

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000315

Date Listed: 6/9/2014

Property Name: Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

County: St. Bernard

State: LA

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6-9-2014  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significant Dates: The date "1800" is hereby deleted as a significant date. It falls outside of the period of significance, which is defined by the time Dr. Ducros was directly associated with the house.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**



# 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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Other Names/Site Number: Ducros Library, Los Islenos Museum and Library Complex  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 1345 Bayou Road  
City or town: St. Bernard State: LA County: St. Bernard Parish  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Pam Breaux*

4-29-14

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper

6-9-2014  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1	2	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
	1	Objects
1	3	Total

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.): Education: Library

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): Colonial: Spanish Colonial/French Colonial; Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick, Stucco

walls: Wood, Weatherboard, Bousillage

roof: Asphalt Shingles

other: Brick, Wood, Aluminum

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**Narrative Description**

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**Summary Paragraph**

Set back from live oak-lined Bayou Road in the incorporated village of St. Bernard in southeastern St. Bernard Parish, the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House is a single story Creole cottage dating from the end of the 18th century. The original story and a half *briquette entre poteaux* structure, with its two wood frame one story additions, is clad with cypress siding. The rear gabled addition was originally a separate kitchen building with an integral gallery supported by chamfered columns. Located on the site settled by Los Islenos settlers from the Canary Islands between 1779 and 1783, this building, which received an addition and some updates c. 1909, survived intact until suffering damage in 2005 from Hurricane Katrina. A rehabilitation project in 2009 helped to restore many of the original elements of the building and today, the Ducros House displays a decidedly Creole identity and conveys significance part of the architectural patrimony of Isleño culture in St. Bernard Parish. Because of this strong cultural identity, the Ducros house is eligible for listing on the National Register.

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**Narrative Description**

Setting

The Dr. Louis A. Ducros House is part of the Los Islenos Museum Complex and is located on Bayou Road in the unincorporated village of St Bernard. The house is set on the natural levee of Bayou Terre-Aux-Boeufs, a tributary of the Mississippi River located roughly three miles away. The bayou itself has been largely channelized to allow for driveways along its south bank and is no longer navigable. Live oaks, many planted in the early 20th century line the road that runs parallel with the bayou. The village of St. Bernard is an agricultural hamlet of smallholdings with narrow road frontages, but deep lots perpendicular to Bayou Road. On the north bank of the Bayou, these holdings often stretch a depth of 1900 feet (3/8 mile), as in the case of the Ducros House property. The area is historically agricultural, but in recent years much of the area has either been converted to pasture or is reverting to new growth cypress forest. The building stock in the immediate area is a mixture of early to mid-19th century Isleño cottages and modern houses, some built in approximation of 19th century styles. Culturally, the area is an island of Spanish Creole culture, with locals' conversations sprinkled with Isleño Spanish terms and phrases.

The Dr. Louis A. Ducros House stands 190 feet from Bayou Road behind a modern picket fence replacing an earlier one destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Live oaks line the roadside. The property can be entered through a gate aligned with the entrance door of the house, or a concrete driveway to the east of the building, with a small parking area facing the service wing. A concrete sidewalk, ornamented with a cast stone fountain, probably from the 1920s, extends from the front gate. Northeast of the building are modern picnic pavilions and the remainder of the Los Islenos Museum complex consisting of the Molero House (rebuilt after catastrophic damage from Hurricane Katrina in

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

2005) and several relocated and restored houses dating from the 1780s to the 1920s along a lane perpendicular to Bayou Road. These buildings are not part of this nomination.

### Building overview

The Dr. Louis A. Ducros House is single story side gabled cottage dating from the Spanish Colonial period c. 1800 with a gallery (porch) incorporated within the volume of the main house, constructed of *briquelette entre poteaux* (a type of half-timber construction with brick infill) and clad in cypress clapboard siding. The center roof ridge runs east-west and the roof itself is an asphalt shingle cladding covering the original pegged wood shingle roof and a later front facing cross gable. The entire building rests on plastered brick piers. To the rear (north), a narrow single story service wing that originally housed a kitchen and dining room (typical of homes in St. Bernard) is offset to align with the (West) side elevation of the original cottage. This wing is of wooden stud construction with a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles with the center ridge running north-south. It also has a gallery on the east elevation. On the northeast corner is a shed-roofed wood frame addition, originally housing Dr. Ducros's office, projecting 7 feet beyond the northeast corner of the original cottage. It has a wooden parapet with a box gutter on the south and east elevations to camouflage the shed roof.

### Exterior – Facade (South Elevation)

The South-facing elevation is the principal façade and displays the evolution of the house, with elements of the Spanish Colonial, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival periods. Despite these changes, the overall Creole identity of the house remains intact. Additionally, these architectural updates help to document the evolution of the house.

The facade of the main cottage is three bays and clad in cypress clapboards with a beaded lip profile (see Photo 5). The gallery is supported by 6 unevenly spaced wooden Tuscan order columns (the center bay is not as wide as the sides). The simple fascia, visible on side elevations is obscured by an overhang added to the front of the gallery. As is often the case with early Creole houses, the intercolumnation does not correspond to the fenestration (5 bays on the gallery versus 3 bays of the house). Above the gallery, there is a front facing gable faced with a pattern of half cove shingles, lit by a stepped tripartite window with tartan-pattern glazing with an Eastlake aspect (see Photo 6). The Tuscan columns and pediment date from 1909 -1911 when Dr. Ducros renovated the house. The gallery has a 3 inch tongue and groove floor and a narrow profile beaded board ceiling. Precast concrete steps with bolsters are centered on the front of the gallery. As with the rest of the house, there are no gutters.

The center bay displays a Colonial Revival entrance with sidelights and panels, dating from the Ducros renovation. The entrance door has a single raised panel and a single pane lite. The outer bays have the original French doors, with double panels below and ten lites per door; the door surrounds are 3 3/8 inches with a 3/4 inch edge bead, and appear to be from the original construction. The outer bays are protected by wooden shutters with panels below and moveable louvers at the level of the glazing of the windows, likely dating from the Ducros renovation.

The addition housing Dr. Ducros's former office (see Photos 9 and 10) is visible but not prominent, projecting 7 feet from the Northeast corner of the main part of the building. A salvaged French (double) door with 4 lites per leaf, protected with a pair of louvered shutters is centered on this section.

### Exterior - West Elevation

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

The West-facing elevation (See Photo 18) shows the relationship between the front cottage and the service wing. The front gallery and its Tuscan order columns are visible from the side. While the fascia is partially obscured on the front elevation, here it consists of a 12 inch plank with a simple lip at its top. The siding on the front cottage has a 6 ½ inch overlap, while the siding on the service wing has a 4 ½ inch overlap. The dividing line is clearly visible at the points where the soffit of the side gable meets the soffit of the wing. Both sections have simple box soffits with 6 inch overhangs.

On the first floor of the front cottage, the windows are centered on interior spaces. Six over six wood windows, typical of the early to mid-1800s are protected by louvered shutters typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The attic has a solid plank access door centered above the window closest to the south elevation with wrought iron strap hinges, likely original. The service wing has late 19th century four over four windows of roughly the same scale as the windows on the front part of the cottage. Both window types share simple, unornamented surrounds. The exception to the scaled windows on the first floor is the narrow six over six window lighting the bathroom in the south end of the service wing (center window on this elevation). This likely dates to the Ducros renovations and may be salvaged from an earlier building. It is also the only window on this elevation lacking shutters. The only modern elements are electrical boxes and an elevated HVAC unit at the small window and the ADA wheelchair ramp at the far left (North) end of the service wing. These elements are removable and visually distinct from the historic fabric.

#### Exterior - North Elevation

The north elevation is dominated by the rear gable end of the service wing, including the end of the service wing gallery, and a single four over four sash window centered on the interior space (see Photo 17). The concrete ADA wheelchair ramp with pipe railings obscures the foundation of the service wing. The gallery is supported by simple posts with simplified lamb's tongue (an ogee where the chamfer changes to a sharp corner) detailing, likely original to the house. The gable has an open soffit exposing the spaced roofing planks and has a simple verge board.

Beyond the gable is the rear of the office addition with two six over six wood windows with high sills (roughly four feet above the finished floor), protected by very simple plank shutters. The shingled roofs of the shed and the main cottage are visible from a distance. Also visible from a distance, but not prominent, is the metal cladding of the rear of the office's parapet.

#### Exterior - East Elevation

The east elevation of the front cottage is a mirror image of the west elevation (see Photo 13). The addition housing Dr. Ducros's office, centrally located on this elevation, has a single six over six wood window of the same type as on the rear facade, centered on the interior space. It shares the same simple window surrounds as the other secondary elevations, but is protected by plank shutters. The shed roof is hidden by a wooden parapet with a box cornice with a simple fascia ornamented with what is locally called brick mold (an ogee profile molding roughly 1 ½ inches).

On the service wing beyond, simple four by four inch wooden posts support the gallery with simplified lamb's tongue detailing below a plain 6" fascia. Between the posts is a simple wooden picket railing with a rounded bannister. A modern brick stair with wooden newel posts copying the detail of the gallery posts is centered on the southern window of the service wing. As with the front gallery, the floor is of 3 inch tongue and groove floor and a narrow profile beaded board ceiling. There are two French doors with 12 lites and a simple raised panel below, protected by wooden shutters with 4 recessed panels with iron strap hinges, all likely from the house's original construction.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

### Interior - Plan

The interior plan reflects changes as a result of the loss of chimneys and simplification of the floorplan for institutional use as a branch library and exhibition space. The front cottage has two large rooms paralleling the facade corresponding to the original three front rooms opening off the front gallery and the original enclosed loggia and cabinets respectively. These rooms are connected by the original openings along the central rear wall. The original interior partitions were removed in the 1970s as seen on the existing submitted floor plan. The service and office wings have separate entrances from the rear room. The office addition has two small rooms and a utility closet accessed from the service wing. The service wing has a short corridor opening off the rear lateral room of the front cottage and a small bathroom; the rest of the service wing is comprised of a conference room with openings to the side gallery.

### Interior - Details

Aside from the loss of chimneys and mantels, the front cottage has the bulk of its original finishes intact. The walls are of brick between posts with a painted plaster finish (repaired after Hurricane Katrina) and the interior moldings, particularly window surrounds and crown moldings, predate the library conversion (see Photos 21-25). With the exception of the entrance door, the window and door surrounds are original, of 3 3/8 inch boards with a 3/4 inch edge bead, corresponding with the exterior front gallery detail. The entrance door details correspond to the exterior details. The interior door casings on the central and rear wall are a mixture of original and post-Katrina replacements, all sharing a simple beaded end detail similar to the ceiling beams. Four panel doors opening to the office and service wing are original to the house. The floors are heart pine, another post-Katrina replacement.

The office addition and service wing (see Photos 28-35) are of wooden stud framing and have gypsum board wall and ceiling finishes. The window and exterior surrounds correspond to others in the house. The conference room has a thin profile beaded board wainscot with chair rail. An alcove in the north end of the room holds modern cabinets with a mosaic tile backspace. Both the office and service wing have heart pine floors like the front cottage, with the exception of the bathroom, which has modern tile floors and wainscot.

### Additions and Alterations:

#### 19th Century

- The rear loggia of the front cottage was enclosed at roughly the same time as the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations. During post-Katrina repairs, a chamfered post similar to those on the service wing was exposed embedded in brick infill, suggesting an early renovation date, probably before the kitchen and dining room were connected.
- The original casement windows on the east and west elevations of the front cottage were replaced with six over six wood sash windows at some point in the second quarter of the 19th century. Framing exposed during repairs shows that the original openings were used.
- At some point in the late 19th century, four over four wood windows were installed on the west and north elevation of the service wing. This may have been a repair after a fire, given the 19th century reframing of parts of the service wing.

#### Ducros Era Renovations (1909-1911)

- Tuscan order columns typical of the Colonial Revival style replaced earlier columns on the front gallery. It is likely that the deeper fascia was added at this point as well.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

- The central doorway on the entrance elevation was replaced with a Colonial Revival doorway with sidelights. The original would have been French doors matching the remaining original doors on the front.
- A shingle-faced gable with a stepped tripartite window was added to the front elevation. As part of this renovation, a small overhang with a different roof pitch was added, obscuring the front fascia.
- The service wing, originally a separate structure built separate from the house in order to avoid heat and fire, was moved to its current location and attached to the front cottage.
- A wood frame addition with a shed roof housing Dr. Ducros's office was added along the rear of the front cottage adjoining the service wing.

