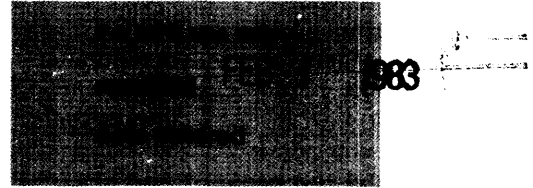


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Olivier Pigeonnier

and/or common same

2. Location

SW of Breaux Bridge off LA 94

street & number on grounds of Henri Penne House, off Hwy. 94 @ 1 mile N/A not for publication
west southwest of Breaux Bridge

city, town Breaux Bridge *vic.* vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state LA code 22 county St. Martin Parish code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" 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 Robert E. Smith

street & number Route 2, Box 1220

city, town Breaux Bridge vicinity of state LA 70517

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 308

city, town St. Martinville state LA 70582

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 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>September 30, 1981</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Olivier Pigeonnier (c.1827) is a two-story frame outbuilding which is presently located in an open rural setting on the grounds of the Henri Penne House (N.R.) approximately one mile west southwest of the town of Breaux Bridge. It was moved some twenty-two miles in 1981 from Olivier in Iberia Parish to its current location in St. Martin Parish. Despite the move and the in kind replacement of the roof shingles, the pigeonnier is rare enough within the context of the state to merit listing in the National Register.

The Olivier Pigeonnier is a hip roof structure measuring nine feet square and twenty feet tall. Its walls are constructed of four inch by four inch hand sawn cypress timbers mortised and pegged together, and are sheathed on the exterior with one inch by twelve inch flush boarding on the first story and seven inch beaded Creole siding on the second story. The hip roof retains its original decoratively cut out-lookers (rafter ends), its central king post, and its purlins. The split cedar shingles are an in kind replacement. A distinctive "drip cap" punctuates the division between the flush boarded first story and the weather boarded upper story.

The difference in first and second story wall texture echoes visually the surfaces of contemporaneous raised cottage plantation houses. Access to each of the levels is gained by a single batten door. No pigeon holes or nest boxes are evident, which makes this an "inactive pigeonnier." Pigeonniers usually came in pairs made up of one with provisions for raising pigeons and another without such appurtenances. The Olivier Pigeonnier is of the latter type, and was used principally as a storage building and decorative landscape feature on what must have been a complete plantation complex,

Assessment of Integrity:

1. The Move: The Olivier Pigeonnier is significant on the state level. Hence the twenty-two mile move from Olivier to the Breaux Bridge vicinity has not affected the context for its significance. In any case, the move was necessary in order to save the building. The pigeonnier was in deteriorated condition in its old location, and in a few years would have collapsed. The present owner purchased the pigeonnier with the understanding that he would move and restore it.
2. The Shingles: This change should be regarded as minor. There is hardly a building standing in Louisiana of the vintage of the pigeonnier which has not had its roof covering replaced several times.

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** Joseph Terence Bienvenue Devince & Alexander Bienvenue Devince

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

The Olivier Pigeonnier is significant on the state level as a rare surviving example of a building type which was once common in Louisiana. In addition, it is significant on the local level as the finest of four examples known to exist in a three parish area.

Pigeonniers are one of the most direct links between Louisiana architecture and the architecture of provincial France. At one time almost every Creole plantation had one or more pigeonniers featured prominently on the grounds near the main house. This is evidenced by Adrian Persac paintings and by plantation inventories of the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.

As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, there are only about thirty pigeonniers remaining in Louisiana. Also, of these, the Olivier Pigeonnier is believed to be the only one with a midway drip cap, a feature found on the majority of the numerous surviving pigeonniers in France.

The Olivier Pigeonnier is also locally significant within the context of Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes. There are no other pigeonniers in St. Martin Parish, only two one-story examples in Lafayette Parish, and remnants of one in Iberia Parish. Of these few survivors, the Olivier Pigeonnier is noteworthy because it is the only one which is both in good repair and of two full stories.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property @1/100th of an acre

Quadrangle name Breaux Bridge, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	0	13	0	16	10	3	13	4	18	5	14	10
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 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 Robert E. Smith

organization N/A

date August 1982

street & number Route 2, Box 1220

telephone 318-332-2852

city or town Breaux Bridge

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

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 25, 1983

For NPS use only.

