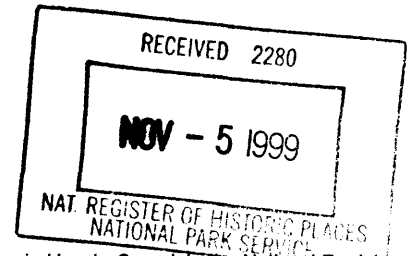


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1478

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 any 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 Millet House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 509 East Jefferson Highway NA not for publication

city or town Gramercy NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. James code 093 zip code 70052

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Gerri Hobby

October 25, 1999

Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobby, Date
LA SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or 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 this 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): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall
Edson H. Beall 12/9/99

Millet House
Name of property

St. James 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)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Domestic

Sub. Single Dwelling

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.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" next to 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

NA

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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. 1830

Significant Dates

c. 1830

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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: _____

Millet House
Name of property

St. James Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .6 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 723170 3325800

2 _____ _____

3 _____ _____

4 _____ _____

___ 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 May 1999

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kenneth and Mara Landrum

street & number P. O. Box 751 telephone (225) 869-5494

city or town Gramercy state LA zip code 70052

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 1

St. James Parish's Millet House (c. 1830) is a one-and-one-half story frame cottage in the French Creole style. Located on the outskirts of Gramercy, the residence stands within a lushly landscaped "L"-shaped parcel on the east bank of the Mississippi River. Although it has experienced various alterations over the years, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

Although the owners believe the Millet House to date from 1789-1812, the architectural evidence (circular saw marks on wooden members and a primitive Greek Revival style mantel) suggests a c. 1830 date.

The most important features found within the Millet House are the two rare (see Part 8) French Creole building techniques used to construct its *colombage* (a braced, half-timbering-like frame with infill) walls. Separate walls composed of *bousillage* (mud and moss) and *briquelette entre poteaux* (brick between posts) are present. The *bousillage* and *briquelette entre poteaux* are currently exposed, although historically they were covered with plaster. Other Creole features found in the home include:

- 1) a high brick pier foundation which raises the building several feet above grade,
- 2) a Class III umbrella roof with gabled ends (see attached figure),
- 3) a partially intact Creole floorplan including a front gallery, two equal-sized front rooms, two rear rooms unequal in size, and a very narrow hallway. Alterations to this plan are discussed below.
- 4) exposed beams on the ceilings of all original rooms,
- 5) one original wraparound mantel (the vernacular Greek Revival style mantel mentioned above), and
- 6) the use of French doors (the present French doors appear to be original but have received serious alterations – see below).

Although not specifically of Creole origin, two plank doors found within the residence are also of interest.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Alterations to the home include the following:

- 1) the removal of the wall between the front and rear rooms on the home's upriver side, the subdivision of the rear downriver room to create a bath and hallway, and the removal of the wall between the upriver rear room and small hallway. (Equally spaced notches in an exposed ceiling beam testify to the removal of the latter wall.)
- 2) the loss of one original wraparound mantel and its replacement with a near copy.
- 3) the alteration of the home's original French doors, which now display a most unusual glazing configuration consisting of three large panes above two smaller ones. It appears that each door once held fourteen small panes of glass. However, at some point the top twelve panes were removed and replaced by three large panes. Close examination of the horizontal muntins separating the large panes shows ghost marks where vertical muntins separating the smaller panes were once located. The doors' hardware has also been changed.
- 4) the possible re-glazing of the attic's two gable end openings using large panes of glass. It is not known if these openings were originally open or glazed, but the glass within them now obviously dates to a much later period.
- 5) the loss of the original gallery decoration. Now in place are turned columns in the Eastlake style and a simple balustrade with straight, square balusters added by the current owners.
- 6) the addition of extra living space in the form of a large turn-of-the-century rear addition (itself recently remodeled) and a recent subdivision of the attic to create two rooms and a small hallway. This upper-level space is reached by a new stairway built at the point where the rear addition adjoins the older house.
- 7) the addition of shutters to the front doors and the placement of lattice between the brick piers.

CONTINUED

Millet House

Name of property

St. James Parish, LA

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

Despite this admittedly long list of alterations, the dwelling still conveys its identity as a French Creole cottage. This can be seen in its form (umbrella roof and high brick pier foundation), exposed ceiling beams, one original wraparound mantel and rare Creole construction features (*colombage* walls consisting of *bousillage* and *briquette entre poteaux*). For this reason, as well as for its early age (see Part 8), the Millet 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**Section 8 Page 1

The Millet House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is among a limited number of French Creole residences in St. James Parish, which once had many more examples. It is also among the oldest Creole homes in the parish and displays rare surviving construction techniques.