### Post Ducros Changes

- It is likely that the chimney tops were lost after Hurricane Betsy (1965) and not replaced. The roof structure is a mixture of old growth and modern wood, suggesting multiple post-hurricane repairs. This area of the state is highly prone to suffering hurricane damage due to its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico.
- After the donation of the house to St Bernard Parish in 1971, the building was converted to a library and exhibition space. At this point, the chimney flues were removed and the interior partitions composed of vertical boards in the front cottage were removed, producing its current configuration. The location of these partitions can be deduced by repairs to the crown molding.

### Fountain

In front of the house, centered on the walkway is a cast concrete fountain designed by Emile Weil for the Saenger Theatre on Canal Street in New Orleans. According to family tradition, Sam Tennant bought this fountain after it was removed during renovations to the Saenger Theatre sometime in the 1950s. The fountain is considered non-contributing to the property because it was moved onto the site after the period of significance.

### Park Pavilions

Roughly 150 feet northeast of the house on the eastern boundary of the property are two open pavilions, built in 2010. Each is 19 by 55 feet, with a hipped metal roof supported by wooden box columns. As these are new construction, they are non-contributing elements, but they are of a sympathetic design and do not detract from the setting.

### Trapper's Cabin

Roughly 200 feet northeast of the house on the eastern boundary of the property is a reconstructed trapper's cabin, built in 2010. It is of board and batten with a simple gabled metal roof. Again, as it is new construction, it is a non-contributing element, but is of a sympathetic design and does not detract from the setting.

### Assessment of Alterations and Integrity

The location and setting of the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House retain a high degree of integrity. The primary changes made to the property include changes to the road since 1909 and the 2010 additions of park pavilions and the trapper's cabin to peripheral areas of the site. Even with these changes, the house still retains a rural setting. The feeling and association with Dr. Ducros was affected to a degree by the conversion of the house to a library in 1974 by removing interior partition walls in the front cottage, but Dr. Ducros's office addition remains intact. Also, the house still expresses the aesthetic and historic sense of the time period not only when it was built, but also of when Dr. Ducros lived in the house. The design of the house is essentially the same as that of the time of Dr. Ducros



Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

with the only major exterior change being the removal of chimneys (probably damaged by Hurricane Betsy in 1965). The biggest interior change was the removal of partitions during the conversion to a library.

Integrity of workmanship and materials remains high as the house retains its original *brique-entre-poteaux* construction and pegged roof rafters. Many original features such as French doors at the front of the house and service wing, door hardware, and ceiling beams remain. Almost all exterior details, including the wood windows, date from at least the time of Dr. Louis A. Ducros. The material integrity of the building has been affected to a degree primarily through the loss of interior partitions and associated fireplace details (such as mantels) in 1974. Otherwise most of the materials in the house are either historic, or have been sensitively replaced in kind with appropriate materials (such as interior floors and plaster) during the building's sensitive rehabilitation in 2009. The rehabilitation work complied with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic buildings.

All of these features combine to preserve the historic feeling of a small plantation house in central St. Bernard Parish on Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf. Despite these minor changes over the years, the Dr. Louis A Ducros House retains a relatively high level of integrity and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**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.)

	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<b>x</b>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	<b>C</b>	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.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Health/Medicine

**Period of Significance:** 1909-1945

**Significant Dates:** 1800 (construction date), 1909, 1945

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): Dr. Louis A. Ducros

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** N/A

**Period of Significance (justification):** The period of significance begins with the purchase of the property by Dr. Louis A. Ducros in 1909 and it ends in 1945, with the death of Dr. Ducros.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ducros House is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B under Health/Medicine at the local level for its association with Dr. Louis A. Ducros. Dr. Ducros was a prominent physician in the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of St. Bernard Parish, who made significant contributions in the field of public health while living in and practicing out of the nominated property from 1909 until his death in 1945.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of St. Bernard Parish**

St. Bernard Parish is located to the east of Orleans Parish and the city of New Orleans fronting the Mississippi River and extending eastward to wetlands areas and barriers islands bordering the Gulf of Mexico. There are no incorporated municipalities within St. Bernard Civil Parish. The parish was originally occupied by coastal Louisiana Indians, like the Chitimacha and Choctaw, who shared their land with the first settlers from France, Spain, and Canada. St. Bernard was first settled during French rule, from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to 1763. The most important settlements occurred during the Spanish occupation from 1765 to 1800, when the largest group of immigrants to the area was brought from the Canary Islands (Los Isleños). There were four settlements in Lower Louisiana where the new arrivals settled: Galveztown, Valenzuela, Baratavia, and La Concepcion (later known as San Bernardo de Nueva Galvez). San Bernardo was named in honor of Governor Bernardo de Galvez and his patron saint, Saint Bernard de Clairvaux, and the Spanish immigrants called it Tierra de los Bueyes, known originally as Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf by the French.

In 1778, Governor Galvez commissioned Pierre Phillippe de Marigny de Mandeville to settle a large contingent of Isleño families southeast of New Orleans, a distance of approximately 5 leagues (15 miles). On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1779, Marigny donated a huge parcel of property to King Charles III of Spain in the low country of St. Bernard for colonization by settlers from the Canary Islands. The area extended from the rear of the Poydras Plantation, at the elbow of the Mississippi River near where Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf starts, to the Biloxi Marsh and Delacroix Island wetland areas, where the Bayou ends (Finnis Terra). The King of Spain appointed Marigny the founding commandant of the Post of *La Concepción*, later renamed St. Bernard Post (Puesto de San Bernardo), on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1780. This was the date when St. Bernard separated from the direct governmental supervision of New Orleans with a district territorial jurisdiction and community identity (see submitted 1942 USGS Map for locations of Poydras and St. Bernard).

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, St. Bernard Parish, as part of New Orleans Parish, was officially incorporated and established by act of the Louisiana Territorial Legislature of 1807. The boundaries at that time were confined to the Spanish *Población de San Bernardo*. These settlements (*poblaciones*) were popularly known as *parroquias* or parishes because the Spanish Government established catholic ecclesiastical parishes in each civil jurisdiction. The civil jurisdiction usually derived its name from the ecclesiastical parish. After Louisiana attained statehood in 1812, the French sugar plantation owners along the downriver east bank of the Mississippi River of Orleans Parish grew very vocal about paying elevated property taxes to the city of New Orleans and requested to annex this section of New Orleans to St. Bernard Parish. Consequently, an area comprising present day Violet, Meraux, Chalmette, and most of Arabi became part of St. Bernard Parish in 1817.

The economy of St. Bernard Parish has been defined by an agricultural society tied to the land and its special ecosystem until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the indigo plantations in St. Bernard Parish brought economic strength. However, with the settlement of the Spanish population at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, sugar plantations replaced the low yielding indigo making St. Bernard, along with the rest of Louisiana, the leaders of sugar production in the nation. Plantations and farms developed along the rich fluvial soils lining the banks of the Mississippi River, the bayous, and the lakes promoting economic development to St. Bernard residents since its beginnings. St. Bernard marshes and wetlands with cypress forests later created a thriving timber industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century providing economic benefits together with the fishing and trapping industries in the hands of the Isleños.

Sugar plantations dominated the region of Southeastern Louisiana before the Civil War, with 24 parishes involved in the industry. The sugar plantation industry brought the railroad to St. Bernard Parish in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century to serve the plantations. In 1844, the Mexican Gulf Railroad Company was established, which operated up to the Civil War. By 1900, the rail line was still transporting the basic commodities of the region, like sugar, but also timber and large quantities of fish to the New Orleans markets.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, St. Bernard started growing as an industrial and urbanized community, with the establishment of the American Sugar Refinery, Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant, Kaiser Aluminum's Chalmette Works, the Tenneco Oil Refinery (today Valero), Murphy Oil Refinery, natural gas processing plants and ship building. New urbanization tracks were developed surrounding these endeavors to provide housing to the labor force. Plantations like Poydras, were subdivided in truck farming developments. The construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, as an alternative access to the Port of New Orleans from the Gulf of Mexico in the late 1950s, created a significant land loss in the parish through the creation of salt water intrusions. The most devastating result of the project was felt in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina, pushed the marsh and the Gulf of Mexico inland through the Gulf Outlet like a funnel, flooding every structure in St. Bernard with up to 12 feet of marsh mud which receded only after 2 weeks.

### **St. Bernard Village on Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf**

The small and large plantation owners of the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century established themselves in the Bayou on emerging sugar plantations. Following the War of 1812, these smaller 18<sup>th</sup> century allotments owned by the Isleños, were accumulated to create large land holdings required to make the production of sugar profitable.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

St. Bernard Village, located roughly in central St. Bernard Parish, extends along the Bayou Road to the historic western boundaries of Creedmore Plantation (see 1937 General Highway Map in map section). Today, Bayou Road defines the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf region in lower St. Bernard where the original Canary Islanders settled. Bayou Road was established along Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Spanish Government to provide access to and from the newly arrived Isleños colonists' farms.

When the first settlers arrived, the Bayou must have looked like the following description by Major Amos Stoddard as an early 19<sup>th</sup> century traveler through Louisiana, between 1805 and 1812:

*"On the east side of the Mississippi, and about twelve miles below New Orleans, a dry strip of land extends from the river in a direction towards the lakes, where it terminates at a distance of twenty miles. This tongue of land, called Terre au Boeuf, is about a mile in width, and divided in the center by a creek or bayou; and, like the Mississippi, is bounded on each side by cypress swamps. This tract is mostly settled by Spaniards from the Canaries who are poor and generally cultivate the land themselves. They plant sugar cane which they sell or grind on shares at the sugar mills of their more opulent neighbours and at the same time raise a variety of articles for the market at New Orleans. The soil of this tract is excellent it affords plenty of timber and contained at the time of the cession about eight hundred souls."*

The principal settlement on Bayou-Terre-aux-Boeuf established in 1779, known as the "Población de San Bernardo", is today St Bernard Village. The land of the bayou was subdivided in long narrow strips like those used on the Mississippi River in the French long system, but only of approximately 3 arpents (576 feet wide) by 40 arpents (7,680 feet deep) making it about 100 acres of land to live on and cultivate. Many times, lands on both sides of the bayou were given to the same family. The settlers were initially provided rations during the first years including basic needs like food and clothing, as well as animals, equipment, and shelter.

Early issues of land grants at Terre-aux-Boeuf surfaced a few years later. There was no uniformity in the size of the lots, and therefore many quarrels occurred, especially when the Isleños started to buy and sell their tracts. In 1790, a request was made for a land survey and the provincial surveyor, Charles Trudeau, executed the survey. A large amount of settlers owned property on both sides of the Bayou, but had cleared very little of the land during the Spanish rule as the rear portions were submersed in marshes, swamps, and wilderness.

Among all these small settlements with narrow farming lots, communities of mostly large sugar plantations developed interspersed with cotton and rice cultivations. In order of location, the following plantations were found running west to east starting at the bend of the Mississippi River and Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf:

- Poydras Plantation (burned in 1930)
- Little Gem Plantation, owned by Raoul Ducros, father of Dr. Ducros (burned in the 1930's)
- Sebastopol Plantation, where Dr. Louis A. Ducros grew up and lived before going to Tulane University Medical School (NR 1986)
- Creedmore Plantation
- Toca Plantation
- Magnolia Plantation
- Kenilworth Plantation (NR 2006)
- St. Mary Plantation, where Dr. Louis A. Ducros was born (demolished in the 1950's).
- Jorda Villa (established by the owners of Magnolia Plantation)

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

- Contreras Plantation, located at the bend of where Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf turns south towards Verret
- Olivier Plantation (part of the former Reggio Plantation)
- Florissant Plantation

Understanding that there were 12 plantations on a stretch of land that was only about 20 miles long reinforces the large size of each of these plantations.

The decline of the typical sugar plantation following the Civil War and Reconstruction at was due to expensive labor, competition, diminishing profit, diseases, and consolidation of plantations. In order to survive, plantation owners had to look at advanced agricultural technology, which utilized mechanization to supplant the high cost of labor and centralizations of production. Later industries developed to supplant this loss included truck farming and the oil refinery industry.

