

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 22 1987

date entered JAN 21 1988

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

1. Name

historic Montegut Plantation House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 402 East 5th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town LaPlace

N/A vicinity of

state LA

code 22

parish
county

St. John the Baptist

code 095

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 John O. Montegut

street & number P. O. Box 264

city, town LaPlace

N/A vicinity of

state LA 70069-0264

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. John the Baptist Parish Courthouse

street & number River Road at East 3rd (no specific address)

P. O. Box 280

city, town Edgard

state LA 70049

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Structures Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Montegut Plantation House (c.1815) is a raised Creole colombage structure located in the town of LaPlace. Despite some alterations and additions, the house retains its significant Creole features and is still very easily recognizable as an example of the style.

Montegut is raised almost a full story above grade on a brick foundation. It has a five bay front gallery featuring chamfered columns. In this case, the chamfering is very deep and tapered and gives something of the effect of entasis. The plan of the house is symmetrical with three rooms across the front and three across the back. Most of the interior openings feature French doors of ten to fourteen lights. A few interior doors are of the single leaf, solid panel type. These have an unusual panel configuration with two unequal horizontal panels above and two vertical panels below. All of the rooms feature exposed beaded beam ceilings. The two principal rooms are heated by a pair of fireplaces which feed into a single interior chimney. Both mantels are of the French wraparound type and both feature bulbous engaged columns which taper sharply towards the base. While one mantel has a plain paneled entablature, the other is more elaborate, with patera over the columns and a central sunburst. Both mantels are surmounted by an elaborately molded cornice which marks the place where the flue ascends through the ceiling. Much of the original hardware remains, including sets of ram's horn hinges.

Alterations:

In about 1900 a small side wing with a polygonal bay was added, a rear gallery was built, virtually all of the siding was replaced, and a kitchen was constructed slightly to the rear of the house. In about 1920 the kitchen was connected to the rear gallery. Sometime in the early twentieth century, an interior wall on the north side was moved slightly to the rear and the room behind it was subdivided for a bathroom. At about the same time the kitchen was connected with the house, the rear gallery was glazed in and a fireplace was added. In recent years the bottoms of the front gallery columns rotted. Repairing them entailed encasing the lower third of each column in planks. This has not affected the chamfering.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these changes, the Creole form of the house as well as its fenestration and decorative details are still very evident. In addition, the rear and side enlargements are set back from the house in such a manner that the original facade still dominates. The c.1900 siding, although regrettable, has not had a significant visual impact.

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 c.1815 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Montegut is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare surviving example of St. John the Baptist Parish's earliest and most important architectural heritage.

The area which became St. John Parish was fairly well settled by the end of the eighteenth century. Created in 1807, the parish grew to become a prosperous sugar planting area. Although St. John was part of the so-called German Coast, its dominant cultural influence was French Creole. Presumably there were once a few hundred Creole residences of various sizes in the parish. Today Montegut is one of only eight remaining full-blown examples. This is out of a total of 1,108 50+ year old buildings which have been identified in the parish survey.

These Creole structures represent the parish's earliest architectural development and are the primary representatives of its well known Creole cultural heritage. It should be noted that in any given French parish in Louisiana, the Creole buildings are generally considered the most important. This is because the French Creole heritage is the major element distinguishing Louisiana from other southern states and in many ways forms its cultural identity.

Historical Note:

Land survey documents in the owner's possession show that the plantation was owned in 1874 by Norbert Louque and that by 1899 it was owned by a Montegut.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. John the Baptist Comprehensive Historic Structures Inventory. Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.
Survey documents dated 1874 and 1899 in owner's possession.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 2/3rds of an acre

Quadrangle name LaPlace, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to exclude modern residences that are on the same tract of land as the nominated building. The boundary line cuts very closely across the rear to exclude a nearby set of modern garages.

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

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER

organization Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana date August 1987

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 December 16, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1-21-88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

MONTEGUT PLANTATION HOUSE

SCALE 1" = 25'

