</u>	<u>CE</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>688200</u>	<u>3430060</u>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries, which are intended to encompass the house and its rural setting, includes a square which extends 700 ft. from the house in each of the cardinal points of the compass.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. [redacted] and Mrs. Jack R. Jones

ORGANIZATION

DATE

November 3, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Richland Plantation

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Norwood

Louisiana

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

[Signature]

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-8-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE

3-28-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

3-27-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Catherine Norwood is listed in the 1850 Census as being 53 years old and owning \$103,000 worth of real estate. Two of her children were living with her. Abel J. Norwood, 32 years old and owner of \$51,333 worth of real estate, was head of the household next door. Figures under Catherine's name in the 1850 Agriculture Census and Slave Schedule indicate something about Richland in this era. The plantation consisted of 1300 acres, of which 800 were improved. She owned \$3340 worth of livestock, including 150 sheep and 200 swine. During the previous year, the plantation had produced 4000 bushels of corn, 2000 bushels of oats, 100 bales of cotton (400-pound bales), 300 pounds of wool, 1000 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 1250 pounds of butter. In 1850 Mrs. Norwood owned 109 slaves.⁵

By 1860 most of these figures had increased. Mrs. Norwood now owned 3000 acres, of which 1000 were improved. She owned \$115,000 worth of real estate and \$235,000 worth of personal property. There was \$7500 worth of livestock on hand including 200 sheep, 200 swine, and 210 cattle. The year before the plantation had produced 4000 bushels of corn, 275 bales of cotton (400-pound bales), and 2000 bushels of sweet potatoes. She owned 106 slaves, who resided in 24 slave dwellings.⁶

Mrs. Norwood survived the war. According to the 1870 Census, she was 72 years old and owned \$10,000 in real estate. She listed her occupation as "keeping house." Living with her was her grandson Joseph E. Norwood, a 31-year-old "farmer," the son of Abel J. Norwood.⁷

Mrs. Norwood probably died in the 1870's. Richland was inherited by her daughter Mary Eleanor, who was married to Dr. Lewis G. Perkins, a physician and also a prominent planter in his own right. For a time Dr. and Mrs. Perkins lived at Richland, and the house remained in the hands of the Perkins family until 1920, when it was sold to Walter Cline. The house changed hands several more times until 1955, when it was purchased by Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense in the Eisenhower Administration. A magazine article from 1955 states, "The defense secretary's growing interest in plantation life turned into real enthusiasm last autumn when he was the hunting guest of Gov. Kennon. His interest was shared by Mrs. Wilson and in late March they announced plans to acquire the stately mansion." The present owners bought Richland from Wilson's estate in 1962.⁸

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NOTES

¹H. Skipwith, East Feliciana, Louisiana, Past and Present: Sketches of the Pioneers (New Orleans: Hopkins' Printing Office, 1892; Reprinted by Claitor's Book Store), p. 47.

²W. Darrell Overdyke, Louisiana Plantation Homes: Colonial and Antebellum (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1965), p. 162; Capital Region Planning Commission, Historical Landmarks in the Capital Region: Land Use Report No. 2A (July 1973), p. 22, hereinafter cited as Landmarks of the Capital Region; Zelma Engelhardt, "The House That Charlie Wilson Bought," Dixie, Times-Picayune States Roto Magazine, 15 May 1955, p. 7, hereinafter cited as Engelhardt, "House That Wilson Bought."

³Census of 1820, Louisiana, Feliciana Parish, Population Schedule, p. 57; 1823 List of Taxables in Mamie A. Rouzan, History of East Feliciana Parish Courthouse, booklet in Louisiana Room, LSU Library, Baton Rouge; Census of 1830, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish, Population Schedule, p. 206; Census of 1840, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish, Population Schedule, p. 18.

⁴East Feliciana Parish: 1924-1974, undated printed booklet, no publisher indicated, unpaginated, located in Louisiana Room, LSU Library, Baton Rouge, hereinafter cited as East Feliciana Parish.

⁵Census of 1850, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish, Population Schedule, p. 453; Agriculture Census, 11th page for East Feliciana Parish; Slave Schedule, unpaginated.

⁶Joseph K. Menn, The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana--1860 (New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Co., 1964), pp. 220-221.

⁷Census of 1870, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish, Population Schedule, p. 377.

⁸Landmarks of the Capital Region, p. 22; East Feliciana Parish; Engelhardt, "House That Wilson Bought," p. 7.

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Census of 1840, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish. Population Schedule.

Census of 1870, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish. Population Schedule.

Census of 1830, Louisiana, East Feliciana Parish. Population Schedule.

Census of 1820, Louisiana, Feliciana Parish. Population Schedule.

East Feliciana Parish: 1824-1974. Undated printed booklet, no publisher indicated,
located in Louisiana Room, LSU Library, Baton Rouge.

Engelhardt, Zelma, "The House That Charlie Wilson Bought," Dixie, Times-Picayune
States Roto Magazine, 15 May 1955, pp. 6-9.

Menn, Joseph K., The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana--1860. New Orleans: Pelican
Publishing Co., 1964.

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

Rouzan, Mamie A., History of East Feliciana Parish Courthouse. Booklet in
Louisiana Room, LSU Library, Baton Rouge.

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New Orleans: Hopkins' Printing Office, 1892. Reprinted by Claitor's Book Store.