

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES/
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM**

WARNING

THIS FILE CONTAINS INFORMATION THAT IS RESTRICTED FROM PUBLIC ACCESS UNDER LAW (INCLUDING 54 U.S.C. § 307103 [FORMERLY SECTION 304 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966, AS AMENDED] AND/OR 16 U.S.C. § 470hh [ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT OF 1979]).

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**x RESTRICTED INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REDACTED**

REDACTION DATE 10/31/2024 (IF APPLICABLE)

NOTES:

FILE (PROPERTY) NAME: Pessou House

LOCATION (STATE/TERRITORY): Louisiana

LOCATION (COUNTY/PARISH): Orleans

NRIS#: 82002788

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 11 1982
date entered JUN 15 1982

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

1. Name

historic Pessou House

~~XXXXX~~ common Clement House

2. Location

street & number 6018 Benjamin St. N/A not for publication

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 county Orleans Parish code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

(b) (6)

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Conveyance, City Hall

street & number 1300 Perdido

city, town New Orleans state LA 70112

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
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clement House (1889) is a late Italianate, 1 1/2 story, frame residence which is raised a full story above grade on brick piers. It is located on a back street in the "uptown" residential area of New Orleans. The minor alterations which have been made since the house was built do not affect its significant architectural features.

The house has a central hall plan with two large rooms on each side. There is also a rear kitchen wing and a finished garret lit by a large, single, central, front dormer. The dining room terminates in a semi-octagonal bay set beneath a gable. This shows some Queen Anne Revival influence as does the gable in the front dormer with its plaster relief infill.

Italianate features include:

1. the front gallery with its chamfered Doric posts, balustrade, full entablature, oeil-de-boeuf motifs, and open brackets.
2. the pilasters on the front dormer.
3. the shiplap siding on the front facade.
4. the three decorated aedicule motif mantels.

The central hall, parlor, and dining room have two foot cove moldings at the ceiling level. These three spaces also have elaborate plaster ceiling medallions. There is a simpler medallion in the library opposite the parlor.

The four panel doors are surmounted by transoms. The staircase has a heavy, turned newel post. The sash type windows have plate glass panes. In the front the windows reach to the floor to permit access to the gallery. Shutters are of the movable louver type.

Since the house was built, the following changes have been made: In the 1920's a second story with a sleeping porch was incorporated into the rear of the roof. More recently a portion of the rear gallery was enclosed and one of the mantels was replaced with a Georgian style mantel. Today the house has a total of five mantels, four of which are original. Finally, the doorway from the hall to the parlor has been lowered, thus removing the transom. There is presently a double door there which appears to be cut and salvaged from old doors similar to the original doors found elsewhere in the house.

These changes, however, should be regarded as minor alterations. The house is mainly significant for its front facade and for the interior plan, neither of which have been affected by the changes.

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 1889 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Mrs. Alphonse O. Pessou

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Clement House is locally significant in the area of architecture as an important example of an Italianate residence. It is typical in many respects-- i.e., a five-bay Doric port gallery, a large central dormer, oeil-de-boeuf motifs, a central hall plan, decorated aedicule motif mantels, and shiplap siding. In many ways it represents a humble version of the classic New Orleans raised villa. It is of a type, however, which is unusual in the "uptown" Audubon Park area of New Orleans, most of which is characterized by the Queen Anne Revival or later styles, and very unusual within the subdivision of Bloomingdale.

According to the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center, the Clement House is the only noted raised cottage or "villa" style house in the subdivision of Bloomingdale. Bloomingdale was the narrowest of a series of subdivisions laid out in the mid-nineteenth century by speculators and developers like Dominique Francois Burthe, Cornelius Hurst, Francois Robert Avart and John Green. Green was responsible for the subdivision of Bloomingdale, which had a single street, State, running from the river to Claiborne. It is shown on an 1860 surveyor's map as a series of thirty-four half squares running on each side of State between the river and St. Charles. Nothing had been laid out beyond St. Charles.