The economy of Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf has transitioned from an agriculturally oriented economy, influenced by the Isleños settlements with the sugar industry and other plantation crops in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, to an updated industrial economy with oil refineries in the latter years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and today.

#### **Historical Background (Criterion B: Health/Medicine): Dr. Louis A. Ducros (1869-1945)**

Dr. Louis A. Ducros moved into the former Michel Pereira/Richard Estopinal property after his second marriage to Anna K. Dittmars. At that time, he was already in private practice as well as the coroner of St. Bernard Parish, appointed by Governor Newton C. Blanchard, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Governor of Louisiana (1904-1908). Dr. Louis A. Ducros was re-elected to this office every four years during his lifetime, serving a total of 40 years. He was a pioneer family practitioner in the parish seeing patients in his home office and traveling by horse and buggy within the parish, serving the surrounding rural communities. Dr. Louis A. Ducros was the quintessential country doctor, only sending his patients to Charity Hospital in New Orleans when they needed hospitalization and specialized care. At the same time, he implemented many public health measures and advances that significantly benefited the health of the citizens of St. Bernard Parish, many times working in collaboration with the Department of Health of the State of Louisiana.

Dr. Louis A. Ducros was a locally and regionally prominent family medical practitioner, coroner, jail physician, public health policy maker, advocate, and volunteer for the community at Terre-aux-Boeuf and St. Bernard Parish from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The period of Ducros's association with this property begins on January 21, 1909, when Dr. Ducros purchased it for \$1,800 in cash from Marie Josephine Pereira Camus and Azema Pereira Estopinal, and it ends with his death in 1945 at this home.

Dr. Louis A. Ducros was born to a prominent St. Bernard Parish family in 1869 in Terre-aux-Boeuf, on St. Mary Plantation (demolished in the 1950's) on Bayou Road. His father, Raoul V. Ducros, was the son of Louis A. Ducros, whose ancestors came to Louisiana in 1737 from Haute Savoie, France. Raoul's mother, Michela de Armas was of Spanish descent as her grandfather came from the Canary Islands in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Raoul Ducros became coroner and treasurer of St. Bernard Parish after the Civil War. He later took on the position of Sheriff and was elected to the Louisiana legislature in 1872. Raoul Ducros was also appointed assessor and ex-officio registrar by Governor Nichols, and re-elected again to the legislature. He became also a member of the locally established Board of Health after the Reconstruction period. He married Rosa B. Nunez de Villavicencio, mother of Dr. Ducros, who was also a descendant of the Canary Island immigrants and together had thirteen children.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

Dr. Ducros was born into this prominent Louisiana family whose creole ancestry represented two significant cultural heritages settling in Louisiana, the French and the Spanish, with both becoming part of the Isleños heritage. The cultural diversity at Terre-aux-Boeuf also contributed to Dr. Ducros being fluent in Creole, French, Spanish Canarian, Italian, Sicilian, Portuguese, and English, which helped him in understanding and treating his patients.

Louis A. Ducros graduated from St. Isidore College, later known Holy Cross College in New Orleans. He then attended Tulane University Medical School graduating in 1898. One reason Dr. Ducros chose the medical profession was due to the death of his sister, Maria Antonia, due to yellow fever in the 1880's. This tragedy prompted him to study medicine and be involved in the effort of eradicating this terrible disease and to become an advocate for public health and public health education. He also had a sister, Camille, who died from typhoid fever in 1895 when she was 15 years old, while he was in medical school. Dr. Ducros studied during the era in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Louis Pasteur made scientific discoveries and developed vaccines and Robert Koch was researching for a cure for consumption (tuberculosis) and other diseases. After having lost two sisters to epidemics, Dr. Ducros became passionate in promoting public health through the development of sanitation methods to protect populations like Robert Koch promoted. At the same time, Dr. Ducros became also a strong advocate for vaccination in his community, like Louis Pasteur, whose goal was maintaining a healthy population. Together with his colleague, Dr. L. A. Meraux, from the St. Bernard Board of Health, they embarked in a strong vaccination program, which lasted through all of their careers as public servants, vaccinating sometimes over 600 children in half a year in 1931 (Parish minutes).

Dr. Ducros' knowledge in treating diseases in epidemic situations was obtained during his Medical School training at Tulane University in New Orleans. The strong emphasis on epidemics at Tulane was based on the fact that the university was located in a city where its people had endured many of them. Since the school's founding in 1834, there were eleven epidemics. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was not uncommon for the University to lose medical students to epidemic diseases, more commonly yellow fever, before graduation. On the annual report presented by the medical school at the commencement exercises when Dr. Ducros graduated in 1898, this concern was emphatically expressed as during the previous year the graduating ceremony had to be postponed due to an outbreak of yellow fever, which took the life of one student. Because of the disease, it was even necessary to postpone registration to medical school from October to November in 1897 when the occurrence of yellow fever declined.

Prof. Stanford E. Chaille, M.D., Dean of the Tulane Medical School from 1885-1908 and chairman of the department of physiology from 1868 to 1902, stressed the importance of prevention methods for stopping the spread of the disease in his extensive commencement speech. Among the proposed methods was cleanliness, civic and domestic, of soil, air, water and food, together with sewerage and drainage.

Dr. Chaille, a teacher of Dr. Ducros, was known as the "father of hygiene and health education" in America. He obtained notoriety when he was appointed head of the U.S. Havana Yellow Fever Commission in 1879, which was created in order to study the yellow fever disease after the 1878 epidemic in New Orleans. His bacterial studies of the blood of yellow fever victims provided the necessary links that led to the discovery of the aedes aegypti mosquito as the cause of the disease. Dr. Chaille was of national prominence as a spokesman for the establishment of community sewerage and drainage system, street paving, pure water supplies, and mosquito control. He was instrumental in the establishment of the National Board of Health, which became later the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

Dr. Ducros learned from the legacy of Dr. Chaille and became one of his most prominent followers by implementing Chaille's policies as a country doctor and public health official. Ducros made it his mission as a physician in his community throughout his life to apply his knowledge of disease prevention both in his private practice and public service, the latter by educating the community of St. Bernard and promoting best health practices. He was instrumental in monitoring the drainage system of St. Bernard, alerting parish officials about its condition and prompting maintenance when necessary.

During his medical school studies at Tulane, Dr. Ducros also became acquainted with Dr. Rudolph Matas, a rising star in the medical field who became known as the "father of vascular surgery". Dr. Matas, who had also written articles about yellow fever (1897) for the New Orleans Parish Medical Society while on the faculty of Tulane Medical School, became one of Dr. Ducros' mentors during his medical studies. In later years, Dr. Matas also visited Dr. Ducros in St. Bernard many times whenever he was passing through.

After graduating from Tulane, Dr. Ducros returned to the St. Bernard Parish area in 1899 as the first doctor from St. Bernard Parish to have a medical degree from an accredited medical school. He established an office at Walker's Hotel in Port Chalmette with only 2 days of office visits, Monday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. while he was doing his medical residency in New Orleans. At that time, New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish were plagued with major epidemics of yellow fever. These urban epidemics continued until 1905, when the last outbreak of yellow fever occurred, affecting both communities. After one of those yellow fever outbreaks in 1905, the medical team who worked on fighting this epidemic was honored with a reception provided by the citizens of St. Bernard. Dr. Ducros was one of the team members in providing care to patients in the "interior of St. Bernard, Terre-aux-Boeufs, who have nearly all recovered after being attended by Dr. L.A. Ducros. So far there has been no death in the interior of the parish" (The New Orleans Item 1905). Dr. Ducros was furthermore commended in a quote from The Times Picayune reporting the following in 1905 about his professional dedication during the epidemic: "Medical attention is extended to the sick in the Terre-aux-Boeufs country by Dr. L.A. Ducros, the local physician, who has remained at his post faithfully since the appearance of the fever, and done all in his power to prevent a spread of the fever."

To help achieve his goals of promoting public health against epidemics, Dr. Ducros practiced preventive medicine, educating the citizens of St. Bernard "to take precautions to guard against a spread of the disease." He also insisted on inoculating the residents of St. Bernard Parish from Violet to Delacroix and Shell Beach with vaccinations against diseases. He would later do it at his home office on the Bayou. Additionally, he introduced the usage of strong bleach solutions for cleaning public surfaces and other health concepts, considered modern at the time, to the people of St. Bernard Parish.

In 1905, Dr. Ducros was appointed coroner for St Bernard parish, by Governor Newton C. Blanchard, and served in that public position until his death. Among the issues he confronted as a coroner was the issuing of death certificates for natural, criminal, or accidental deaths such as drowning in the bayou or shootings occurring in St. Bernard Parish.

Four years later, in 1909, Dr. Ducros purchased and rehabilitated a Creole plantation house at 1345 Bayou Road (the nominated property). After purchasing the house, Dr. Ducros updated and rehabilitated the historic house. He enclosed and extended the rear gallery to the east, which became

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

his medical office. He also connected the existing kitchen structure, which was set back from the main house where the original "cabinet" room used to be and added a small bathroom. This rehabilitation created an L form to the original rectangular *briquette-entre-poteaux* structure and was done in the Colonial Revival style. The main features that were "colonialized" were the front door, the gable above the front gallery, and the classical columns replacing the original supports. The rest of the original details were left in place. At that time, his property included a pecan plantation, which he maintained and harvested, in addition to the cypress forests in the rear. The Ducros property was 270 feet wide (1 ½ arpent) by 7,200 feet long (40 arpents deep) containing approximately 50 acres.

The following year, Dr. Ducros married his second wife, Anna Katherine Dittmars, who lived in Old Arabi, St. Bernard Parish, and brought her to the semi-rural life of the Bayou, at "St. Bernard Station in the Third Ward", to his restored house. Ducros first wife, Heloise Forstall, died at childbirth in 1897, together with her son, but the couple already had a daughter named Camille. According to the oral history of Rosa Mathilde Ducros (Dr. Ducros' daughter), when her mother, Anna K. Dittmars, saw the house for the first time, she said: "...it was surrounded by smudge pots filled with slowly burning Spanish moss and oak leaves in order to chase away the mosquitoes. The house, shrouded in smoke and surrounded by whitewashed picket fences, presented another worldly, mysterious appearance..." Dr. Ducros would run both his private practice and his coroner position out of the office at his family home until his death in 1945. Because of the establishment of his office on Bayou Road, the number of patients medically treated in rural St. Bernard Parish increased.

In addition to his daily medical practice and his job as parish coroner, Dr. Ducros also served in many other public positions in his capacity as a medical doctor. In 1915, during the construction of the Caernarvon levee, financed by the state of Louisiana, and built between St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes using convict labor, he served as a physician of the convicts' camp. As with any of his regular cases, if any injuries were serious, he sent his patients to Charity Hospital in New Orleans after stabilizing them. Two years later, during World War I, Dr. Ducros joined the board of registration of the Selective Service Draft in St. Bernard as a physician providing the required physical examinations to the draftees.

In 1918, Dr. Ducros was able to work with public health issues using his knowledge of epidemiology when the influenza pandemic of 1918 struck. Again, Dr. Ducros was praised for his work during that time throughout the interior of St. Bernard Parish. He was praised by Nick Fernandez, a police juror (county commissioner) of the seventh ward of St. Bernard Parish for "his splendid work among the stricken ones" and his dedicated service to the community of Delacroix, whose population was made up of fishermen, trappers, and hunters, and where the disease hit the hardest of all the communities in St. Bernard Parish.

Dr. Ducros provided many other services to the community outside of his medical practice. In 1921, he facilitated the use by the St. Bernard Chapter of the American Red Cross, of three of his lots on Friscoville Avenue in Arabi, near the First Ward School for the establishment of a children's playground. A few months later, the Arabi Children's Playground was built and opened with a complete gymnastic outfit, slides, large and small swings, and giant strides defined by a tall pole with ropes/ladders attached to it. Children would hold on the handles and run in circles, so fast that their feet would be off the ground. In this and other ways, Dr. Ducros continued to contribute to the health and welfare of the children of St. Bernard Parish as a private citizen.

