

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000705

Date Listed: 6/20/91

Bocage
Property Name

Ascension
County

LOUISIANA
State

Multiple Name

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.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

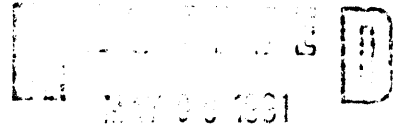
Section No. 7: The roof material is tin.

This change was confirmed by phone with Pat Duncan, of the Louisiana SHPO (6/19/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bocage
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 942 N/A not for publication
city, town Darrow X vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Ascension code 005 zip code 70725

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism May 2, 1991
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Patrick Andrews 6/20/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek RevivalOther: French Creole

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls stuccoroof iron

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Bocage is a grand, two story Greek Revival mansion located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish. Its lower story is stucco over brick; the upper floor is stucco over wood. A long honored Louisiana tradition suggests that Bocage was built in 1801 and remodeled to its present appearance around 1840. However, if an earlier home once existed, the 1840 house so encased it that no architectural evidence of it survives. For this reason, Bocage is being nominated to the National Register for the quality of its mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival features. These remain virtually intact on the exterior, although there have been some interior changes.

Bocage was obviously designed by an architect well skilled in the Greek Revival idiom. For this reason, it contains a larger number of articulated features than would a vernacular Greek Revival home. Among Bocage's important design elements are the following:

- 1) a full entablature with banded architrave, smooth frieze, and denticulated cornice,
- 2) a parapet rising above a low pitched roof. A central pediment-shaped tablet decorates the parapet on each of the home's four elevations.
- 3) colossal plastered brick Tuscan pillars highlighting the facade's full length double gallery. These pillars are unusual because their symmetrical rhythm is interrupted by the insertion of two thinner pillars which mark the location of the facade's primary upper and lower story entrances.
- 4) a rear loggia featuring colossal pillars in antis,
- 5) transoms and side lights surrounding the four primary front and rear entrances,
- 6) the use of shoulder molding in the door frames of these primary entrances, as well as in the frames of most interior doors,
- 7) pediment shaped lintels above the four secondary doors on the facade's lower level,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bocage, Darrow vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

- 8) entablatures above the exterior windows and boxed cornices above interior doors,
- 9) a splendid anthemion and patera door surround encasing a second floor set of pocket doors. The design for this feature is taken directly from Plate 26 of Minard Lafever's 1835 builders' pattern book, Beauties of Modern Architecture.
- 10) additional patera decorating interior door frames, and
- 11) a symmetrical but unusual floorplan which inserts a double parlor in the place of a center hall. Unusually high sixteen foot second floor ceilings are an additional highlight of the plan.

Although Bocage's primary architectural thrust is Greek Revival, its architect also seems to have been influenced by Louisiana's native French Creole tradition. Consciously included in the home's design are French doors, a rear exterior staircase, and cabinet rooms flanking the rear loggia. In addition, the home's upper floor originally served as the premier etage, or primary living space, while the lower floor was used as a service and storage area. This method of spatial organization is a well known characteristic of the Creole tradition.

Historic photographs show that Bocage's front exterior staircase was changed at least three times. It has since been removed. Other than this change, the exterior appears exactly as it did upon its completion c. 1840. Alterations to the interior have been more extensive. All occurred as the result of a major 1941 restoration. It is easier to understand the extent of the restoration if the work is discussed in broad categories:

1. The roughly finished lower floor service area was more finely finished for use as living space. Alterations made in connection with this change include:
 - a. the replacement of the old wooden floor with one of marble,
 - b. the conversion of one cabinet for use as a kitchen,
 - c. the conversion of the second cabinet into a laundry and furnace room,

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bocage, Darrow vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

- d. the addition of a curved interior staircase. Space for the stair was carved from large first and second story rooms located on the left side of the home. Closets were added to the now smaller first floor room behind the new stairway. The remaining space is used as a breakfast room.
 - e. the installation of salvaged Federal style mantels,
 - f. the addition of molding to the ceiling. The pattern for this molding was copied from that used on the upper floor.
 - g. the installation of a bathroom.
2. Changes were made to the plan of the second floor. These include:
 - a. the subdivision of the central rooms on either side of the double parlor to create bathrooms, closets, and access corridors, and
 - b. the moving of one second floor cabinet wall in order to make the room larger.
3. Damage and loss of interior detailing necessitated repair and, in some cases, replacement of important elements. These include:
 - a. the replacement of the lost second floor mantels with new mantels which feature shoulder molding,
 - b. the repair and duplication of missing patera, and
 - c. the replacement of lost plaster ceiling medallions.