Although these subdivisions which became uptown New Orleans were laid out beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, almost nothing was built for over 40 years. With a few exceptions, the lots which were bought were held as investment property and not built upon until the turn-of-the-century when the uptown area was intensively developed with builder vernacular Queen Anne Revival row houses, shotgun houses, etc. Prior to that time, the uptown area was regarded as the "country" and suburban or country type houses were built there. These included a handful of Italianate raised villas. Today this pre-Queen Anne Revival house type is unusual in the uptown area. Thus the Clement House stands as a rare architectural survivor of the first phase of development in the uptown area and is consequently one of the area's landmark structures.

NB: The "uptown" Audubon Park area of New Orleans is an area of approximately 180 square blocks bounded by Jefferson Avenue, St. Charles Avenue, Broadway, and the Mississippi River, and encompassing Audubon Park.

The above assessment was based upon a windshield survey of the area by the Preservation Resource Center.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Phone interview with Hillary Irwin, New Orleans Architectural Historian.
Chain of Title, Conveyance Records, New Orleans.
Assessment of Clement House prepared by Roulhac B. Toledano for New Orleans Preservation Resource Center. Copy in National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @.19 acre
Quadrangle name New Orleans East, LA
Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A	115	77811010	31311431310	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

(b) (6)

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*
Robert B. DeBlieux
title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 28, 1982

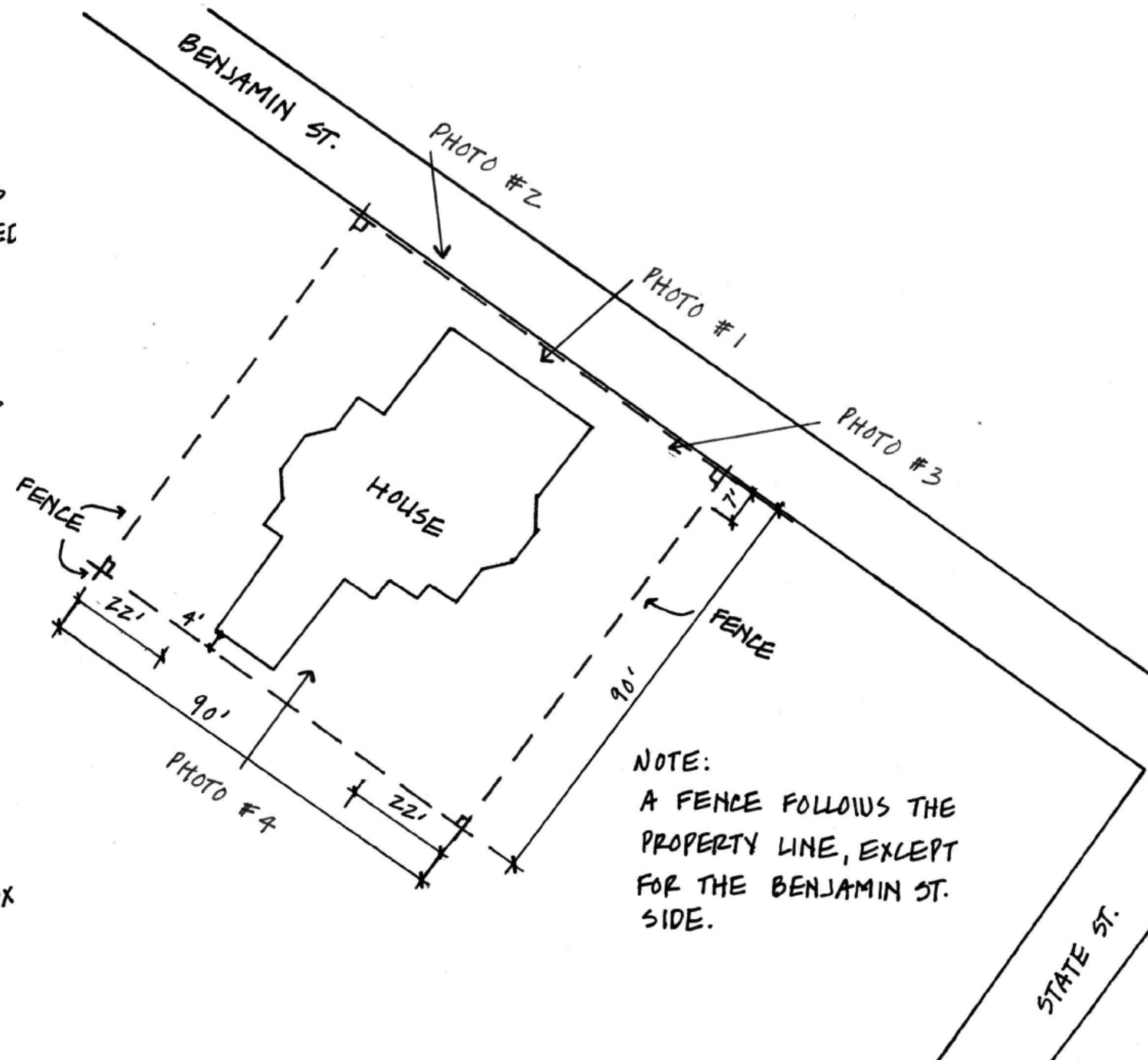
For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Groves
Keeper of the National Register date 6/15/82