In 1922, Dr. Ducros was appointed to the St. Bernard Parish Board of Health. It was another committee wherein he served as a volunteer in improving the public health of the citizens of his



Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

community like his father did before 1898. By 1925, he was president of the St. Bernard Parish Board of Health serving until his death. With a population of around 5,500 inhabitants, compared to 330,000 inhabitants in nearby New Orleans, St. Bernard Parish and the Board of Health, led by Dr. Ducros, was able to more effectively and quickly implement public health measures such as vaccinations.

During Ducros's leadership of this board, he contacted Dr. Oscar Dowding, president of the state health board, to inspect the sanitary conditions of Bayou Terre-Aux-Boeuf. Accompanied by Dr. Ducros, the St. Bernard Improvement Association, and the president of the Louisiana Southern Railroad, Dr. Dowding reviewed the area and found the sanitary conditions of the Bayou "unsatisfactory". In fact, the Bayou was considered a menace to public health and the need for a constant flow of water became a priority for the health board. Thus, maintaining a well-functioning drainage system became Dr. Ducros' priority and under his leadership, the board of commissioners of the Bayou Terre-aux-Bouef drainage district became very active. In 1930, work was completed on the improved irrigation system of the Bayou. The improvement insured the much-needed unobstructed flow of fresh water in the Bayou, which would be important to maintaining good public health.

Through Dr. Ducros's leadership, St. Bernard Parish eventually developed the best public health program in the region during the early 1920's and 1930's. He addressed every detail of it, from the infrastructure to health prevention, in order to avoid the epidemics, which he had to deal with during the early years of his medical career. He continued working for the Health Board until his death. Rosa Ducros, Dr. Ducros' daughter, is quoted as saying in her 1983 interview that "Sebastian Roy, a St. Bernard public official and contemporary of my father, dubbed him the 'Father of Public Health in St. Bernard Parish'".

Dr. Ducros was also a prominent leader in St. Bernard Parish, continuously improving the public health and welfare system. He served with distinction and dedication during the two most devastating epidemics, yellow fever and influenza, in the most isolated areas of his community, where the largest number of Isleños descendants, fisherman, hunters, and trappers resided and where no other doctors were available. Dr. Ducros was the tireless public servant.

Dr. Ducros was the first licensed physician and also the only physician from St. Bernard Parish listed in the American Medical Directory of the AMA in 1909. The only local doctor in St. Bernard Parish at the time of Dr. Ducros arrival after graduation was the parish coroner and health board president, Dr. L. D. Foudriat, who was French and a graduate from Montpellier Medical School in France. When he died in 1904, Dr. L. A. Ducros replaced him as a coroner and Dr. L. A. Meraux replaced him on the Parish Board of Health. Dr. Ducros was the first Tulane University Medical School Graduate from St. Bernard Parish serving his community and Dr. Meraux was the second. When he established his medical office for the first time in 1899, twice a week in Chalmette, Dr. Ducros was still doing his medical residency in New Orleans. Besides Dr. Foudriat, the coroner, there were only two other doctors offering their services to the residents in the local newspaper, *The St. Bernard Voice*: Dr. A. J. Padron and Dr. George R. Beard. While they were listed in the St. Bernard Parish newspaper, both doctors were from New Orleans with offices in New Orleans and were, thus, not local doctors who were easily accessible to residents of St. Bernard Parish.

Dr. Ducros was the first doctor in St. Bernard Parish to start educating his community on public hygiene, preventive medicine, and vaccination, due to the training he received at Tulane in Tropical and Infectious diseases, as well as his service during the epidemics in the region. After he

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

established himself as a local physician in the Bayou region of St. Bernard through his performance during the epidemics of 1905 and 1918, as well as promoting public health education in schools and community meetings, the local people reached out to him for medical treatment. Dr. Ducros brought the latest treatments and innovations to St. Bernard Parish in treating infectious diseases. He was well versed in the latest scientific advances produced by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch in the development of vaccines, discovery of disease causes and preventive methods, like hygiene and immunization.

Even though Dr. Ducros served the Parish as the most important public health official for 40 years, his solid reputation and humble manner until the end of his life, did not give time for awards and banquets to celebrate his great contributions to the parish and its citizens. Only one oral history exists about his life, the one given by his second daughter, Rose Mathilde Ducros Tennant, in 1983. All his teachings about public health were given verbally to his patients and citizens of the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf, an area populated by hunters, trappers, fisherman, and farmers who still spoke Canarian Spanish and hardly knew how to read or write and therefore could not understand much literature on public health about hygiene and inoculations. In addition to giving all of his advice and lectures orally, Dr. Ducros also had to learn to teach proper hygiene methods and modern public health concepts to a population with many wives tales remedies such as filling open flesh wounds with much from the Bayou (Rosa Ducros Oral History).

In 1931, at the age of 64, Dr. Ducros retired from his private practice. However, he continued to serve the public as coroner. In 1944, a year before his death, at the age of 77 at his home in St. Bernard Village at Terre-aux-Boeuf, he was re-elected as a coroner. Dr. Louis Alfred Ducros died at his home in 1945, after serving St. Bernard Parish for 40 years as physician and coroner. He was the longest serving coroner in the Parish and the State of Louisiana. During his lifetime, he was a leader, creator, and builder of the St. Bernard Public Health system where he served with passion and dedication for the health and welfare of the community in which he was born and lived all his life. He introduced improvements to the Parish infrastructure and educated its citizens in matters of health. According to Rosa Ducros, her father "visited the public schools to care for the students, vaccinating them against diseases." He also gave lectures to the community on public health. While being a public official, he always found time for his private practice patients as their family doctor reaching them at every corner of the parish or at his office in his home, the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House on Bayou Road, St. Bernard Village.

After his death, the Ducros property was inherited by his daughters, who eventually donated it to St. Bernard Parish in 1971 with the stipulation that it was to be used as a museum, public library, and community meeting room, with the rear of the property to be used as a park. The mission was to preserve and promote St. Bernard Parish History, which Dr. Ducros loved so much. Eventually with subsequent donations, the site has become a museum complex. Several historic buildings, threatened with demolition, have been moved from their original sites in the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf to the Ducros House site. These buildings represent the Isleños cultural past in St. Bernard Parish and are situated at distances far enough away from the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House to preserve its historic integrity.

Even though Dr. Ducros was born on Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf and grew up on different plantations on the Bayou, the Dr. Louis A. Ducros house is the most important and significant property associated with him because it is here where he built his medical office, where he practiced medicine, and from where he made contributions to the public health system of St. Bernard Parish, as a coroner, physician, and as a president and member of the St. Bernard Parish Board of Health. Other

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

properties include his birthplace, St. Mary's Plantation (demolished in the 1950s), his boyhood home in the 1870s, Sebastopol Plantation (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and Little Gem Plantation, where he lived as a teenager (burned in the 1930's). Only Sebastopol Plantation survives to this day.

While he was a medical student, Dr. Ducros lived at a family home in New Orleans on 200 Burgundy Street (demolished). After he finished his medical residences, he returned to St. Bernard Parish and purchased a shotgun dwelling (extant, but has significant loss of integrity) on Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf, nearby the present Ducros House Museum. Therefore, the only significant extant property today associated directly with Dr. Ducros' medical practice and lifework in St. Bernard Parish, is the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House, which he purchased in 1909 on the eve of his wedding. This is the property where Dr. Ducros made his significant contributions to the public health and welfare of St. Bernard Parish, helping to improve public health significantly from where it was prior to his return to the Bayou. It is for these significant contributions that the Dr. Louis A. Ducros House remains eligible for the National Register.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

#### Isleños Museum Complex, Louis Ducros M.D. Historical Museum, and Research Library

The St. Bernard Historical Society was founded in 1968 by Frank Fernandez, who was the first official historian of St. Bernard Parish appointed in 1967. He sought the donation of a property in which to establish a museum dedicated to presenting the history of St. Bernard Parish. Rosa Mathilde Ducros Tennant, daughter of Dr. Ducros, answered Fernandez's call and offered two properties for consideration in St. Bernard Village. One was a Gothic Revival structure called the Half-Way House on Bayou Road, which upon a structural evaluation was found to be unsound, and infested with termites and rot. Fernandez then inspected the second property, the Dr. Louis Alfred Ducros home. Unlike the Half-Way House, the home was structurally sound, but in need of repair.

Rosa Ducros Tennant donated the Ducros home to St. Bernard Parish in 1971 and Sybille Ducros Hackett, her sister, donated the other half of the original property to establish the Louis Ducros, M.D., Historical Museum and Research Library. The St. Bernard Parish Police jury repaired the building and opened it to the public as a branch of the St. Bernard Parish Library and local history museum in 1974. This event led to the establishment of the Los Isleños Museum Complex.

In August 29, 2005, as the result of Hurricane Katrina, the Isleños Museum site was entirely flooded, and all the buildings sustained water damage. The Dr. Louis Ducros House, although flooded, appeared structurally sound and suffered little to no wind damage. The house was rehabilitated in 2009 with FEMA funding, complying with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. At that time, FEMA and the Louisiana SHPO determined that the Ducros House was eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Chain of Title for the Ducros House:

The chain of title of the Dr. Ducros property was hard to obtain for many reasons including the destruction of existing records belonging to St. Bernard Parish Historian William Hyland by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the destruction of records by the fire of 1886 in the St. Bernard Parish Court House, the 1832 land claims since the first settlement of the Canary immigrants in 1778, and the New Orleans fires of 1788 and 1796, when many archival records in the church and government buildings like the Cabildo were destroyed. Other factors affecting the title chain were the changes of ruling countries in the new world territories from France to Spain, back to France, and finally, to the United

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

States; changes in recording documentation methods (French and Spanish land titles, Federal land patents and grants, Notary Public and Parish Courthouse records); and the dispersal of the 1790 personal papers of surveyor Carlos Trudeau throughout many archives in the United States, as well as Spain, France, and Cuba.

The chain of title for this nomination went as far as one could with directions from William Hyland, St. Bernard Parish historian. From the records of the American State Papers, where the first important land claims reached Congress in 1832 and the existing maps, one was able to identify the geographical and legal location of the property. As mentioned before, there were no legal records from the land distribution by DeMarigny, nor survey records of 1790.

Congressman Cave Johnson, Democrat from Tennessee, introduced the petition of Land Claims to the 22nd First Session of Congress, H.R. 125 bill, from the Committee on Private Land Claims submitted by E. Marin, J. Wogin and other citizens of the parish of St. Bernard, in the State of Louisiana which initially said:

*“That the petitioners claim to be owners and proprietors of several tracts of land in the parish of St. Bernard, in the State of Louisiana, lying on the Terre aux Boeufs, according to a survey made for themselves **by Aug. S. Phelps, the surveyor of the United States in said State**, and which accompanies said petition, and contains the names of said petitioners, and a precise statement of the boundaries and the quantity of land claimed by them, respectively, and which was made in the month of May, 1831. **Said claimants rely for title upon donations made to them by the King of Spain between the years 1778 and 1783**, and a continued occupation and possession and cultivation of said lands ever since. They also allege that they were ignorant of the requirement of the several acts of Congress heretofore passed for the confirmation of their titles, and now ask Congress to protect them in their rights and possessions.*

*It appears to the committee, from a careful examination of the testimony, that between the years 1778-1783 the section of country lying on the Terre-aux-Boeufs, described in the plat accompanying the petition, was settled by a series **of emigrations from the Canary Islands**, under the directions of the **King of Spain, and through the agency of Galvez, who was at that time the governor of Louisiana; and that Pierre Marigny was appointed the commandant of the colony**, in order that he might direct and regulate its formation and establishment; and that he gave to each of the emigrants **a portion of land**, which was varied in quantity in proportion to the number of individuals in each family, and that the portion assigned each **was very small-some two, some three, and others three and a half arpents in front and forty deep**; and that said commandant had built, under a contract with the King of Spain a small house on each of the portions of land assigned to the emigrants, and supplied them with provisions for some time; and that the said emigrants, or their descendants or assigns, had occupied and cultivated the several tracts of land allotted them from that time to the present; and that in the **year 1785 a church and parsonage-house had been built** for the use of the colony by the government on Terre- aux- Boeufs, and had been used by them for the purposes of worship from that time to the present.*

*It is further in proof **that Lavau Trudeaux, the royal surveyor general for the province of Louisiana, proceeded in the year 1792, by order of Governor Carondelet**, to make a survey of the lands thus assigned the colonists by their former commandant Marigny, and that he did survey and designate to each individual the boundaries of his respective portion.*