The 1858 Persac Map of the Mississippi River shows approximately 111 St. James Parish plantations identified by the names of their owners. In addition, the map depicts a large number of unnamed agricultural tracts. Because the Creoles were the dominant group to settle and develop the area before the Civil War, it is fair to assume that many of the houses on these plantations would have been in the Creole style. Thus, one can legitimately estimate that St. James Parish had a minimum of perhaps 150 Creole style houses in 1858. However, the historic survey of the parish indicates that only about 31 Creole houses remain. Eighteen of these date from after 1870, leaving only thirteen to represent the parish's earlier Creole tradition. Indeed, with its c. 1830 construction date, the Millet house is one of the three or four oldest Creole homes in the parish. In addition, it is one of only nine Creole dwellings in St. James which use *colombage* (a braced frame with either *bousillage* and/or *briquelette entre poteaux* infill) construction. Because the majority (seven) of these buildings use *bousillage* only, the presence of *briquelette entre poteaux* makes the house even more special. Although the home has experienced alterations, these important features remain, as do other elements which establish its Creole identity.

Historical Note

The Millet House served as the home of a family of French Canadian descent for over a century. The first Millet, Jean, settled in South Louisiana before 1776. A legal document attests that the family owned the property upon which the house stands by 1823. Over the years the Millets excelled at the building trades, with Jean's great-grandson, Adelard Millet, being perhaps the best known family member. This builder and inventor operated a series of construction-related businesses. For example, he built several homes along the River Road, including Emilie Plantation in St. John the Baptist Parish (National Register). He also built and repaired wagons, carriages and buggies and was an undertaker and casket maker. Something of an inventor, Adelard created the cart tail-gate and a sugar cane stubble shaver which cut and cleaned old cane stubbles, thus making the ground ready to accept the next year's crop. Millet family descendants lived on their plantation until 1944, when the last family member subdivided and sold most of the land. However, she remained in the house until 1950. The current owners purchased the house in 1994.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1
10 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation. Historic Survey of St. James Parish, Louisiana.

History of Millet House furnished by owner; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

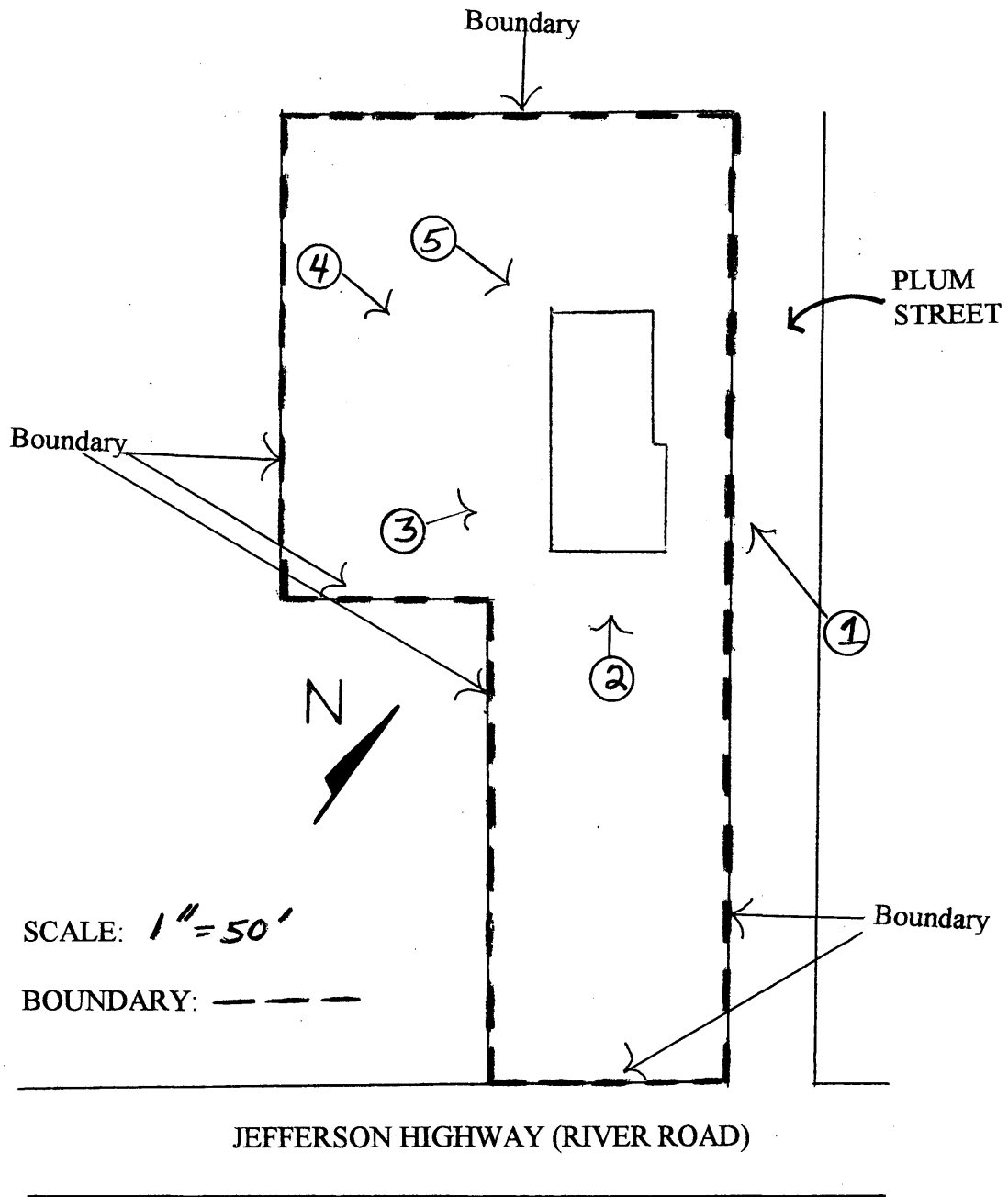
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached sketch map.