Attest:
Chief of Registration date

CLEMENT HOUSE
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

SITE BOUNDARIES ENCOMPASS THE HOUSE AND THE FENCED LOT ON WHICH IT STANDS. DIMENSIONS & SETBACKS AS SHOWN. THE HOUSE FACES BENJAMIN ST. BLDG. FALADES PARALLEL THE STREETS.



SCALE 1" = 30' APPROX

NOTE:
 A FENCE FOLLOWS THE PROPERTY LINE, EXCEPT FOR THE BENJAMIN ST. SIDE.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Ref 82002788

Property: Pessou House
State, County: LA, Orleans Parish
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 5/11/82-1389
Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983
Date Due: 6/12/82 - 6/25/82
Action: ACCEPT 6/15/82
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

photos _____
maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria accept - C
Reviewer Gravert
Discipline Historian
Date 6/15/82
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition _____ Accessible _____

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unspoiled
Check one unaltered altered
Check one original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

for NPS use only

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Clement House

New Orleans, Louisiana, Orleans Parish

Photographer: (b) (6)

Date taken: August 1981

Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.

Southwest-front facade

Photo # 1



Clement House
New Orleans, Louisiana Orleans Parish

Photographer: (b) (6)

Date taken: August 1981

Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.

South-front & side view

Photo # 2



Clement House

New Orleans, Louisiana, Orleans Parish

Photographer: (b) (6)

Date taken: August 1981

Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St, New Orleans, La.

West southwest-front & side view

Photo # 3



Clement House

New Orleans, Louisiana, Orleans Parish

Photographer: (b) (6)

Date taken: August 1981

Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.

Northeast-rear view

Photo # 4



Clement House
New Orleans, L^{(b) (6)}
Photographer: [REDACTED]
Date taken: August 1981
Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.
Interior-center hall
Photo # 5

CENTER HALL

CLEMENT HOUSE
6018 BENJAMIN STREET
ORLEANS ~~PARISH~~

AUG. 1981



Clement House
New Orleans, L (b) (6) Orleans Parish
Photographer: [REDACTED]
Date taken: August 1981
Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.
Interior-library mantel
Photo # 6

LIBRARY

CLEMENT HOUSE

6018 BENJAMIN STREET

ORLEANS PARISH

AUG. 1981



Clement House
New Orleans, (b) (6)

Photographer:

Date taken: August 1981

Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.