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

*Witness testifies that Trudeaux so informed him, and that he had seen the plat of the land made by him, and which he supposes to be lost, and which probable, from other information given to the committee, was destroyed shortly after by a conflagration of a part of New Orleans, with many other valuable papers of that officer.*

*It is further in proof that no written evidence of title was given to the colonists either by the King of Spain or his officers in Louisiana; that the said portions of land so parceled out to the colonists were of but little value at that time and for many years after, and were frequently sold, and the estate passed by parol, and **sometimes in writing on small strips of paper, which have not been preserved;** and in some instances, **as is apparent on the plat exhibited, large estates have been formed, and in other cases divisions and subdivisions of the original settlement claim have been made, either by sales or partition among descendants of the original emigrants,** so that the witnesses are of opinion it would **be impossible at the present time to trace the titles back to the original proprietors.***

*Witnesses state that they have examined the plat accompanying the petition, and that the same presents an accurate statement of the settlers, and the quantity of land and boundaries of the respective portions of land claimed by them at the present time, and that the respective tracts, as designated in said plat, have been constantly occupied and cultivated by them, or their descendants or their assigns, from the original settlement to the present time. The preceding facts are satisfactorily proven to the committee, not only by two or three of the original settlers, but also by the **testimony of Charles Faggot, who was a Spanish officer, stationed on the Terre-aux-Boeuf in 1781, and who was appointed parish judge of St. Bernard in 1807, and was a representative in the legislature of Louisiana in 1810, and again appointed parish judge in 1819, which office he yet fills, and is represented to us as a man of honesty and integrity, and his statements are confirmed by the testimony of the Hon. D. Bouligny, late a senator in the Congress of the United States from Louisiana. All the depositions exhibited were taken in the presence of the register of the land office at New Orleans.***

*Petitioners also produce a certified copy of a paper in the Spanish Language, from the register's office in New Orleans, purporting to be a retrocession from Don Pedro Philippe Marigny de Mandeville to the King of Spain of a quantity of land between the Mississippi and the lakes, and which includes the Terre- aux- Boeufs, for the purpose of enabling him to colonize the same, and which is dated on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1779.*

*The Committee are of opinion that the faithful execution of the treaty by which the government of the United States acquired Louisiana demands the recognition and confirmation of the claims of the petitioners. They are also of opinions that the said petitioners might have secured titles to the respective tracts of land claimed by them under the laws heretofore passed by Congress for securing titles to Spanish claimants in Louisiana, and that the omission to do so, whether from neglect or ignorance, should not produce a forfeiture of their claims. The committee therefore submits a bill for their relief".*

The petition included a plat created by Phelps from the 1831 survey. This plat could not be found in the National Archives, but the field notes identifying the owner/claimant at that time are available in the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, State Land Office, Records.

In Book I of the *Field Notes of Aug. S. Phelps 1831. Ts 13 & 14 S. Rs 12 & 13 E.* Page 57 and 58, the ownership description of Sec. 19 T.13 R 13 E. which is comprised of 175.94 acres is the following:

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

*S. 19 Juan Esteves. Fernandez Esteves, Juan Yerpas (Serpas?), Joseph Cantrelle, Vda. Garrick, F. Garrick, Cyprian Lefevre and Eugene Dumouchelle. (North of the Bayou)*

*From the S. E. Corner of S.18, then down Road S. 85 ¾ E. 15. 17 chs (1001 feet) to the line between Eugene Dumouchelle & Manuel Solis (Sec. 28). Then N. 1° 30' E. 116.36 chs (7680 feet) to post-a small gum. N. 43° W. 19" a gum S. 84 ¾ W. 25- a large gum S 9 ½ W. 17 " a cypress S. 46 ½ E. 27". Then N. 85 ¾ W. 15.17 chs (1001 feet)- to post previously established. Area. 175.94 acres.*

These owners of properties on Sec. 19 were listed in the following order on the list of Claimants of HR.125:

Claimant 13 (Sec. 19 West boundary line). Succession of Esteves

Claimant 14. (Sec. 19 half west) Madam Garie (a.k.a. Garrick, Garric)

Claimant 15. Cyprien Lefebvre

Claimant 16. Eugene Charles Dumouchel

Claimant 13: **Jean (Juan)Esteves** was the progenitor of the Esteves family in St. Bernard. He was born in Santiago, Galicia (Spain) and married Josefa Truxillo from La Gomera, in the Canary Islands who emigrated with her parents in 1779. In the census of 1810, there were a total of 11 members in his household and no slaves. By 1814 Juan Esteves was a widower. His children were Pedro, Rosa, Juan, Fernando, Josepha, Maria, and Vicenta. Upon his death in 1824, his children inherited his property. His direct lineal descendants are still in possession of a portion of Sec. 19 tract which they cultivate as a citrus orchard.

Claimant 14:**Madam Eugenie Laurence daLavigne Garrick, widow of Francois Garrick**, original owner of the rest of Sec. 19, the property east of the Esteves Succession, which included today's Dr. Louis A. Ducros property. Her deceased husband, Francois Garrick was the son of Jean Baptiste Garric, attorney in the parliament of Paris and brevetted Royal notary public of the King of Spain in New Orleans. His mother was Etiennette de Gayon, native of Brittany, France. He also was the Commandant of St. Bernard Parish in 1817.

The Garrics were neighbor of the Esteves in 1810, according to the census of that year and were the owners of 14 slaves; which were part of the 20 members in their household. In 1820, they had 18 slaves and a total household of 25 persons. In 1830, there were 12 slaves and 14 total persons in the house after the marriage of Madam Garrick's children. Francois Garrick also maintained a house on Bourbon Street, between Conti and Bienville, in New Orleans until his death.

Garrick owned a sugar plantation on this property situated between Jean Esteves and Manuel Solis (lot Sec. 28). Upon his death, the property and the slaves were distributed to the Garric succession, his wife, and his married daughters in a public sale in 1829 by act of Charles Fagot, Judge of St. Bernard Parish.

Widow Eugenie Garic, for the sum of 3,565 piastres (dollars) obtained the following slaves: Fonrose, 32 years old, Hector, 50 years old, Catiche, 23 years old, and her child, Irenne, Marianne 40 years old, and her 4 children, Aimee, 9 years old, Augustin, 6 years old, Gustave, 5 years old, Lolotte 2 years old, and Gotou, who was very old.

Francois Garrick's son was tutored by Santiago Toutant de Beauregard. Francois was accepted to attend West Point, but at the request of his widowed mother he remained home. He became Sheriff of St. Bernard Parish and served in the Louisiana Legislature, when the State Capitol was located on Royal Street in New Orleans. Francois was a good friend of John McDonough who gifted \$500 as a

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

wedding gift when he married Armantine Saucier. Francois was also one of the major supporters in the 1840's of the construction of the Mexican Gulf Railroad, later known as Shell Beach Railroad through Terre-aux-Boeuf. He was a great supporter of the Confederacy during the Civil War selling his St. Bernard Plantation to aid them in their defense of the South.

Claimant 15: **Cyprien Lefebvre**, was the husband of Rosalie, daughter of Garric. They obtained their property west of Dumouchel for 246 dollars and 66 cents and a 15 year old slave named Valere.

Claimant 16: **Eugene Charles Dumouchel**, husband of Eulalia, daughter of Garric. He obtained the portion that later became the Dr. Ducros property, for 1546 piastres (dollars) 66 cents and the following slaves: Polidore 18 years old, Isidore 15 years old, Marie 42 years old, Victor 8 years old, Fillette 16 years old and her child Amanda. Dumouchel was born in France. He was the secretary for St. Bernard Parish in 1848 and also Clerk of the Court in 1850.

In 1834, after the land claims were settled by Congress and the death of their parents, Francois Garic, Eaulalie Dumouchel, Rosalie Lefebvre and Aglae Limos requested to the New Orleans Parish police jury to emancipate Fonrose, a mulatto slave whom they owned, in consideration of his good behavior during his long years of servitude.

Louis Cure, born in 1802, became the owner of the Dumouchel property before 1860. He was a planter in the St. Bernard Parish and was also listed in the 1832 Land Claimants to Congress for another property on the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf. Cure sold his property of Sec. 19 to Michel Pereira (a.k.a Perera, Perrera) on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1860.

Michel Pereira was also a plantation owner and a descendant of the Isleños. In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, he lived with his wife Azema Solis and their five small children, Carolina (7), Gabriel (5), Marie (3), Azema (2) and Sanon Anisette (1 month) on Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf. In 1861, he owned 150 acres of land and his wife 50 acres, on both sides of the bayou, with 5 slaves, cultivated lands, and animals. When the Civil War arrived in 1862 to Terre-aux-Boeuf and the Union Troops reached the mouth of the Mississippi River, the Confederate leadership declared martial law in New Orleans and St. Bernard parishes. All white males older than 16 years old were ordered to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. It was at that time when Michel Pereira became part of the Civil War effort. It does not seem to have been a voluntary enlistment. He joined as a private on Company H of the Crescent Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, and on November 8, 1862, he was enlisted at Camp Pratt in New Iberia Parish, western Louisiana by Col. Burke for the war effort. Pereira deserted a week later on November 14, 1862. The nomination writer found no further records of Pereira's whereabouts.

By 1870, Azema and her children had moved to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward in New Orleans. In the 1873 directory of New Orleans, she was listed, wid. Michel and her address was on Royal Street. Their property in St. Bernard was either abandoned or leased for farming. By 1880, Gabriel, Marie, and their sister, Azema, had returned to their father's property in St. Bernard. Gabriel had worked as a cooper in New Orleans and he became a farm laborer in Terre-aux-Boeuf. In 1880, Marie married Arthur Camus and moved to her father-in-law's house in New Orleans and had 6 children. She died in 1928 in Algiers, where they had built a home in 1888.

Azema Pereira, the sister of Marie Pereira, had married Richard Estopinal, a neighbor in 1881. They lived in her parents' house (the nominated property), where they raised a family of 6 children. Richard worked the farmland where they raised vegetables and sold them in the New Orleans market. He was

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

listed in the 1900 census as a farm laborer. Richard was part of the large Estopinal family who had settled from the Canary Islands at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in St. Bernard Parish.

After Richard Estopinal's death in 1900, the property was sold in 1909 to Dr. Louis A. Ducros for \$1800 cash. He bought this house for his future wife Annie Dittmars, whom he married the following year. The local newspaper in the January 1909 issue reported the restoration work of the former Pereira-Estopinal home by Dr. Ducros, mentioning that it is "one of the Old Landmarks of the Parish". After his death in 1945, his property was distributed among his wife and married daughters.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Resources

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

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Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
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Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Louisiana State Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** n/a

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** 3 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 29.867954 | Longitude: -89.860223 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point on the north of Louisiana State Highway #46, and the descending Bayou Terre-Aux-Boeuf, then north a distance of 800 feet, parallel to a monument line established, 192 feet west, by Eugene I. Estopinal, a surveyor in 1958. Then the property turns east, approximately 288 feet, then south 800' to the descending bank of Bayou Terre Aux-Boeufs, and then west 288 feet to the place of beginning. Being this boundary part of the original homestead of Dr. Louis Ducros purchased in 1909.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the area that is historically associated with the Ducros residence, purchased and rehabilitated in 1909. This boundary also includes the non-contributing buildings and object that were added to the property after 1945 as they are on the property today.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: James Crouch, William De Marigny Hyland, and Yolita E. Rausche  
organization: Rausche Historic Preservation, LLC  
street & number: 800 Commons St. #200-8  
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70112  
e-mail: yrausche@sbcglobal.net  
telephone: 216-469-0615  
date: November 30, 2013

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Ducros, Louis A., House  
City or Vicinity: St. Bernard  
County: St. Bernard Parish State: Louisiana  
Photographer: Yolita E. Rausche  
Date Photographed: August 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 35: West elevation (left) and south façade (right), camera facing northeast.  
South façade, camera facing north.

2 of 35: South façade as viewed from the sidewalk including fountain, camera facing northwest.

3 of 35: Terre-Aux-Boeuf historical marker from street entrance, camera facing northwest.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

4 of 35: Louis A. Ducros House setting in Los Islenos Museum Complex, viewed from Bayou Rd; camera facing northwest.

5 of 35: South façade as viewed from fountain, camera facing north.

6 of 35: Gable end detail at south façade, camera facing north.

