

**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

1. Name

historic Laurel Hill

and/or common same

2. Location NE of St. Francisville

street & number _____ not for publication _____

city, town St. Francisville ☒ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8th-Gillis Long

state La. code 022 county West Feliciana code 125

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

name Mr. and Mrs. John F.P. Farrar

street & number Laurel Hill Plantation

city, town St. Francisville _____ vicinity of _____ state La. 70775

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. West Feliciana Parish Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town St. Francisville _____ state La.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Louisiana Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge _____ state La.

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Laurel Hill plantation house is set on a low hill just west of the west branch of Thompson's Creek in the undulating farm country of northern West Feliciana parish.

The house began in 1834 as an unpretentious two-story, four-bay farmhouse one room deep with two rooms on each floor and two exterior chimneys. There were one-story galleries front and rear, two front doors on the north facade, and a single flight central staircase which was entered directly from the south gallery.

In 1873-74 a pretentious frame addition with a wide side hall and double parlor arrangement was built. A new north gallery was built across the entire front with a full entablature and molded capitol posts. The hall has a quarter turn winding stair with a massive multifaceted newel post and a broad transom side light doorway at each end. Windows in the parlors reach the floor, and the mantels are of painted slate in the Renaissance Revival mode.

Recent additions include the installation of three bathrooms, seven closets, and the enclosure of the rear gallery. There has also been a small one-story side wing added, and the central staircase in the 1834 portion has been altered to provide access from the interior.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1834, 1873 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Laurel Hill is significant in the area of architecture as an important representation of the English architectural heritage of the Feliciana parishes. The 1834 portion is a typical Carolina "I" house of which there are only three other examples in the two-parish area. This early portion, along with the more pretentious 1873 addition, represents a pattern of accretionary growth in farmhouse architecture which is typical of the eastern United States and most untypical of most of Louisiana.

Laurel Hill was long associated with the McGehee family and their close relatives, the Stewarts. In about 1833 Judge Edward McGehee obtained the house site. It is not known whether he built the original house or if it was already there when he obtained the property. Architectural evidence suggests that the older portion of the house was built in the 1830's. In 1861, when his daughter Caroline married Duncan Stewart, McGehee established them at Laurel Hill. In the years following they had six children, and the addition to the home was constructed in 1873. Caroline Stewart resided in the house until her death in 1920, when it passed to her daughter Louise Stewart, who lived there until her death in 1942, at which time it passed out of the hands of the Stewarts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Stewart Family Bible and other Stewart Family Papers.
West Feliciana Parish Records.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .9 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

1	5
---	---

6	5	9	9	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	2	6	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. John F.P. Farrar

organization

date October 1979

street & number Laurel Hill Plantation

telephone

city or town St. Francisville

state La. 70775

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

Bernard L. Amis

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

3/27/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally G. Oldh
Keeper of the National Register

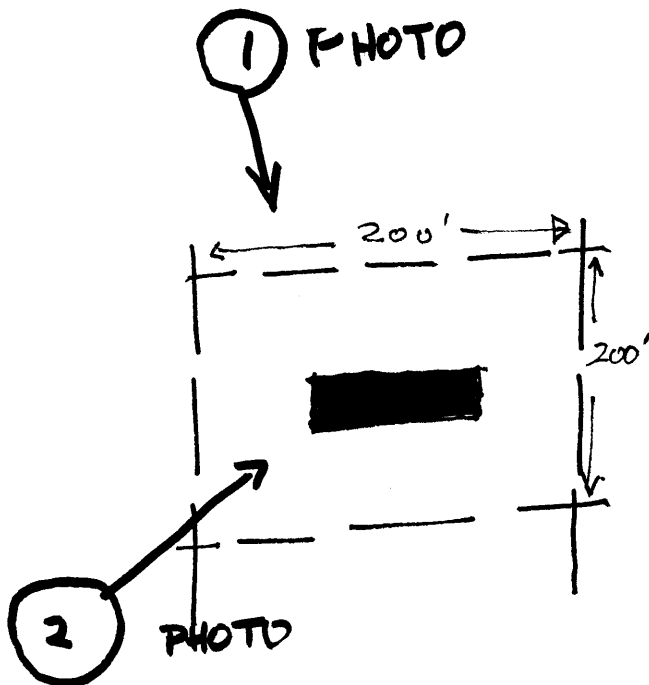
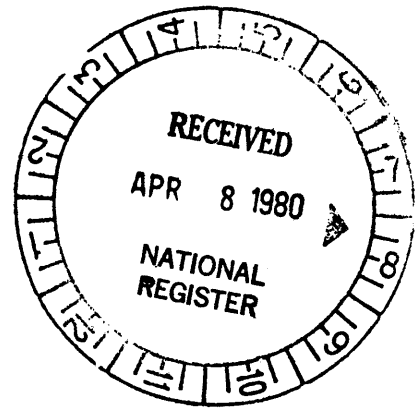
date 6/6/80

Attest: *Beth Grosvener*

date 6/3/80

Chief of Registration

Sketch Map



Boundaries: a .9 acre, 200' square
centering upon the center of the
house. (Sides follow the 4 cardinal
directions)