The balustrade outlining the second floor front gallery was also rehabilitated in 1941.

Although at first glance the changes to Bocage might seem significant, they do not seriously impact the architectural integrity of the building. The mansion's exterior Greek Revival detailing is virtually intact on each of its elevations. Since the first floor work was essentially a remodeling of unfinished space, that remodeling has not diminished the architectural value of the home. Despite the changes to the second floor's plan, most of the premier etage's significant spaces remain completely intact. Of course, the loss of the mantels is regrettable. However, they were only one aspect of a splendid interior, and the majority of its decorative elements (including the magnificent Lafever door surround) survive intact. As a premier example of a River Road Greek Revival mansion, Bocage is an outstanding candidate for National Register listing.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bocage, Darrow vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

Non-Contributing Elements

Two structures located within the nomination's boundaries are being listed as non-contributing elements. Both are circular brick structures with conical wood shingle roofs. A part of the 1941 restoration, their shape was inspired by the powder magazines of Colonial Williamsburg. Located near the mansion's rear corners, one dependency serves as a shed for garden tools; the other was formerly a well house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
c.1840

Significant Dates
c.1840

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Attributed to James Dakin (see below)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Bocage is significant in the area of architecture at the state level because it is a superb and rare surviving example of the grand Greek Revival plantation homes which once lined Louisiana's Great River Road between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. It also illustrates the extremely rare use of mid-nineteenth century architectural pattern book designs in Louisiana.

Architecturally, Louisiana is best known for its fine collections of French Creole houses and grand Greek Revival plantation homes. The state's most famous and recognizable group of monumental Greek Revival plantations is found on the historic River Road. These homes, built by immensely wealthy sugar cane planters during the thirty years prior to the Civil War, were the absolute apex of the Greek Revival style in Louisiana. They may be briefly characterized as two story mansions with broad double galleries (sometimes encircling the house) and monumental columns or pillars which rise to the roofline in one continuous shaft. When fully encircling galleries are present, the columns also encircle the house in what is known as the peripteral mode. No one will ever know the exact number of these houses. However, an 1858 map of Mississippi River land holdings suggests that many more once existed than have survived. Today, only eight River Road Greek Revival landmark plantation houses remain. All are individually eligible for the National Register.

Bocage is one of these monumental Greek Revival houses. A premier example of the style, it stands out among the limited group of survivors for several reasons:

- 1) Although most of the eight River Road mansions are vernacular adaptations of the Greek Revival style, evidence suggests that Bocage is an architect-designed home (see Historical Note below).
- 2) Bocage is especially noteworthy for its parapet, a feature found on only one other River Road home. The majority of the Road's Greek Revival houses have hipped roofs. As a result, Bocage more closely imitates the classical massing of Greek architecture.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Gleason, David. Plantation Homes of Louisiana and the Natchez Area. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982.
- Kane, Harnett T. Plantation Parade: The Grand Manner in Louisiana. New York: Bonanza Books, 1955.
- Keyes, Frances Parkinson. All This Is Louisiana. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1950.
- Lane, Mills. Architecture of the Old South: Louisiana. New York: Beehive Press, 1990.
- Laughlin, Clarence John. Ghosts Along the Mississippi. New York: Bonanza Books-Crown Publishing Inc., 1961.
- Overdyke, W. Darrell. Louisiana Plantation Homes: Colonial and Ante Bellum. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1965.
- Schuler, Stanley. Mississippi Valley Architecture: Houses of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Exton, PA: Schiffler Publishing Ltd., 1984.
- Scully, Arthur, Jr. James Dakin, Architect. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1973.

See continuation sheet

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property @3.5 acres

UTM References

A 15 697000 3334050
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource and its immediate setting. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including extensive agricultural acreage unrelated to the significance of the resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1991
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Richard Genre
 P. O. Box 106
 Port Allen, LA 70767

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bocage, Darrow vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

- 3) The Greek Revival columnar articulation on Bocage's facade (see Part 7) is somewhat unusual.
- 4) The pillars in antis outlining the rear loggia are replicated nowhere else on the River Road.
- 5) The splendid Greek Revival anthemion and patera door surround encasing Bocage's second floor pocket door is one of only a handful of known examples of pattern book influence on Louisiana architecture. Bocage's elaborate door frame alone justifies the home's ranking as a building of statewide significance.