7 of 35: Main Entrance, camera facing north.

8 of 35: South façade French door (right), camera facing north.

9 of 35: South façade (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

10 of 35: East elevation, camera facing northwest.

11 of 35: East elevation, original attic door; camera facing west.

12 of 35: East elevation, first floor original window; camera facing west.

13 of 35: East elevation and rear addition; camera facing southwest.

14 of 35: East elevation, rear addition; camera facing west.

15 of 35: Rear wing, French entrance door; camera facing west.

16 of 35: Rear wing window, north elevation; camera facing south.

17 of 35: North elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

18 of 35: West elevation, camera facing east.

19 of 35: Front porch, side view; camera facing east.

20 of 35: Southwest view of façade, camera facing northeast.

21 of 35: View of interior French door of main exhibition room, camera facing south.

22 of 35: Interior main exhibition room, camera facing west.

23 of 35: Structural detail in main exhibition room at ceiling-wall construction.

24 of 35: Interior second exhibition room, camera facing west.

25 of 35: View of six over six original window in second exhibition room, camera facing west.

26 of 35: Interior wall structural detail at second exhibition room showing the brick between post construction, camera facing north.

27 of 35: Roof construction detail, second exhibition room.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State

- 28 of 35: Interior view of Dr. Ducros' west office, camera facing southeast.
- 29 of 35: Interior view of window in Dr. Ducro's west office, camera facing northwest.
- 30 of 35: Interior view of Dr. Ducros' east office, camera facing northeast.
- 31 of 35: Interior view of Dr. Ducros' east office, camera facing southeast.
- 32 of 35: Interior view of Dr. Ducros' east office, camera facing west.
- 33 of 35: Interior view of conference room (former kitchen), camera facing northeast.
- 34 of 35: Interior view of conference room (former kitchen), camera facing southeast.
- 35 of 35: Interior view of conference room (former kitchen), camera facing south.

List of Figures:

Figure 1. Ducros Library c 1800-1820, Bayou Road, St. Bernard Village (photo William De Marigny Hyland 1982)

Figure 2. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House 1971. (The St. Bernard Voice. May 4, 1971)

Figure 3. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House following Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (FEMA)

Figure 4. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House following Hurricane Katrina, 2005; East Elevation (FEMA)

Figure 5. Dr. Louis A. Ducros (William Hyland Photographic Collection)

Figure 6. Dr. Ducros in front of his first house at 1332 Bayou Road (William Hyland Photographic Collection)

Figure 7. House at 1332 Bayou Rd today (William Hyland Photographic Collection).

Additional Maps

1. 1935 USGS Map – Department of the Interior, Delacroix, LA
2. 1942 USGS Map – War Department – Corps of Engineers, Louisiana. St. Bernard Quadrangle Grid Zone.
3. 1937 General Highway Map. St. Bernard Parish. Bureau of Public Records.
4. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House Site Map
5. Dr. Louis A. Ducros Floor Plan

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



Figure 1. Ducros Library c 1800-1820, Bayou Road, St. Bernard Village (photo Hyland 1982)



Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



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Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



Figure 3. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House following Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (FEMA)

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State



Figure 4. Dr. Louis A. Ducros House following Hurricane Katrina, 2005; East Elevation (FEMA)

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish

County and State



Figure 5. Dr. Louis A. Ducros (William Hyland Photographic Collection)

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



Figure 6. Dr. Ducros in front of his first house at 1332 Bayou Road (William Hyland Photographic Collection)

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

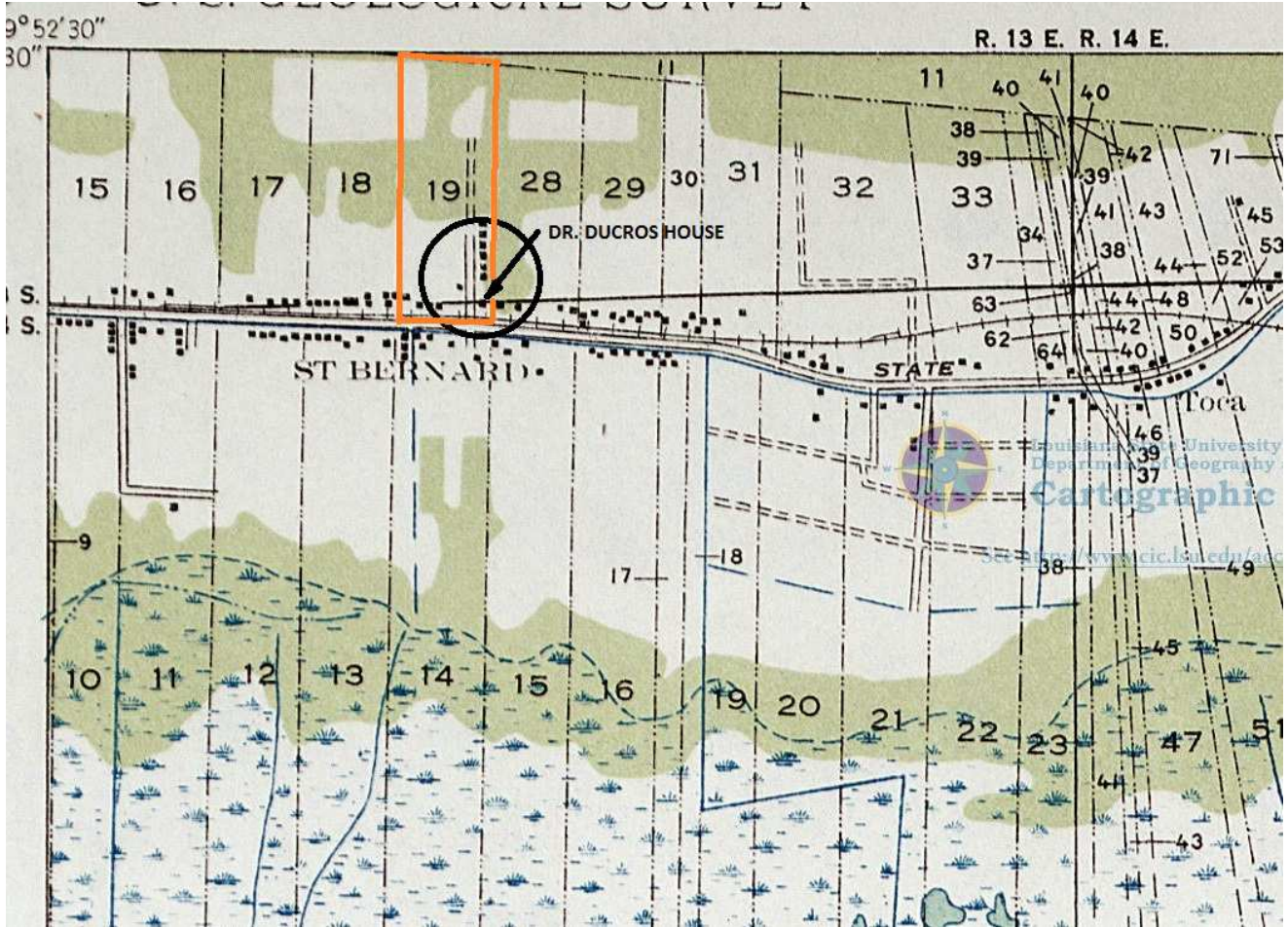
St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



Figure 7. House at 1332 Bayou Rd today (William Hyland Photographic Collection).

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

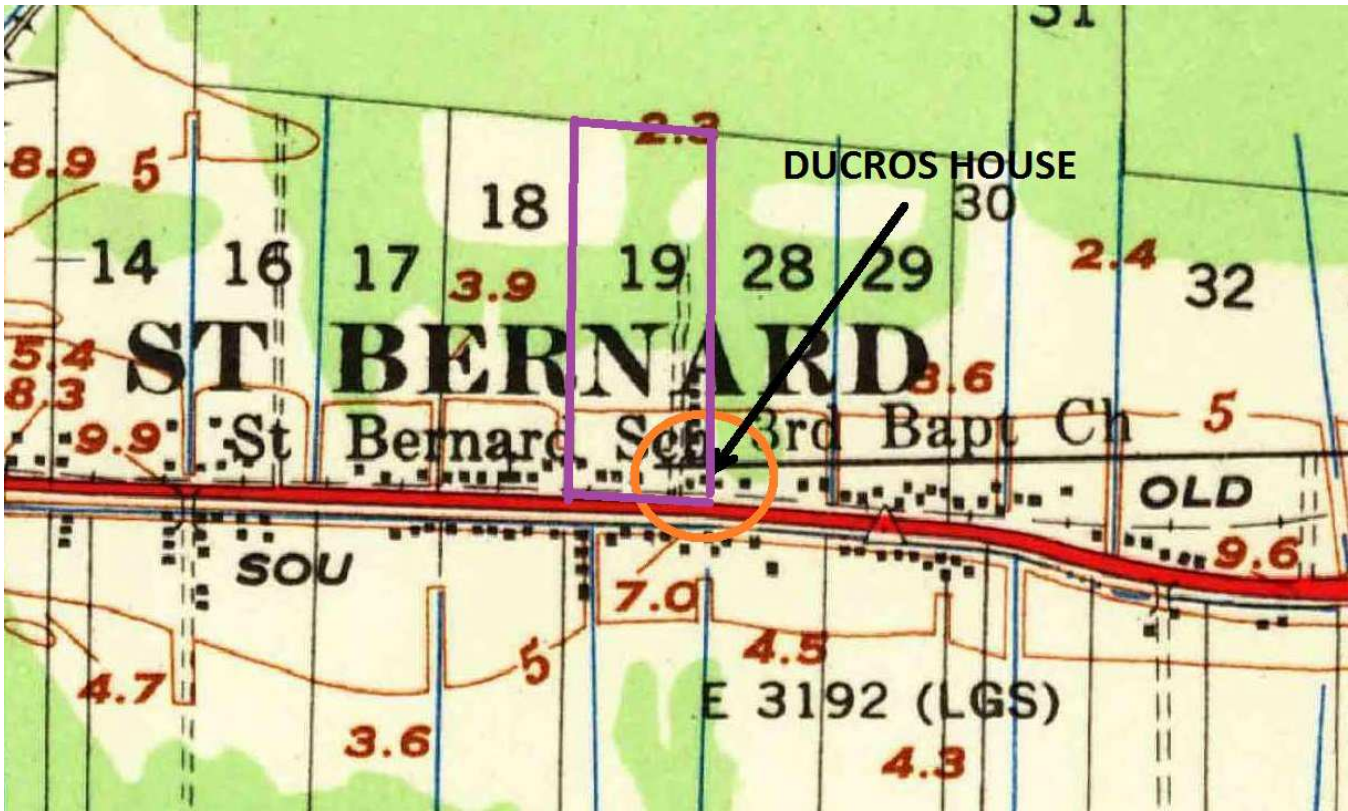
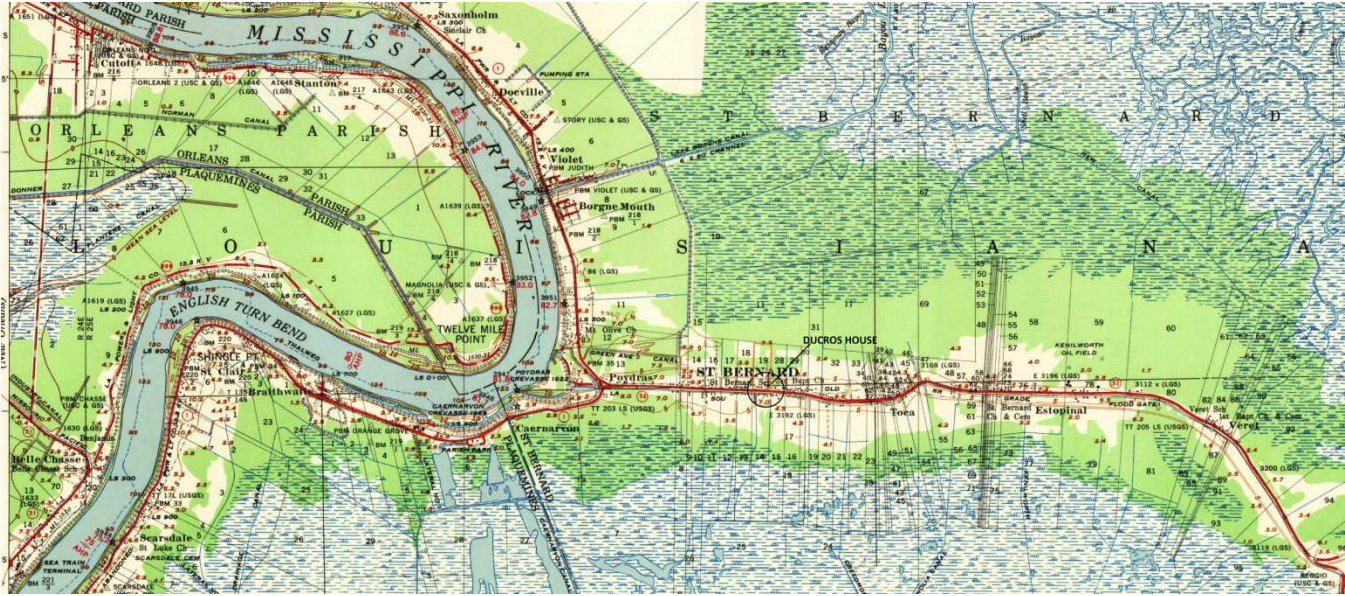
St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