Interior-dining room (note cove ceiling)

Photo # 7

DINING ROOM

CLEMENT HOUSE
6018 BENJAMIN STREET
ORLEANS PARISH

AUG. 1981



Clement House
New Orleans, Louisiana. Orleans Parish
Photographer: (b) (6)
Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.
Date taken: August 1981
Interior - master bedroom & mantel
Photo # 8

MASTER BEDROOM

CLEMENT HOUSE

6018 BENJAMIN STREET

ORLEANS PARISH

AUG. 1981

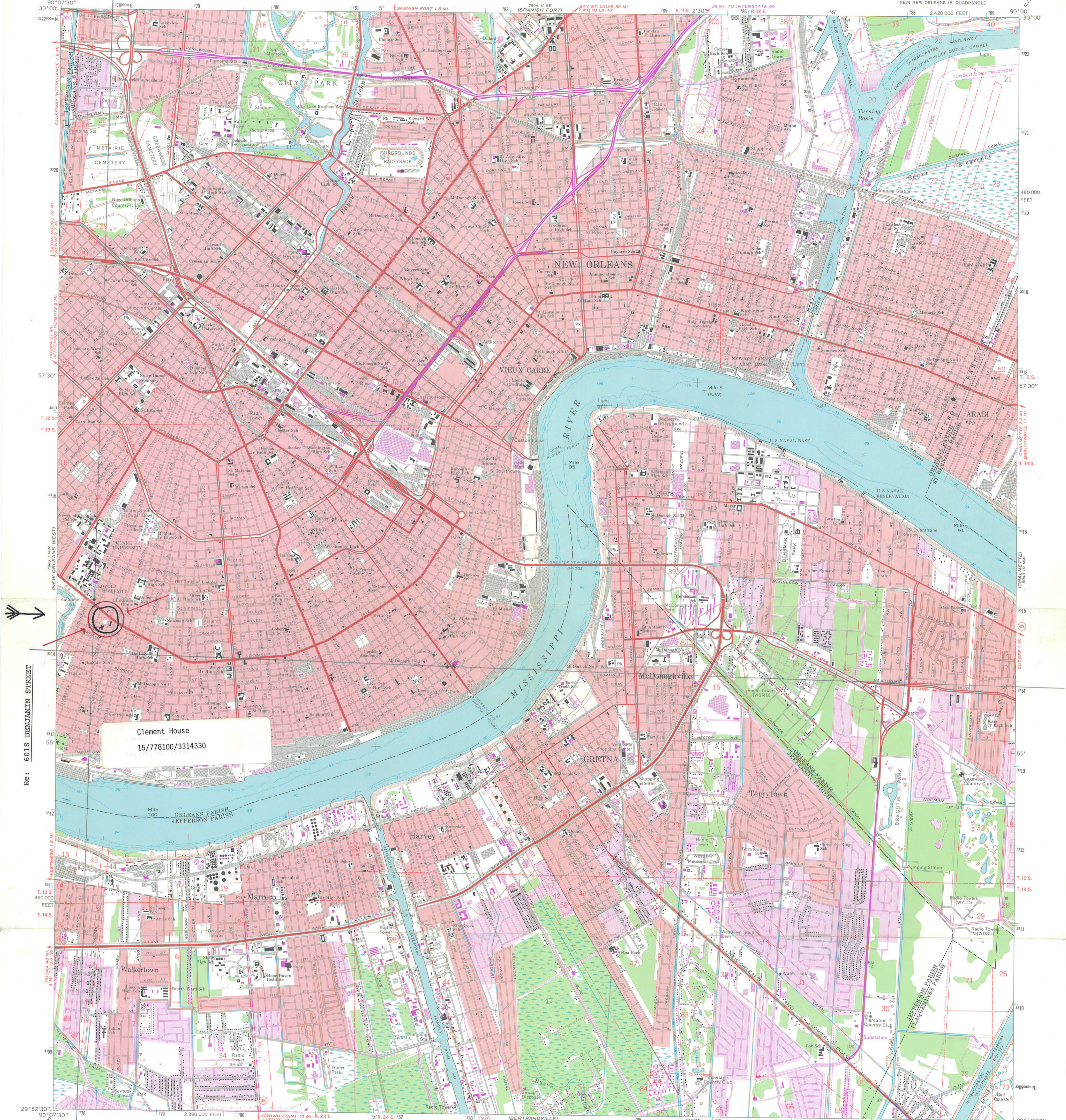


Clement House
New Orleans, Louisiana, Orleans Parish
Photographer: (b) (6)
Neg. at: 6018 Benjamin St., New Orleans, La.
Date taken: August 1981
Interior - living room & Georgian style mantel
replacement
Photo # 9

LIVING ROOM

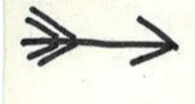
CLEMENT HOUSE
6018 BENJAMIN STREET
ORLEANS PARISH

AUG. 1981



Clement House
15/778100/3314330

Re: 6018 BENJAMIN STREET



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

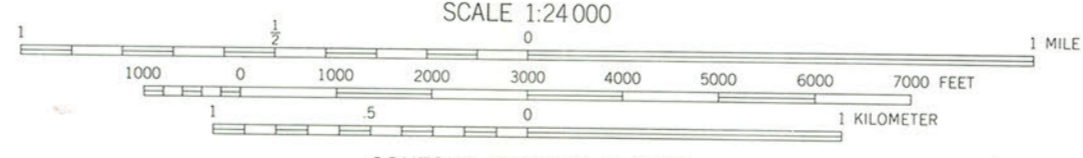
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1964. Topography by planetable surveys 1965-66
Supersedes map dated 1951

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts
878 (1964) and 497 (1966). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Louisiana coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

To place on the projected North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 19 meters south and
8 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
City of New Orleans and Orleans Parish are coextensive

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
All or part of this quadrangle lies within a subsidence area



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET
GULF COAST LOW WATER DATUM
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1/2 FOOT

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled
from aerial photographs taken 1972 and 1978. Map
edited 1979. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

NEW ORLEANS EAST, LA.
