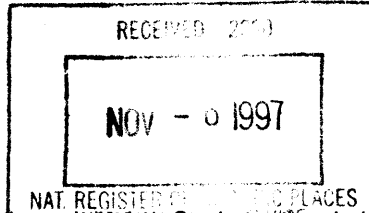


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1517

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 Sardy House

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

2. Location

street & number 810 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Madisonville N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Tammany code 103 zip code 70447

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.)

Jonathan C. Fricker 10/30/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan C. Fricker Date  
Deputy 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 commenting 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. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
12/8/97

Sardy House  
Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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

vacant/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

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Sardy House (c.1840) is a one-and-one-half story frame cottage in the French Creole style. It stands on a corner lot in a residential neighborhood of the St. Tammany Parish town of Madisonville. Although it was remodeled c. 1880 and is currently undergoing rehabilitation, the house retains the majority of its important Creole features and its National Register eligibility.

The Sardy House began c.1840 with a typical French Creole floorplan of two front rooms and a rear range consisting of a *cabinet* on each end with a *loggia* between. The house received a large rear addition c.1880 which engulfed and destroyed the *cabinet/loggia* range.

The Sardy Home's surviving Creole characteristics include:

- 1) the fact that the house is raised above grade level on brick piers.
- 2) a class III umbrella roof with gabled ends (see attached figure) and a central chimney. (This roof classification system is the one used by Dr. Jay Edwards in his multiple property cover form on Louisiana's French Creole architecture.)
- 3) two vernacular but rare French wraparound mantels.
- 4) a partially intact Creole floorplan featuring a full length front gallery and the above described front two rooms (*salle* and *chambre*). As was typical of Creole floorplans, there was no hall.
- 5) French doors with three panes per leaf on the c.1880 wing and French doors with two panes per leaf on the facade which appear to have been placed there c.1880. In regard to the latter, the doors themselves, with their large panes of glass, are clearly late nineteenth century. The openings they cover were once about six inches taller and were filled in with pieces of wood. The pieces of wood are held in place with square nails, which generally are not seen in use after the 1870s.

The home's other major features of interest are the framing in the front two rooms, composed of pegged mortise and tenon joints, and tongue and groove flush board walls on the facade, gallery ceiling, and in the two front rooms. In addition, one room retains its original wooden flooring.

The architectural evidence indicates that the gallery also received modifications c.1880, perhaps at the same time the rear wing was added. While the solid wood gallery posts clearly are

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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original, the capitals, with their multiple layers of molding, are late nineteenth century. Also, the band of molding on the entablature matches the column capitals. Finally, it seems clear that the lozenge rather awkwardly placed on the entablature above the central bay is not from the original period of construction; most likely it was added when the gallery was re-worked c.1880. While lozenge shapes were popular among French Creoles, this particular example should perhaps be viewed within the Italianate taste. Also surviving on the gallery are small wooden brackets apparently intended to hold wooden gutters. A small shed roof addition was appended to one side of the structure at some time before the current owner purchased the house.

The following changes and replacements have occurred as part of the current rehabilitation project:

- 1) the reconfiguration and modernization of the c.1880 rear wing and small shed roof addition.
- 2) the addition, based on "ghost marks" pointing to the previous existence of shutters, of tongue and groove beaded batten board shutters to all doors and windows; the replacement of the baseboards; and the re-bricking of the two fireboxes within the home's historic chimney.
- 3) the replacement of the home's deteriorated original siding with new cypress weatherboards of the same size as the originals, and the replacement of the hardware found on the home when purchased by the current owner with appropriate historic hardware purchased in New Orleans.
- 4) the conversion of the formerly unfinished attic (reached by a new stairway in the rear section of the home) into a hallway, two bedrooms, and a bath.
- 5) the conversion of one of the original rooms on the front range into a modern kitchen, and the removal of the wall between this room and the reconfigured rear range.