1935 USGS MAP – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DELACROIX, LA.

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State

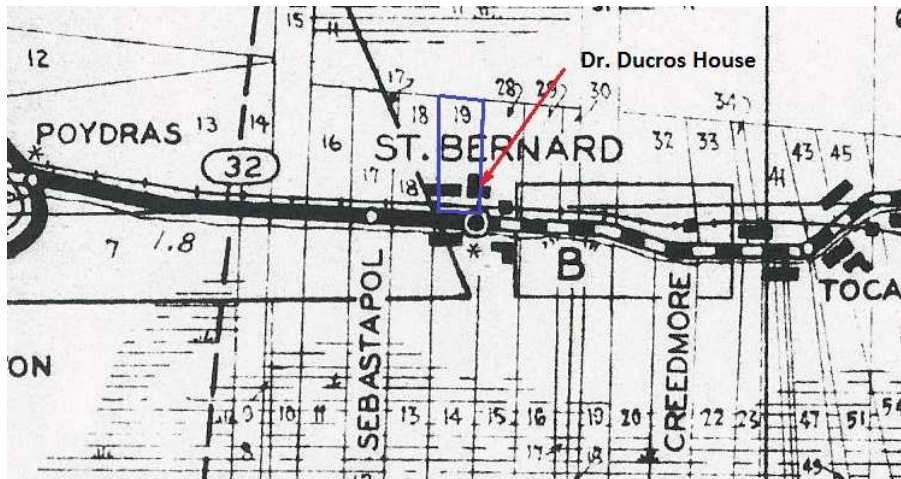


1942 USGS Map - War Department - Corps Of Engineers. Louisiana. St. Bernard Quadrangle Grid Zone "C"



Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

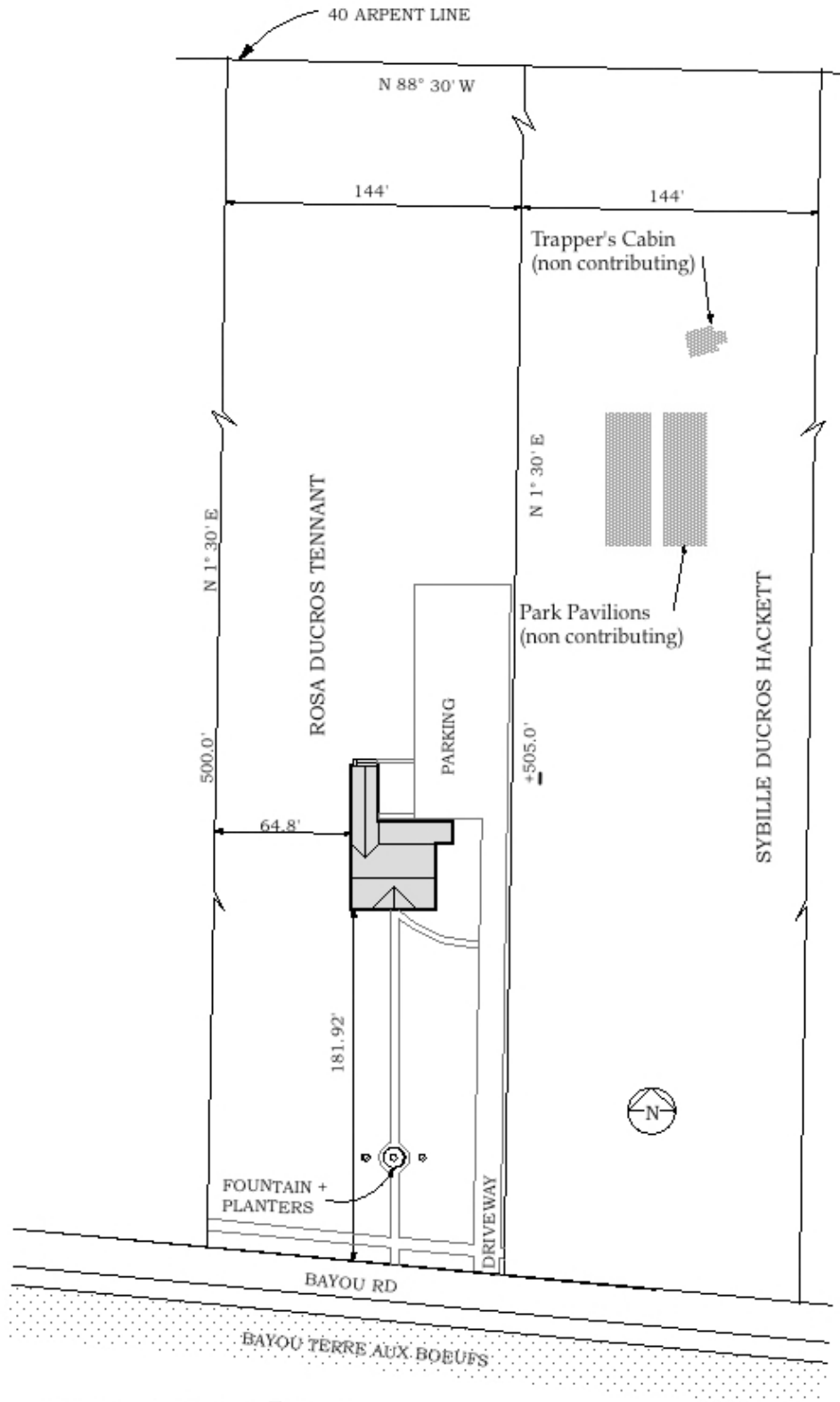
St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