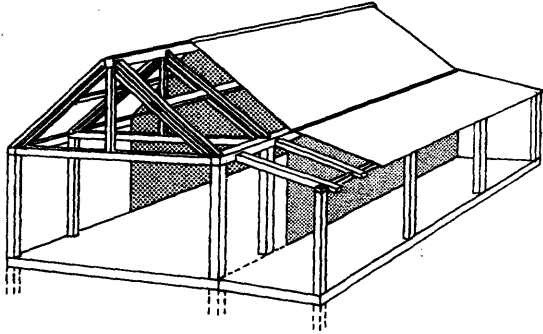
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries follow current property lines. It would have been impossible to follow historic property lines because the plantation has been subdivided into small parcels over the years.

MILLET HOUSE
GRAMERCY, ST. JAMES PARISH, LA

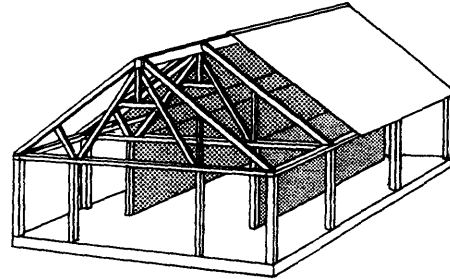


SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



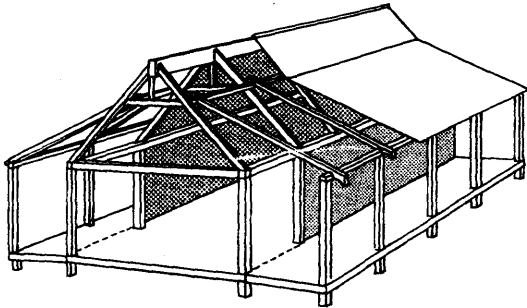
CLASS I

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.



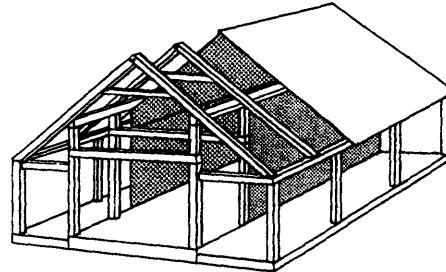
CLASS IIIa

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.



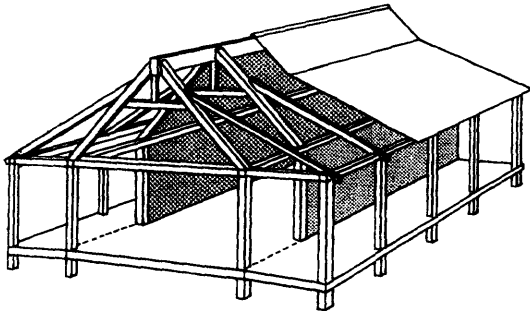
CLASS IIa

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.