Although the loss of its *cabinet/loggia* range is regrettable, the majority of features which define the Creole character of the Sardy House survive. These include its overall form, its central chimney with French wraparound mantels, the front range with its hall-less floorplan, and its French doors. Although the doors are late, they contribute very much to the house's French Creole character and illustrate an important phenomenon -- the longevity of this building tradition

CONTINUED

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   3  

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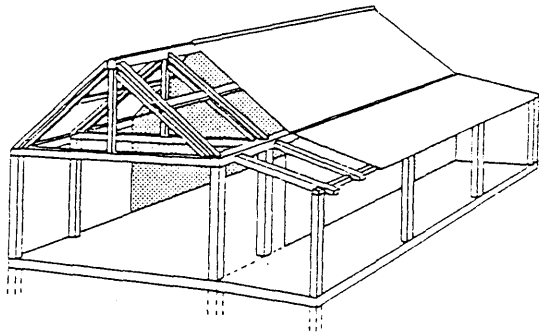
**in Louisiana. As a rare surviving Creole house within Madisonville, the Sardy House is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

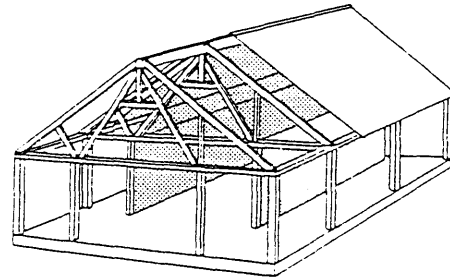
Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 4

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



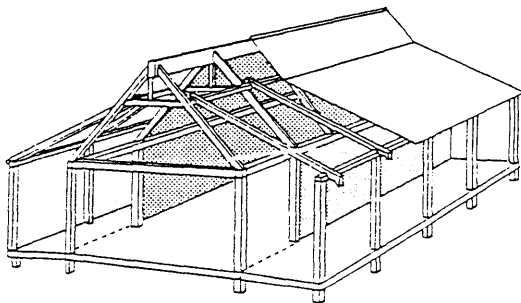
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



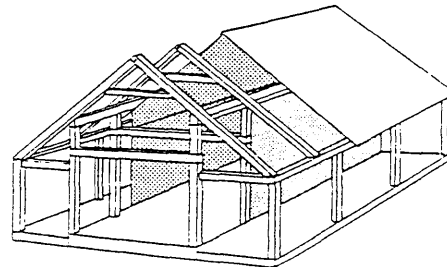
CLASS IIIa

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



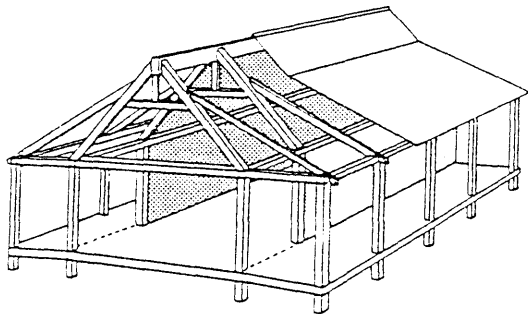
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



CLASS IIIb

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.



CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.

**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

c. 1880

**Significant Dates**

c. 1840

c. 1880

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sardy House  
Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than an acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5	7	7	3	1	6	0	3	3	6	6	7	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

(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 September 1997

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 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 Ronald J. and Amy B. Arnoult

street & number 504 Water St. telephone 504-845-8887

city or town Madisonville state LA zip code 70447

**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**

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Sardy House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare example of the French Creole building tradition in the St. Tammany Parish community of Madisonville. In addition, the house ranks as one of the town's oldest surviving buildings.

The small town of Madisonville is located on the west bank of the Tchefuncte River, two miles inland from Lake Pontchartrain. Settlement of this area, known today as the North Shore, began in the mid-1720s. At this time the French controlled South Louisiana (including the North Shore), and for many years they were the only settlers in the area. No mention of Madisonville is found until 1805 when the community, then known as Post Oak Landing, was included on a mail route between New Orleans and Natchez, Mississippi. The town received its long-term name (honoring President James Madison) in 1810 after the Florida parishes joined the rest of Louisiana as part of the United States. An official post office opened in 1812.