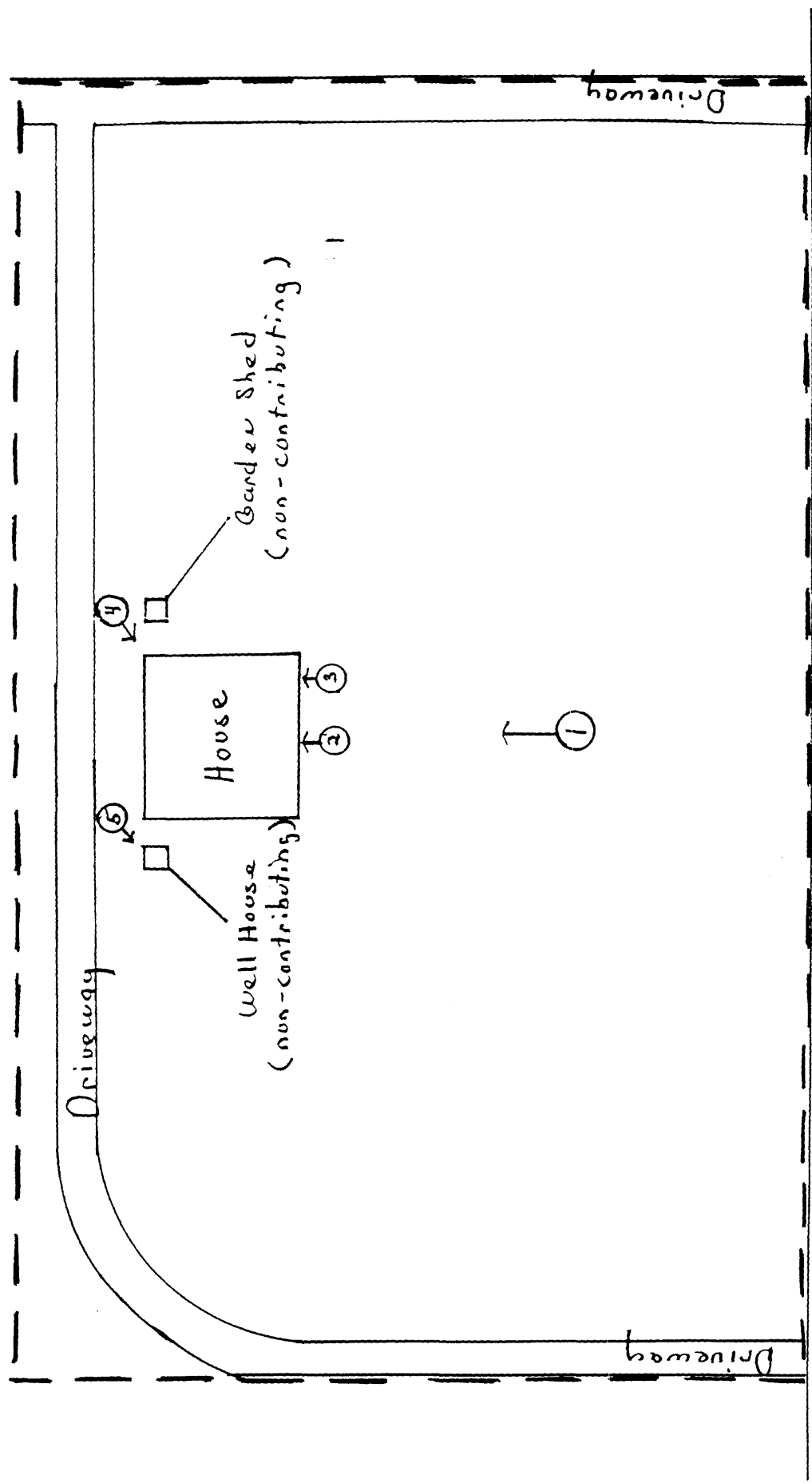
Historical Note

The property on which Bocage stands is associated with the Bringiers, an old Louisiana family. The house is generally believed to have been built by Emanuel Marius Pons Bringier as a wedding gift for his fourteen year old daughter, Francoise, who married Christophe Colomb on January 24, 1801. However, no architectural evidence supporting the existence of an early 1800s house has survived.

The Bocage tradition also suggests that the 1801 house was remodeled in the Greek Revival style around 1840 by the renowned nineteenth century architect James Dakin. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the Dakin connection may be true. Primary sources exist proving that Dakin did work for the Bringier family, and the in antis treatment of the rear gallery is a clearly recognized characteristic of the architect's work. However, we are not listing Dakin as the architect of record because there is no documentation to prove that he designed this particular house.

The 1941 restoration was accomplished by Dr. Edwin G. Kohlsdorf and his wife, Dr. Anita L. Crozat Kohlsdorf, of New Orleans. They were assisted in the endeavor by master carpenter Francois Chauvin.

Locage
Darrow vicinity, Ascension Parish, LA



LA HWY 942

Scale: 1" = 60'
Boundary: - - -

N →