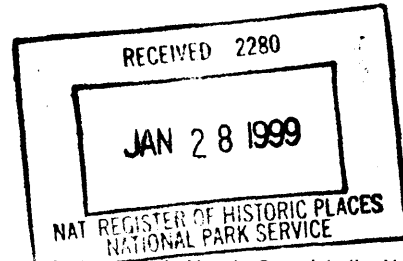


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 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 Trio Plantation House

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

2. Location

street & number 312 Trio Road NA not for publication

city or town Rayville X vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Richland code 083 zip code 71269

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Jonathan Fricker*

1/20/99

Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date  
Deputy 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Erson H. Beall*  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action/  
2/26/99

**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**

NA

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)

Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

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**

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

- 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**

1869  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1869  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Trio Plantation House  
Name of property

Richland Parish, LA  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 2.5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 15 620340    3600080

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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation      date November 1998

street & number P.O. Box 44247      telephone (225) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge      state LA      zip code 70804

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Francis Victor Jordan II

street & number Trio Plantation, P. O. Box 349      telephone (318) 728-4671

city or town Rayville      state LA      zip code 71269-0349

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**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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 7 Page 1

Trio Plantation House (1869) is an impressive albeit rather homemade-looking one story, frame Greek Revival residence set in an extremely remote location north of Rayville. Reached via a one mile dirt road, Trio faces the meandering Boeuf River. The roughly four hundred foot stretch of land between the house and river is shaded by numerous mature trees. Despite additions and the loss of some architectural fabric, the house easily retains its Register eligibility within Richland Parish.

This very unusual house remains in its original family. According to Jordan family history, Trio was constructed by plantation workers using trees cut from the place. Wood was cut into planks by a circular saw powered by a steam engine (portions of the engine survive on the property). There was no planing mill; so the planks were nailed up rough sawn, board and batten style, both inside and out. The same board and batten treatment is also found on the interior ceilings and the front gallery ceiling. Walls were insulated with cotton seeds.

As unusual as the foregoing may seem, the architectural evidence bears it out. Except for repair work done c.1970, the battens are fastened with square nails. In addition, there is no evidence of earlier construction that the rough board and batten treatment could have replaced. Finally, the house's Greek Revival styling makes the 1869 date entirely plausible.

The main block of Trio is set beneath a massive hip roof that is almost a perfect pyramid. It has a conventional mid-nineteenth century floor plan with two roughly equal size rooms on each side of a wide central hall. A rear wing, almost as wide as the main block, is two rooms deep. Originally, a narrow gallery was on each side of the rear wing. Chimneys were set between the front and rear rooms of the main block and between the two rooms in the rear wing.

The front gallery has six molded pillars under a more or less full entablature. The pair that mark the center are slightly more widely spaced than the others. The five bay facade has floor-length windows and a massive central double door with a transom and sidelights. The entrance features a boldly molded cornice above a basic, folk art-looking dentil band. Either side of this composition is a set of very thin vertical battens evidently designed to suggest fluted columns. (They terminate without capitals and are to each side of the cornice.)

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On the interior the central hall features an elliptical arch (with molded capitals) which is planed smooth and therefore probably purchased. At the rear of the hall is a wide doorway echoing the interior appearance of the front entrance -- double four panel doors, transom, sidelights and a pedimented top. Trio's other interior doors, all four panel and planed smooth, also feature transoms. A few of the doors and windows have pedimented tops like those found on the front and rear hall openings. The four surviving simple aedicule style mantels are also planed smooth. One of the most interesting features of Trio is the attic with its enormous central king post with numerous angle braces coming off it.

#### Alterations

In 1969 members of the Jordan family decided to make the old plantation home livable again. It had not been occupied on a permanent basis for some time and still had no electricity or other amenities.

The following changes were made during this c.1970 renovation:

- (1) A sprawling addition was constructed to the northeast rear corner which almost doubled the square footage; a small lean-to bathroom addition was constructed on each side of the main block; and the long, narrow porches on the rear wing were enclosed. All additions repeated the board and batten treatment of the original house.
- (2) Much of the cotton seed in-fill was removed. This and other repair work is the reason for modern round nails found in some instances on the battens.
- (3) The chimney and fireplaces were removed from the old rear wing, and the chimneys in the main block were cut off below the roofline. The fireplace in-fill in the rear wing dining room was done in board and batten to match the rest of the house.
- (4) The rear wing bedroom was paneled and glass fronted cupboards were added in the dining room.

Despite these changes, the strong Greek Revival character of the main block is visually dominant. The addition, though large, is set to the rear. Moreover, with the exception of the loss of two of the original six mantels, the house retains all those features which establish its architectural significance (see Part 8).

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 8 Page 1

Trio Plantation House is of local significance because only it and one other Greek Revival house survive to represent the earliest architectural heritage of Richland Parish. In addition, within the context of Richland Parish, Trio is one of few architectural landmarks, regardless of period.

The parish that would become Richland in 1868 was thinly settled on the eve of the Civil War. It was noted for its swamps and marshes, and access was mainly by waterways such as the Boeuf River. Construction of an east-west railroad began in the 1850s, but only small sections were completed by the beginning of the Civil War. The railroad (the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific) was completed in the 1880s. Although towns along its route such as Rayville and Delhi trace their history to an earlier period, they were tiny hamlets until the railroad was completed. The two largest communities in a very rural parish, Rayville and Delhi were incorporated in the late nineteenth century. But even they are quite small -- with Rayville having a population of about 5,000 and Delhi, 3,500.