NE/4 NEW ORLEANS 15 QUADRANGLE
N2952.5-W9000/7.5
1966
PHOTOREPRODUCED 1972 AND 1979
NEW ORLEANS MAP CO., INC.
3130 Paris Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70119
DMA 7943 1 NE-SERIES V885



5360 Chestnut 891-9724
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

November 1, 1981

6018 Benjamin

The raised basement, center hall "villa" style residence at 6018 Benjamin Street dates from 1889, built for Mrs. Alphonse O. Pessou in the developing subdivision of Bloomingdale. The house remains today the only noted raised cottage or "villa" style house in Bloomingdale, and is certainly one of the four or five most noteworthy buildings in that historic area.

Bloomingdale was the narrowest of a series of small subdivisions made in the mid nineteenth century by speculators and developers like Dominique Francois Burthe, Cornelius Hurst, Francois Robert Avart and John Green. Green was responsible for the subdivision of Bloomingdale, which had a single street, State, running from the river to Claiborne, and lay between Hurstville, downtown and Burtheville, uptown which began half way between State and Webster. Bloomingdale is shown by surveyor W.H. Williams in an 1860 Plan of the City of Jefferson as a series of thirty four, half squares running on each side of State between the river and St. Charles. Nothing had been laid out beyond St. Charles (Nayades).

Today the recently closed Public Health Service Hospital is the primary landmark in Bloomingdale, and 6018 Benjamin might be considered the residence of most historic significance from an architectural point of view. First, although it is one of few villas standing between Faubourg Delachaise (just uptown from Louisiana) and Carrollton, it signifies the continuing use of a building type popularized in the early 19th century in New Orleans. This villa, exhibiting very late Italianate and Queen Anne decorative motifs, is a fine example both of a type and a style of architecture.