Madisonville's earliest economy was based upon the burning of shell lime and charcoal, the making of tar, and cattle raising. Recognizing the area's ability to provide the materials necessary for shipbuilding and repair, government officials opened a naval yard on the river two miles north of town during the 1812-1815 war between the United States and England. The community incorporated on February 18, 1817. By 1823 it had one large hotel and "a number of neat and comfortable houses to which citizens of New Orleans repaired for health in the sickly months or in the summer." On March 22, 1832, its boundaries were expanded by the state legislature. The town continued its slow growth during the 1840s and 1850s, partly as a result of the arrival of European immigrants. During these years the economy expanded to include brickmaking. Although the years of the Civil War were difficult, the community rebounded. By 1887 it supported two shipyards, two sawmills, and the brickyard. Shortly after the turn of the century it had three shipyards, four schools, several stores, several bars, two meeting halls, two sawmills, and a blacksmith shop. One shipyard employed 150 men, one sawmill employed at least 50, and the other mill employed almost 100 people. By 1906 Madisonville's population was 1,200. Another burst of growth, this one more temporary in nature, was associated with the expansion of shipbuilding during World War I. Shipbuilding and repair continued to be important to the town's economy until after World War II but are no longer factors.

Because of the early influence of the French on the North Shore, one would expect Madisonville to contain a fair number of structures reflecting the Creole building tradition. Indeed, an 1813 description of the still-frontier community indicated how strong that influence was: "One-half French built mud-walled huts and about as many log houses or cabins and 2 or 3 small frames are all its present improvements." However, the late nineteenth and early twentieth

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number  $\frac{8}{9}$  Page  $\frac{2}{1}$

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century growth detailed above resulted in the replacement of most of these buildings. The Division of Historic Preservation's Historic Structures Survey for St. Tammany Parish records approximately 139 buildings in Madisonville which are fifty years of age or older. However, of this number only a handful (probably less than six) have survived with enough French features and architectural integrity to be cited as significant examples of the Creole style. The Sardy House is one of these rare buildings.

In addition to its importance as a rare example of Creole architecture, the Sardy House is also architecturally significant as one of the earliest surviving buildings in Madisonville. Once again the Standing Structures Survey provides substantiating data. Of the 139 historic buildings previously mentioned, only eight pre-date 1860 in a community whose roots go back at least to c. 1805. With its c. 1840 construction date, the Sardy House ranks as one of the few early buildings which have survived Madisonville's later periods of growth.

Historical Note

Sadly, nothing is known of the Sardy Home's history until 1884, when it was purchased by Theodore P. Heisser from Ventura Colomer. Whether the rear addition mentioned in Part 7 was added by Colomer or Heisser is unknown. John Sardy and his wife acquired the house in 1929 and appear to have owned it for the longest period of time. Thus, the residence is named for this family. The house is now owned by Ronald and Amy Arnoult, residents of Madisonville, who are rehabilitating it for re-sale as a single family home.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Boagni, Ethel Haas. "Madisonville, Louisiana." *St. Tammany Parish Historical Society Gazette, Madisonville Issue: 4* (March 1980), pp. 5-6, 16-17, 19, 27, 46, 51, 79-80, 82-83.

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Standing Structures Survey of St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Site visit by National Register staff.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Sardy House, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