Due to the foregoing settlement patterns, along with the loss of what earlier buildings there may have been, Trio Plantation House is an immensely important house within Richland Parish. It is one of only two Greek Revival style buildings remaining. Indeed, there is precious little in Richland that dates from before c.1900 -- perhaps only Trio (1869) and the Greek Revival Vickers House (1872). These two survivors are among very few architectural landmarks in the entire heritage of the parish, regardless of date. A parishwide historic structures survey commissioned by the Division of Historic Preservation recorded only 182 buildings that were fifty years old or older. Almost all of these are unstyled or slightly styled buildings from c.1900 to c.1940, including simple cottages, folk bungalows and typical commercial structures. Exceptions include about a dozen buildings that are notable within the context of Richland -- three or four relatively modest Queen Anne/Eastlake cottages, a Spanish hacienda, two early twentieth century schools, two early twentieth century churches, and, most importantly, Trio Plantation House and the Vickers House. The latter are extremely rare survivors to represent what would have been the parish's earliest style of architecture. With its strong (albeit vernacular) Greek Revival character, Trio is a major Richland landmark.

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10 1

Historical Note:

According to Jordan family history, Trio was built in 1869 as a wedding present from Dr. Harrison Jordan I to his son, Dr. William Thomas Jordan, Sr., and his fiancée, Frances Elizabeth Harrison. It is from one of the couple's children, Dr. Harrison Jordan II, that much of the house's history comes. Dr. Harrison Jordan was born at Trio in 1872 and lived to be 96. The house is now owned by a nephew, Francis Victor Jordan II, and his wife, Mary Sue Gryder Jordan.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Historic Structures Survey, Richland Parish, conducted by Louisiana Tech University School of Architecture, 1993. Survey forms in Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

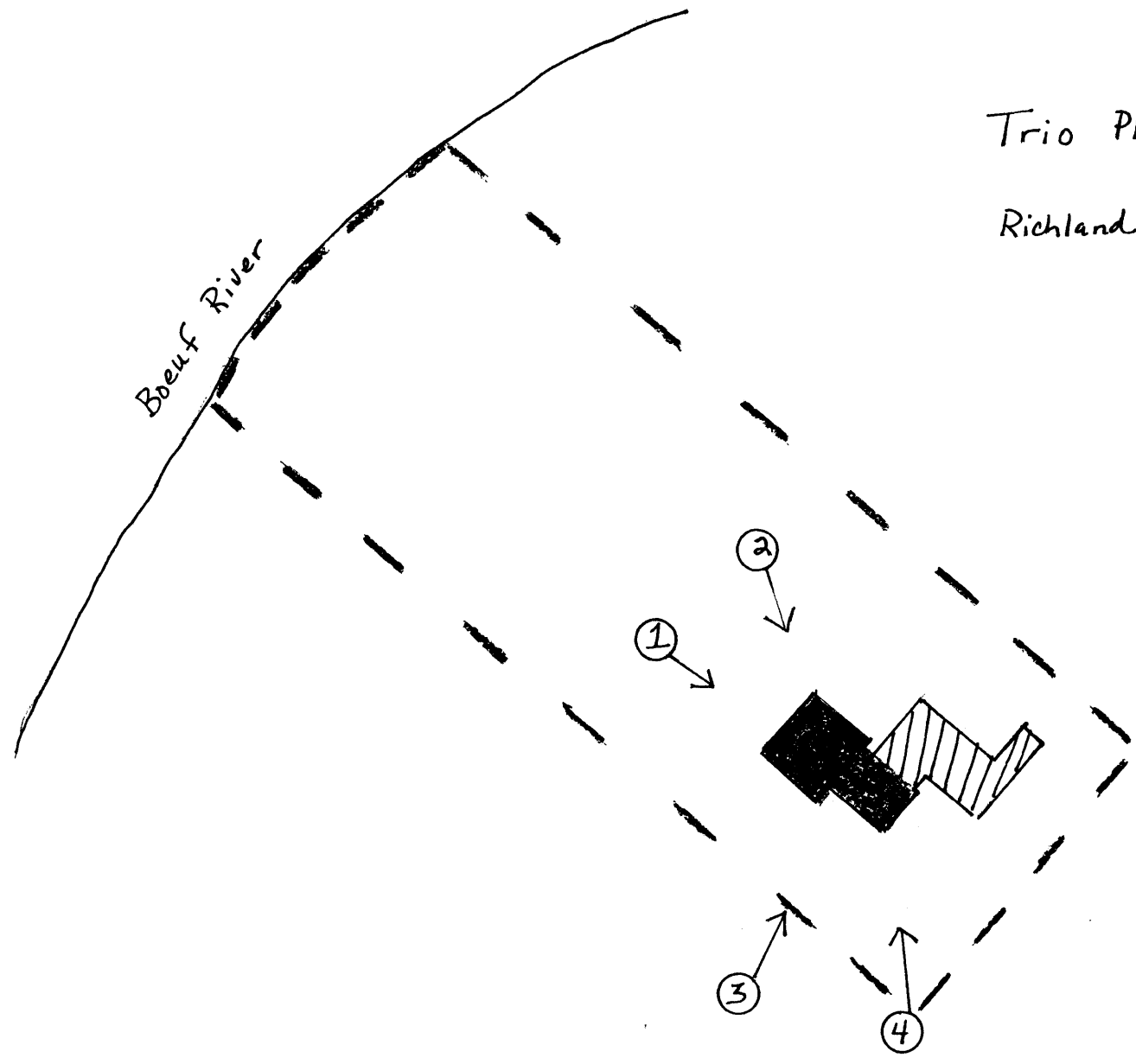
See attached sketch map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource and its immediate setting and to recognize its orientation to the Boeuf River. They exclude a modern residence to the northeast. The property lines of Trio Plantation were not used because there was no reason to nominate hundreds of acres of farmland devoid of historic buildings.



Trio Plantation House  
Richland Parish, LA



1" = 100'

--- Boundary

- original house
- ▨ rear addition