The Evans villa and the Werlein villa in nearby Hurstville were built apparently in the late 1860s deep in large lots along the railroad line on Nayades. They are long recognized local landmarks. The Pessou-Clement villa, was built on square 31 facing Benjamin with a shallow set back, although the property owned by the Pessou family measured 150 along State by 203 along Benjamin, and was described as a lot fronting State street. An example of the villa type in yet another style, built up to twenty five years later, the Pessou-Clement house gains in value.

The lot was sold to Mrs. Carrie Campbell Newsom Pessou May 17, 1889 by John McGraw for \$1,400. The building must have been erected immediately since the 1890 city directory shows Pessou, manager of a local brewery living in the house. In 1897 Pessou sold the house at sheriff sale and H.B. Stevens purchased it on January 22. Stevens died two years later and his daughter, the widow of John Watters and her family kept the house until 1920 when Ernest A Burguieres purchased it for \$16,500. After just six years the Fairchild-Mysing family acquired the house for \$18,000 and various family members resided there until 1938. Walter Carroll purchased the residence for \$30,500 in 1947 and his family lived there until recently. The home has



5360 Chestnut 891-9724
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

had seven owners since its construction, fewer than most New Orleans owner-resident houses.

While the house remains in remarkably good condition, interesting adjustments and alterations through the decades reflect New Orleans living styles through seven ownerships of similar social and financial standards. Indeed, notwithstanding the Pessou sheriff sale, the house has continued to have thoughtful, caring owners with the money to maintain their house, and this fact gives added dimension to the importance of this residence.

The raised basement is of particular interest, retaining the original lattice work and the dirt floor under the main block of the house. Beneath the service wing is an old wash room with laundry sinks from the 1920s and a servants restroom. Casement openings between the brick piers are used where security and light were needed. Vertical beaded boards between piers were used where privacy was desired. A great amount of planning and relatively intricate carpentry work is evidenced in the raised basement and storage area with its carefully planned and intricate spatial arrangements.

The second floor rear addition is also an interesting statement relative to life in the Gulf South. The addition is the perennial sleeping porch or sun room, a space enclosed on two sides and ceiling with narrow vertical beaded boards. Casement windows with myriads of muntins makes the "sleeping porch" what it is. An old radiator having art nouveau inspired design and wood brackets marching across the room between wood curtain rods completes the statement.

At the rear of the wide center hall, double doors originally having glass lights (which should be re-installed) open onto a cabinet gallery, now enclosed as morning room (the rear plate glass doors of the enclosure could be enlarged easily to repeat the double doors and casement leading into the room.) The morning room has access to the rear patio with a fine view of the original service wing and gallery.

The interior stairway has an unusual treatment. The landing which might be expected to run to the rear wall of the house, is terminated three and one half feet from the rear of the house, and attractive balusters cross the landing. The double windows of the dormer at the rear of the house are boxed in above the rear double doors and are separated from the landing. This treatment, original to the house, dramatizes and gives proportion to an area, which, usually, in similar houses goes unremarked and is not noteworthy.

This side gabled house with its repetition of angle in gabled dormers of large proportion, front and rear, and side bays with gabled ends, is a noteworthy example both of its type and style. Its fine condition as well as its social and economic history qualify it for inclusion in the National Register. Restraint and care characterize alterations to the residence, none of which altered or obscured the original fabric of the 1889 villa.

Respectfully submitted for the
Preservation Resource Center

Roulhac Toledano
Roulhac B. Toledano



DAVID C. TREEN
Governor

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. DeBLIEUX
Assistant Secretary

MRS. LAWRENCE H. FOX
Secretary

April 28, 1982



Ms. Carol Shull
National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the completed and signed nomination form for the Clement House along with maps and photographs. Please be advised that the applicant requested that we send the enclosed assessment from the Preservation Resource Center along with the application.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/DF/bc

Enclosure