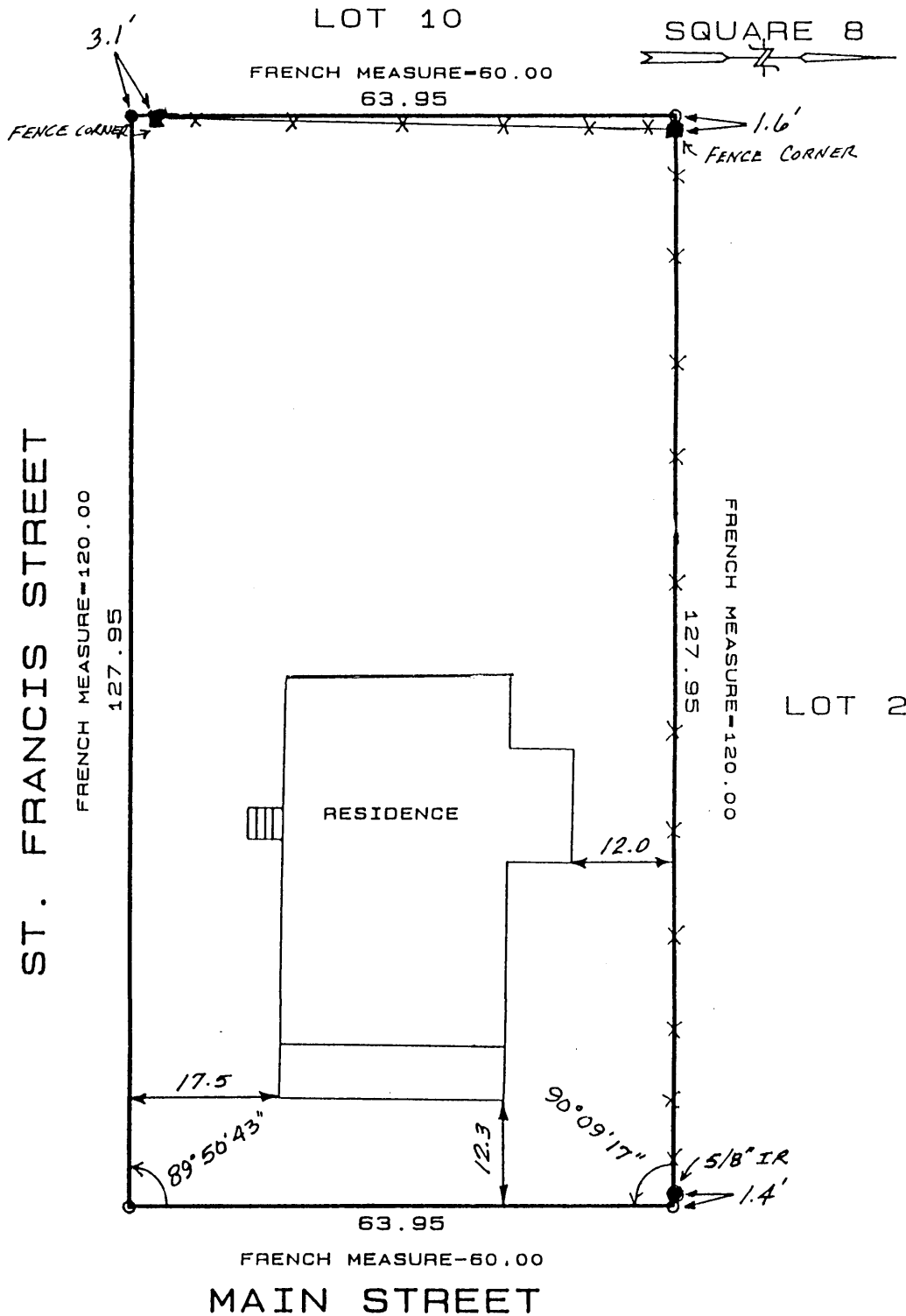
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Boundary Description: See attached property plat map.

Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

LOT 1, SQUARE 8, TOWN OF MADISONVILLE, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Map File No. 186A, Clerk of Court, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.



**SARDY HOUSE**  
Madisonville, St. Tammany Parish, LA

CERTIFIED TO:  
RONALD ARNOULT

SETBACK LINES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE ZONING

- LEGEND:**
- SET 1/2" IRON ROD
  - FOUND 1/2" IRON ROD
  - FOUND OLD WOOD
  - X --- FENCE
  - BEARINGS: MAGNETIC
  - SETBACK LINES: ---
  - FRONT SIDES REAR STREET

This survey is based upon the description furnished by the client. There may be other restrictions not shown on this plat that may exist in the public records. There are no visible encroachments existing except those shown hereon. If not otherwise noted, Elevations refer to NGVD 1929 datum.

I, hereby certify that this plat is based on a physical survey made on the ground and in accordance with the the Minimum Standard Detailed Requirements for ALTA / ASCM Land Title Surveys, pursuant to the accuracy standards of a SUBURBAN survey and the applicable standards of practice cited in LAC 48: LXI. Signature must be in RED and sealed by the undersigned for this plat to be certified correct.

BRUCE W. POPE, R  
REG. NO. 4672  
REGISTERED  
PROFESSIONAL

CLASS/TYPE	"C"	CPN: 220201 0001 B
BOUNDARY	9 JAN 97	FIRM DATE: 16 MAR 83
FORMBOARDS		FIRM ZONE: "A13"
SLAB TIE		BASE FLOOD: 11.0
AS-BUILT		REVISED:
JOB NO.	5258	SCALE: 1 inch = 20 ft

**WILSON-ROPE, INC.**  
LOUISIANA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYORS NO. 388  
1990 SURGI DRIVE  
MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA 70448  
TEL: (504) 826-5651 FAX: (504) 826-5626