

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 an 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 Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 13769 Chenal Road N/A not for publication

city or town Jarreau  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70749

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Garri Hobdy March 28, 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Garri Hobdy, LA Date  
SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State of 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 the 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. Ball Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Entered in the National Register 5/13/94

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House  
Name of Property

Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other

**Narrative Description**

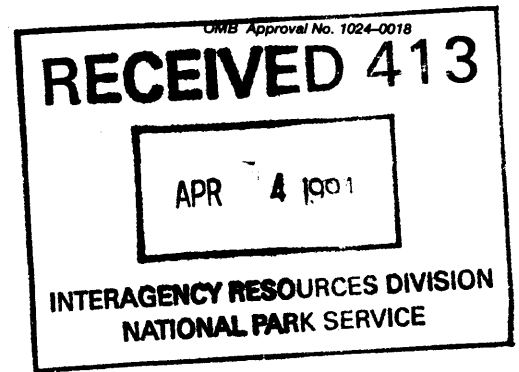
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Jean Baptiste Bergeron House is a brick and frame plantation home in the French Creole style. It faces the Chenal Road (Louisiana Highway 414) between the rural agricultural communities of Jarreau and Chenal in Pointe Coupee Parish. Although it has experienced alteration since its c. 1840 construction date, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

Original Creole features present in the Jean Baptiste Bergeron House include:

- 1) a main living floor raised upon a low brick basement story,
- 2) a French braced frame,
- 3) bousillage walls,
- 4) a floorplan reflecting Creole geometry in its organization. The primary living space contains a two room core with a full length gallery on the front and a cabinet/loggia range on the rear. Architectural evidence suggests that, in this case, the loggia-like space was originally enclosed. The low basement consists of two unfloored rooms.
- 5) a gallery decorated as an outdoor room with its original simple baseboards, chair rail, and door and window surrounds intact,
- 6) exposed beaded ceiling beams in all main floor rooms, and
- 7) two mantels which wrap around the chimney flue in the French manner. These mantels display simple Greek Revival styling.

The home experienced some serious alterations over the years--changes which have necessitated a concerted restoration effort. The pitch of the roofline was lowered, the home's siding was replaced, and its French doors were lost. It is also probable that exposed ceiling beams on the gallery were lost when the original gallery columns were removed. Many of these problems are being addressed as part of the current restoration. This work includes the following:

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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- 1) the construction of a new roof of appropriate pitch and the replacement of the top portion of the central chimney, which had been cut off at ridge level,
- 2) the replacement of modern brick piers supporting the gallery with piers constructed of old brick, the replacement of the gallery's damaged floor and stairs, and the installation of six chamfered colonnettes on the gallery. These colonnettes have been placed in the same locations as the originals. (The locations were evident from holes found in the plate.)
- 3) the covering of some deteriorated interior bousillage walls with sheetrock and the replacement of several lost windows,
- 4) the replication of lost basement story plank front doors and hardware using as guides originals which survive on the side of the home, and the addition of door and window shutters and a gallery balustrade copied from a nearby Creole house, and
- 5) the construction of a glazed rear addition to house a modern kitchen and sitting room.

Although some historic features of the Jean Baptiste Bergeron House have obviously been lost, it presents an authentic appearance and retains enough architectural integrity to justify its nomination to the National Register. The new space is located at the rear and does not impact the Creole facade. Whenever possible, lost materials are being replicated using surviving materials on the house as guides. The building's restored roofline is similar to those found on other comparable homes in the area. Its new gallery columns are similar in size to the originals and are appropriate to the period. More importantly, the house retains several important original Creole features which are rare within Pointe Coupee Parish, which is the context for this nomination (see Part 8). Thus, the house is a viable candidate for National Register listing.

NOTE: Although the work is not yet complete, the lost original doors will soon be replaced by French doors copied from the nearby Valmont Bergeron House, which was built at approximately the same time as the house under consideration for the brother of Jean Baptiste Bergeron.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for 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.
- 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**

N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.1840

**Significant Dates**

c.1840

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House  
Name of Property

Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 4.4 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5	6	5	5	2	2	0	3	3	8	7	4	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

2 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See attached map.

**Boundary Justification** Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land upon which nominated resource is located.  
(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 January 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Stuart W. Woody, c/o False River Realty

street & number 336 East Main Street telephone (504) 638-4468

city or town New Roads state Louisiana zip code 70760

**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 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Jean Baptiste Bergeron House is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Pointe Coupee Parish because it is one of a select number of houses which illustrate rare and significant features of the Creole style.

Although Pointe Coupee Parish has long been recognized as an important area of early French settlement, time and changing tastes have eroded the parish's collection of significant Creole houses. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has identified 799 50+ year old buildings in the parish. Of these, 193 are in the Creole style and hence reflect, at least in a general sense, the French origins of the area. However, most of these buildings are Creole in plan and configuration only and lack other significant features associated with the style. Instead, they usually display Greek Revival, Victorian, or bungalow details. Of the 193 structures identified as Creole, only approximately twelve to fifteen retain enough integrity in their stylistic and construction features to justify their recognition as noteworthy examples of Creole architecture. The Jean Baptiste Bergeron House is one of these dwellings.

Features present in this house which are not found in the majority of Pointe Coupee's Creole homes include bousillage walls and a French timber frame. The vast majority of Pointe Coupee Parish's Creole houses have plain frame walls with no infill. The home is also one of only ten in the parish known to contain French wraparound mantels. In addition, it retains exposed beaded ceiling beams in all of its rooms.

Historical Note

The house stands on land which was once part of the estate of Julien Poydras. This estate was settled between 1838 and 1841, at which time strips of land were offered for sale. Jean Baptiste Bergeron and his brother Valmont both built houses on the former Poydras land within sight of each other. The Valmont Bergeron House is listed on the National Register.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Bergeron, Jean Baptiste House, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number   9   Page   1  

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic Standing Structures Survey of Pointe Coupee Parish.

Site visit by Division of Historic Preservation staff.



# JEAN BAPTISTE BERGERON HOUSE

Jarreau vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