1937 General Highway Map. St. Bernard Parish. Bureau of Public Roads

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House  
Name of Property

St. Bernard Parish  
County and State



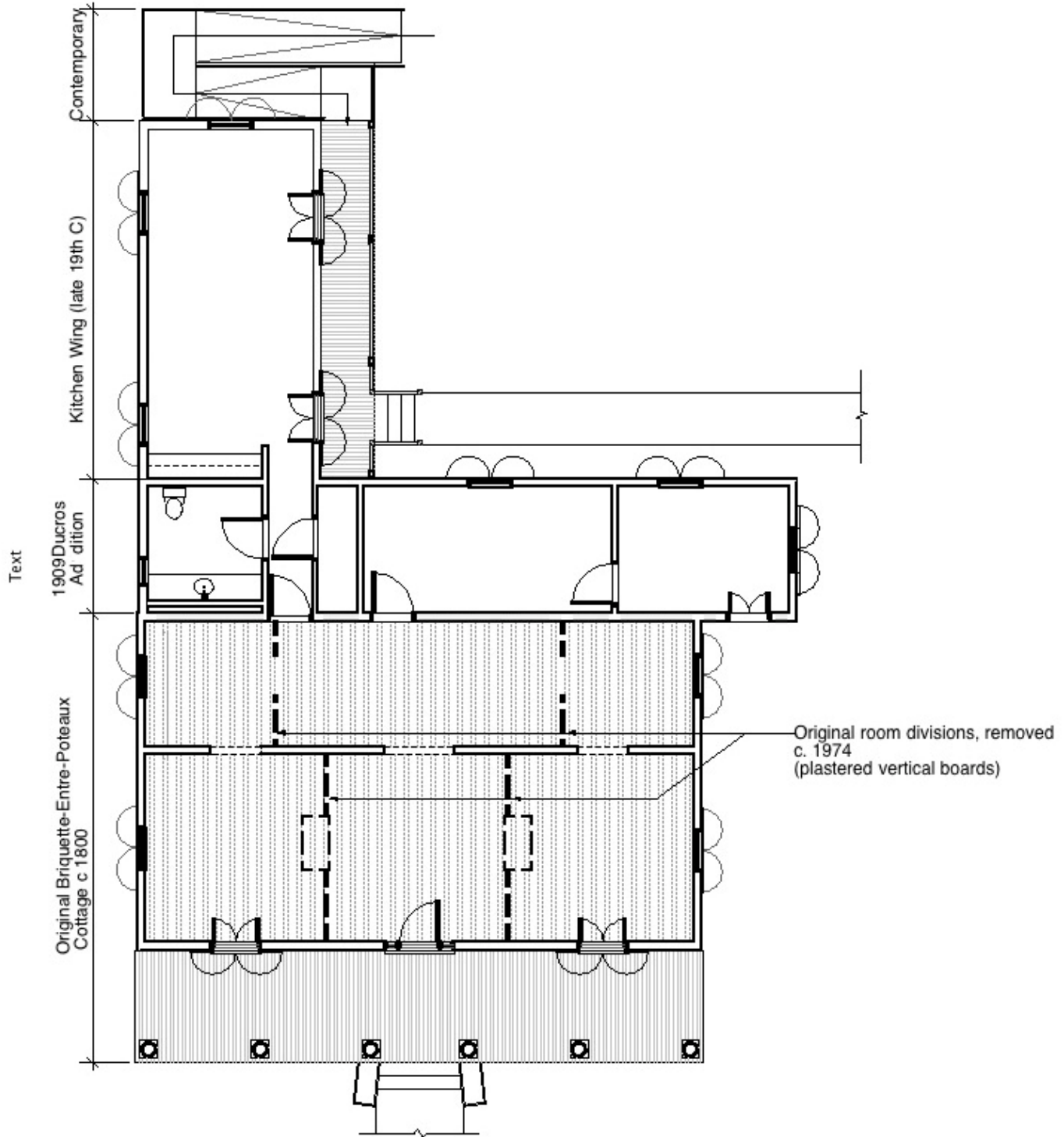
**DUCROS LIBRARY SITE MAP  
(N.T.S.)**

Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

St. Bernard Parish

Name of Property

County and State

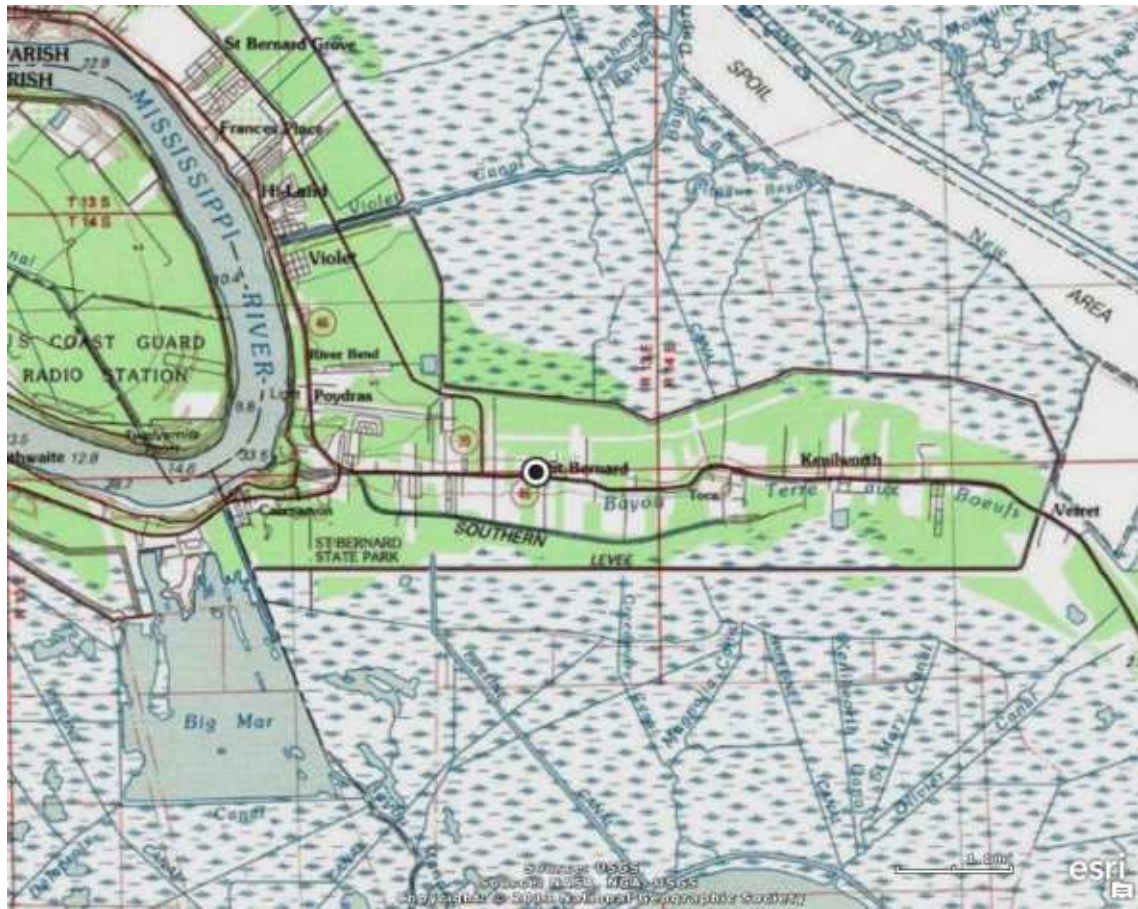


Existing Conditions  
Ducros Library, 1345 St Bernard Hwy., St Bernard, LA  
(N.T.S.)

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Dr. Louis A. Ducros House, St. Bernard Parish, LA**



**Latitude: 29.867954**

**Longitude: -89.860223**

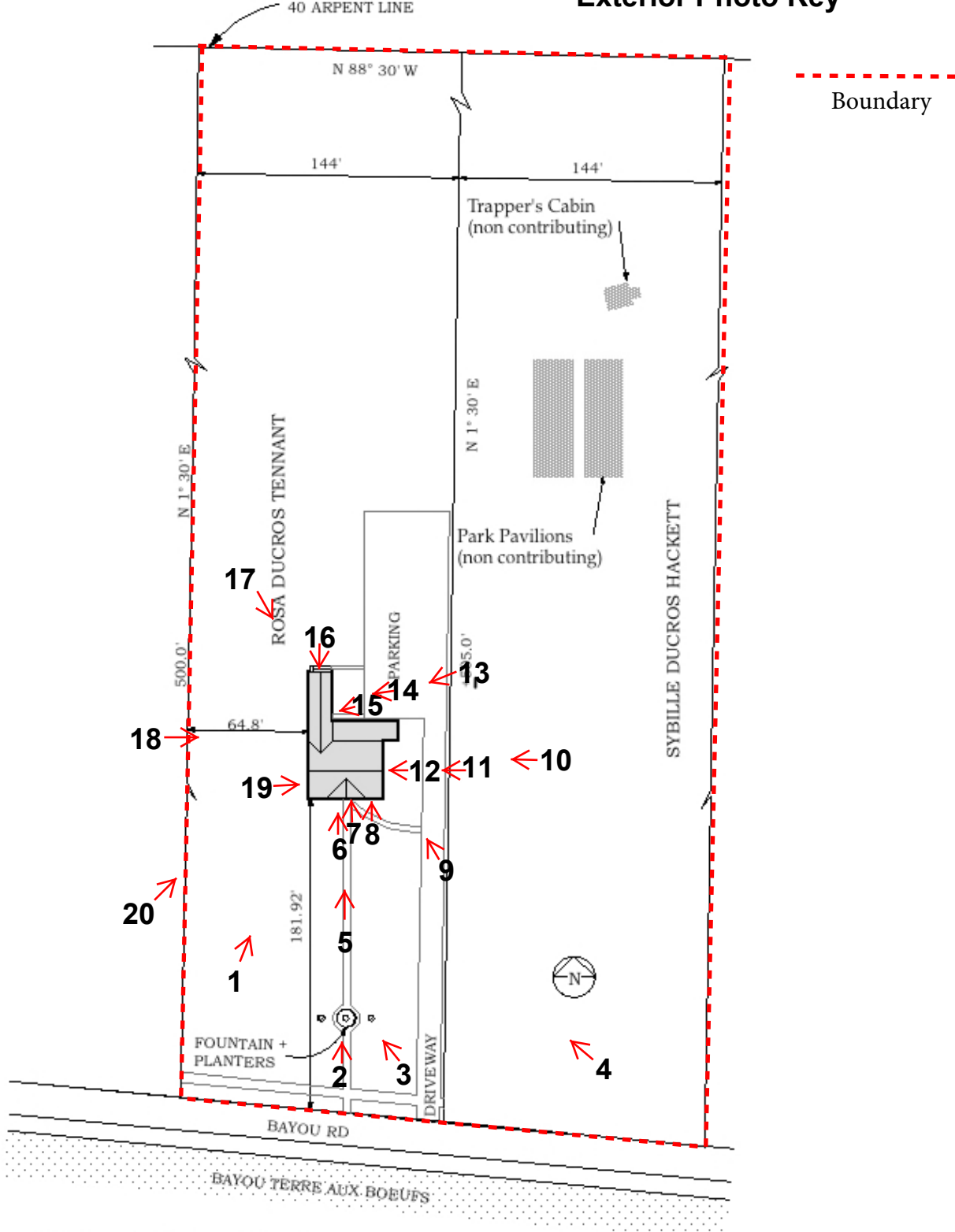
**Dr. Louis A. Ducros House, St. Bernard Parish, LA**



Latitude: 29.867954

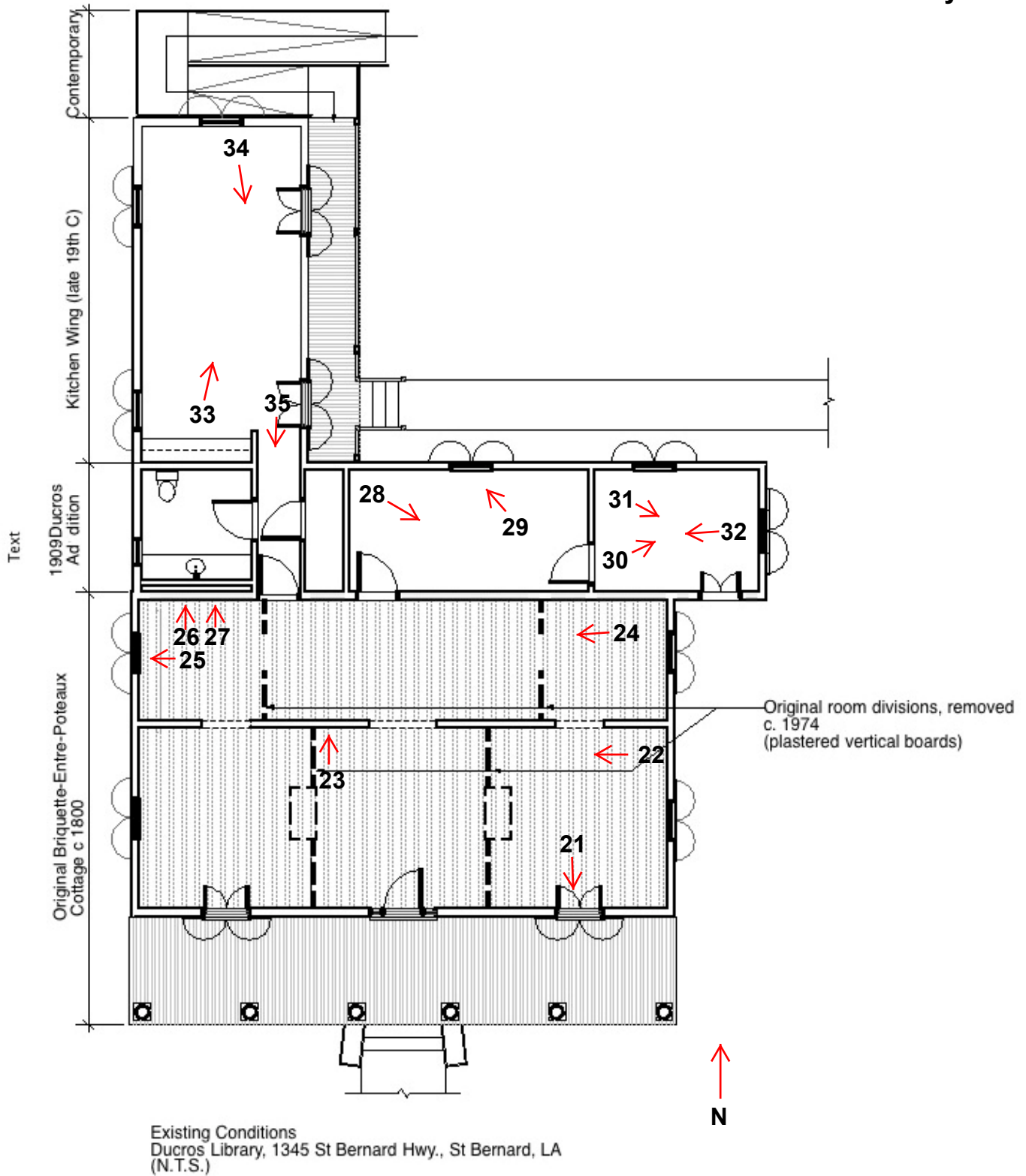
Longitude: -89.860223

**Dr. Louis A. Ducros House  
St. Bernard Parish, LA  
Exterior Photo Key**



**DUCROS LIBRARY SITE MAP  
(N.T.S.)**

**Dr. Louis A. Ducros House  
St. Bernard Parish, LA  
Interior Photo Key**











## TERRE-AUX-BOEUF

Here, in "Land of Oxen," in 1788 Governor Bernardo de Galvez appointed Commandant Pierre Philippe de Marigny to parcel land on the bayou for Canary Islanders. Later, Creole planters bought large estates on the bayou.

ERECTED BY ST. BERNARD PARISH BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 1975









DR. LOUIS ALFR  
M & RE  
BUILT

THIS PROPERTY  
DONATED TO  
ST. RENA  
ROSA DUC  
IN MEMORY OF  
DR. LOUIS A































NO  
PARKING  
ON  
GRASS













DUG-OUT CANOE, CIRCA 1870,

made by

ALEJANDRO "CAL" MENESSES

Alejandro "Cal" Menesses made this dug-out canoe in 1870 according to oral tradition in the Menesses family. Native Americans taught the technology of canoeing. "Cal" Menesses used his experience in copper and iron gardening











Stack of papers and folders on top of the left bookshelf.



Books on the top shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the second shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the third shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the fourth shelf of the left bookshelf, including 'La Santa Biblia'.

Books on the fifth shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the sixth shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the seventh shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the eighth shelf of the left bookshelf.

Books on the bottom shelf of the left bookshelf, including 'HAINES DIRECTORY'.

Books on the top shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the second shelf of the right bookshelf, including 'COMPENDIO DE HISTORIA DE ESPAÑA'.

Books on the third shelf of the right bookshelf, including 'HISTORIA DE MADRID'.

Books on the fourth shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the bottom shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the top shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the second shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the third shelf of the right bookshelf.

Books on the bottom shelf of the right bookshelf.



















EXIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, St. Bernard

DATE RECEIVED: 5/01/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/17/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000315

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6-9-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Home of Prominent Physician in Parish - led fight for  
Preventative medicine + improving sanitation in 1st half of  
Century

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept 3

REVIEWER J. Gabbart DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAY DARDENNE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PAM BREAU  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 30, 2014

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor; National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House, St. Bernard Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Baker High School Auditorium to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form  
 CD with electronic images (tif format)  
 Physical Transmission Letter  
 Physical Signature Page, with original signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Other:

Comments:

Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review  
\_\_\_\_\_  
This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Other: