

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HGRS use only
received **SEP 21 1982**
date entered

1. Name

historic Idlewild

and/or common same

2. Location *S of Patterson on LA 182*

street & number La. Hwy. 182 East N/A not for publication

city, town Patterson *vic.* vicinity of congressional district 3rd--W.J. Tauzin

state LA code 22 county St. Mary Parish code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walter H. Daniels, M.D.

street & number P.O. Box 974

city, town Patterson N/A vicinity of state LA 70392

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 1231

city, town Franklin state LA 70538

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Idlewild is located immediately south of the Lower Atchafalaya River, just south-east of the town of Patterson. Nearby Louisiana Highway 182, which parallels the river, passes within 100 feet of the front of the house. This seems to have been a historical condition of the property inasmuch as the Old Spanish Trail also passed within 100 feet of the house. Depressions in the front yard where the trail ran are still visible.

Though it was built by a Frenchman, the story and half raised plantation house has characteristics which are associated with both the French and English architectural traditions in Louisiana. The main French characteristics are the hall-less plan 3 rooms wide and 2 rooms deep and the set of French doors between the front and rear central rooms. English characteristics include: (1) the essential symmetry of the room layout, (2) the 5 bay facade with emphasis upon the center with a transomed, side lighted front door, (3) the predominant 6 over 6 sash windows, (4) the 5 bay, fluted Doric columnar front gallery and the rear gallery, (5) the 4 panel cypress doors, (6) the cypress aedicule motif mantels, and (7) the aedicule motif dormers, 3 of which are on the front facade and 2 of which are on the rear facade.

Other noteworthy features of the house include its full entablature with denticular cornice, its cast-iron balustrades, and the continuous brick wall which encircles the foundation. A small enclosed stair ascends from the rear central room to the finished attic. Most of the gallery windows have jib doors. Each gable end of the house has a balustraded balcony which rests upon slender columns. At one time each of these balconies had a steep staircase descending to the front gallery. The stairs have been removed.

Other changes include the installation of several closets, the installation of 2 small rooms on the rear gallery, the removal of several fireplaces, the replacement of the front steps, and the screening in of the rear gallery. In addition, 1 of the mantels has been treated with a c.1900 mirrored overmantel and another has been replaced with a cast-iron mantel.

Adjacent to the house is an underground cistern covered by a modern latticework gazebo.

Assessment of Integrity:

The described changes have not affected Idlewild's architectural significance. Idlewild retains its architectural identity as a Greek Revival raised plantation house. Moreover, it also retains the features which establish it as a superior example, as discussed in Item 8.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

Idlewild (1850-54) is a story and a half, frame, raised Greek Revival plantation house which is located on the Lower Atchafalaya River just southeast of the town of Patterson. There have been several changes in the house since construction, but these have been relatively minor and have not affected the value of Idlewild as an example of its type and style.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1850-54 **Builder/Architect** Georges Hidel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Idlewild is architecturally significant on the state level as a superior example of a raised plantation house. Most of its characteristics are typical of mid-nineteenth century architecture in the Acadian parishes, including the crossbreed of English and French features. However, three features distinguish Idlewild from other comparable examples. One is the galleries. The average house of this type has simple posts with molded or double molded capitals, whereas Idlewild has fluted Doric columns, a full entablature, and a denticular cornice. Another is the dormers. The front facade of Idlewild has three dormers. This grouping makes for a much more graceful roofline than the customary single or double dormer roof. A third distinguishing feature is the ornamental cast-iron balustrades. Cast-iron balustrades are found on relatively few raised plantation houses in Louisiana.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PROPERTY:

Idlewild was begun in 1850 by a French planter named Georges Hidel and completed in 1854. The Old Spanish Trail, which was once the front boundary for the property and which can still be seen in the front yard, was used for horse and horse drawn vehicular travel before, during, and after the Civil War. Confederate and Union troops used this path in the Battle of Bisland and Union General Nathaniel P. Banks used Idlewild for his command post during this campaign. The property was obtained in 1872 by Union Navy Captain I. D. Seybern, who named it Idlewild. It remained in the Seybern family until 1977, when it was purchased by the present owner.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. .17 acres

Quadrangle name Patterson, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A	1 5	6 6 5 1 9 0	3 2 8 4 2 8 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Walter H. Daniels

organization N/A date June 1981

street & number P. O. Box 974 telephone 504-395-2487

city or town Patterson state LA 70392

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 9, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Robert H. Daniel</i>	date <u>1/2/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <i>Patrick Andrus</i>	date <u>11/1/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Idlewild

Item number 9

Page 2

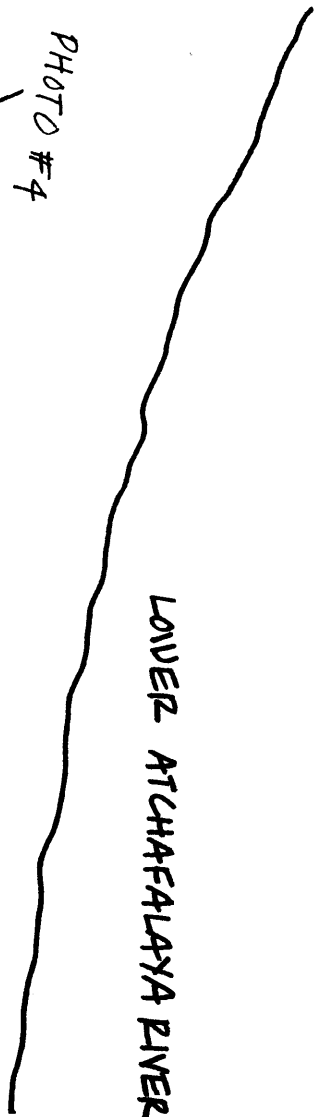
9. Bibliography (Continued)

Historical sketch of property prepared by owner and based upon following sources:

- Raphael, Morris. The Battle in the Bayou Country.
Harlo Press, 1975.
Seybern, E. R. Interviews. 1978, 1979.
Thibodaux Daily Comet. April 5, 1971.
Morgan City Daily Review. July 7, 1977.
Vander Wal. Louisiana Architecture, April 1974.

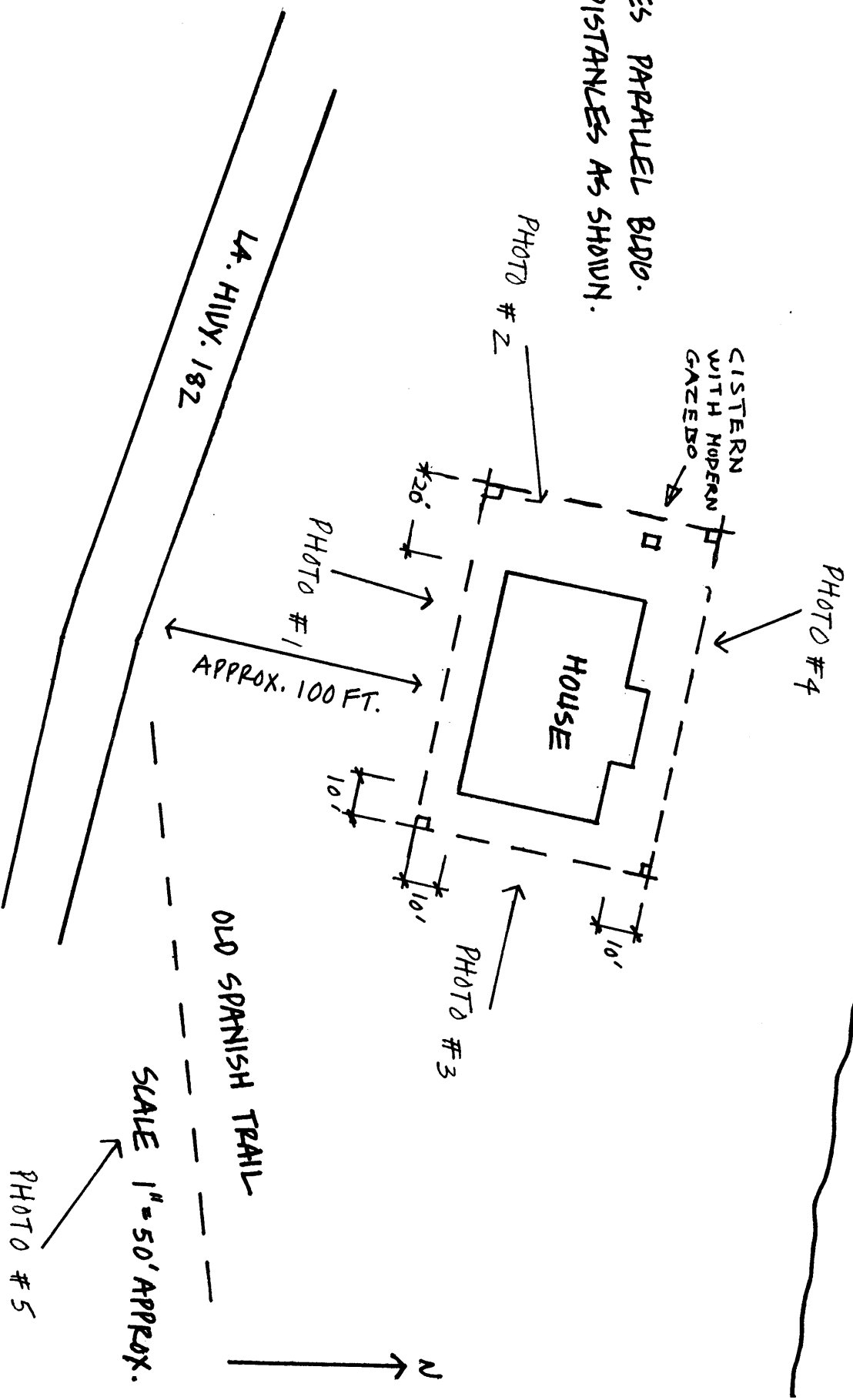
IDLEWILD
PATTERSON, LOUISIANA

TO PATTERSON



LOWER ATCHAFALAYA RIVER

BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG.
FACADES, DISTANCES AS SHOWN.



LA. HLDY. 182

HOUSE

CISTERN
WITH MODERN
GAZEBO

PHOTO #4

PHOTO #3

PHOTO #1

PHOTO #2

PHOTO #5

SCALE 1" = 50' APPROX.

OLD SPANISH TRAIL

APPROX. 100 FT.

N