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

Juanita McClelland

date 3/14/83

Keeper of the National Register

Patricia Anderson

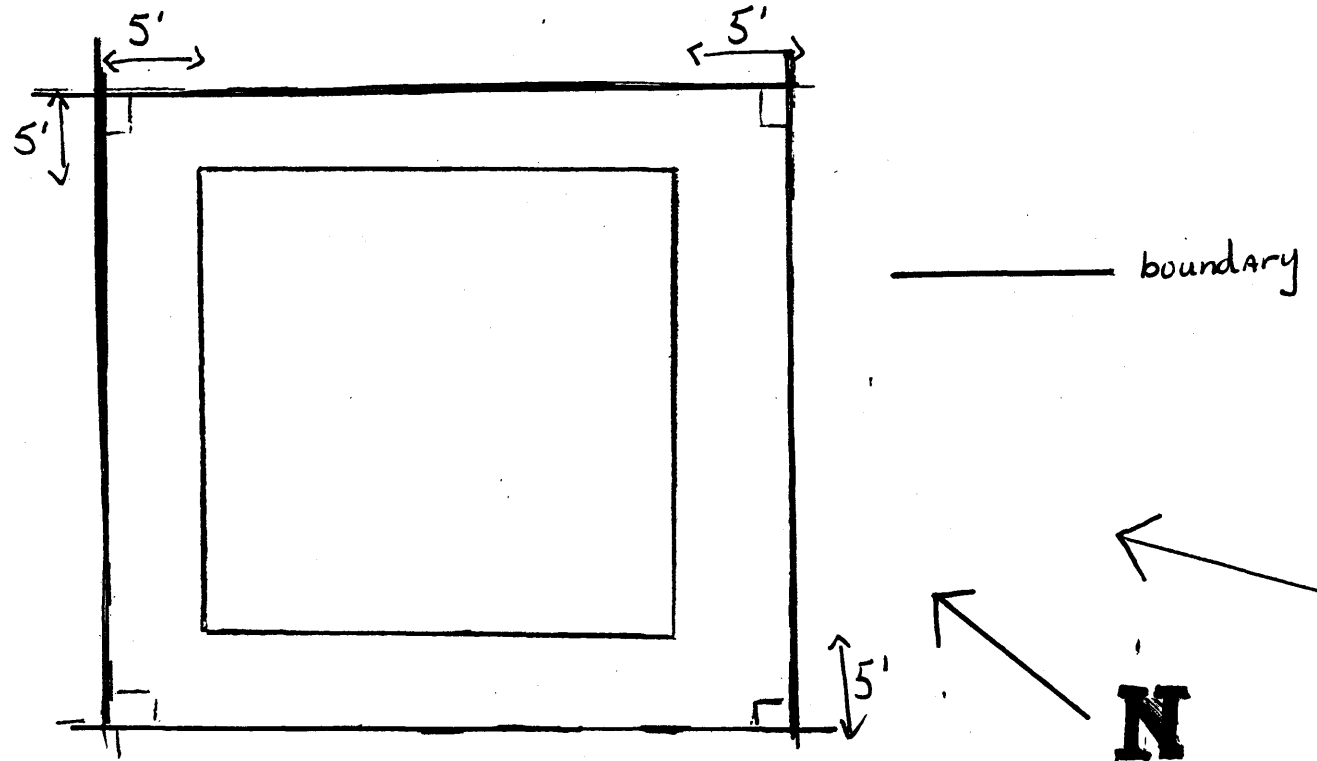
date 3/14/83

Chief of Registration

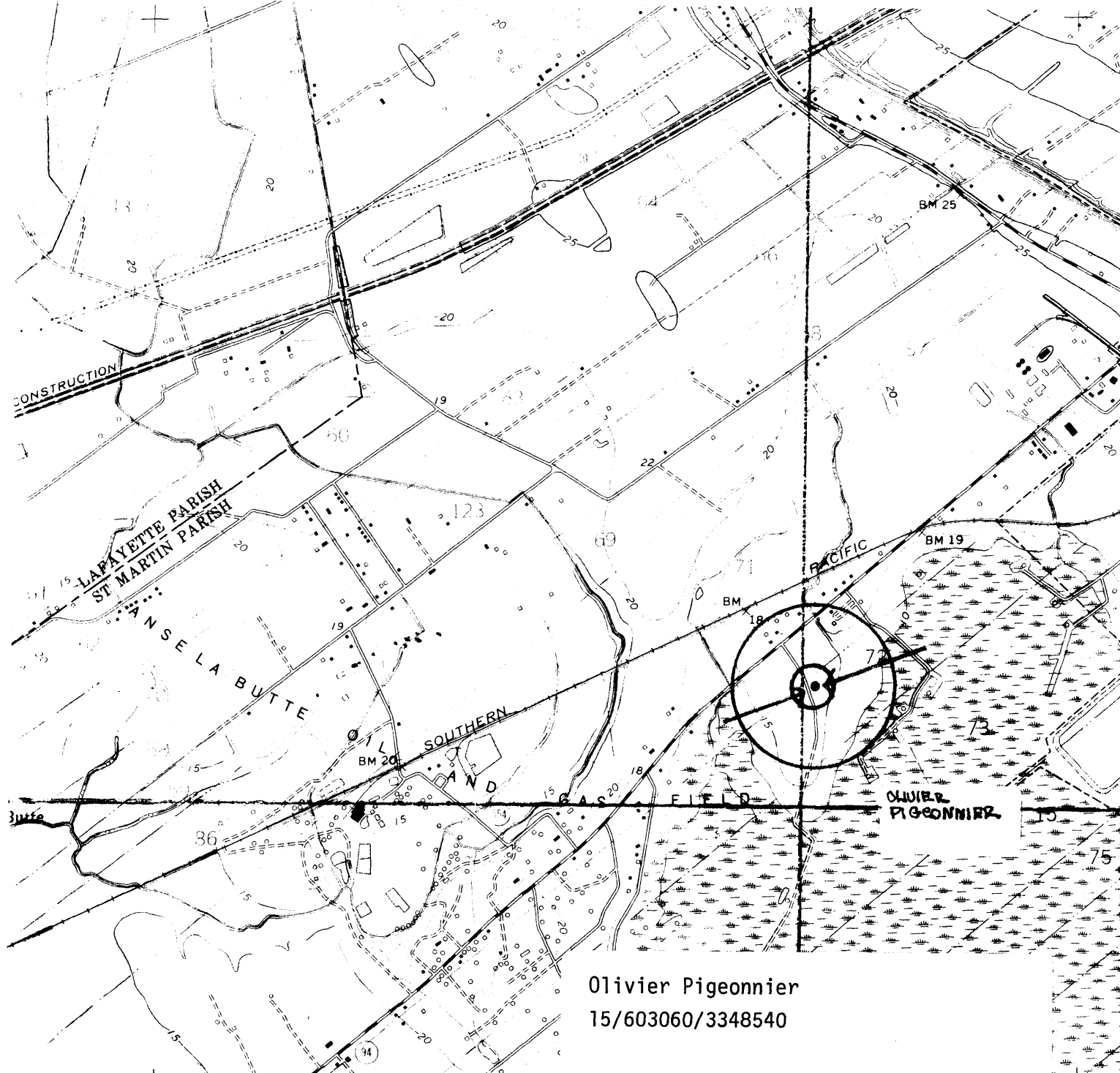
60

NOT TO SCALE

Site boundaries are parallel to building facades, distances as shown.



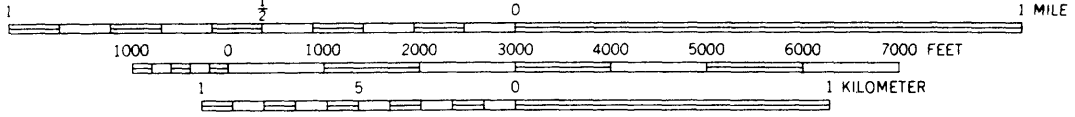
The Olivier Pigeonnier
Breaux Bridge, La.
St. Martin PARISH



Olivier Pigeonnier
 15/603060/3348540

600 57'30" (ST. MARTINVILLE 1:62 500) 603 604 55'

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER,
 AND BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS A