

**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 Rosale Plantation

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Off U. S. 61 north of St. Francisville not for publication

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

state Louisiana code 022 county West Feliciana code 125

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 General Robert H. Barrow

street & number Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps; Headquarters

city, town Washington vicinity of state D. C. 20380

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town St. Francisville state Louisiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1980 federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state Louisiana

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rosale Plantation is situated amid a large grove of live oaks in the rolling countryside north of St. Francisville.

The site was once occupied by Egypt Plantation and later by a handsome mid-nineteenth century plantation complex. Plagued by fire and financial difficulties, Rosale has lost all but two of its buildings. The summer house survives intact from the antebellum period. The schoolhouse was moved and incorporated into a large frame house in about 1900.

The Main House The schoolhouse (circa 1840) has pit-sawn pegged timbers, single shelf mantels, French doors, and a pair of three part molded side windows with keystone shaped tops. It consists of two rooms upstairs and down with a central stairhall. The stair itself was probably replaced in the late nineteenth century. In about 1900 this four room house was incorporated into the present two-story, central hall, double parlor plan house. The old hall intersected the new wide hall in a "T" formation. The new portions had 6 over 6 windows, catalogue ordered oak mantels (now painted), and large sliding doors between the front and rear parlors. The farmhouse is completely surrounded by a one story porch which has simple chamfered posts and Oriental stickwork balustrades. The old transomed side lighted front door was echoed in the new portion of the house. When the new portion was built, the old staircase was adjusted and the two upper rooms were never finished. Stacks of unused lumber are still in place.

In the 1940's a small portion of the rear porch was enclosed and extended to form a modern kitchen.

The Summer House (circa 1840) This handsome garden structure has pedimented aedicule motifs on four sides of its eight sides. They alternate with plain aedicules. The lattice fenestration is particularly noteworthy because it is cut through with ogee and pointed arches. The summer house contains a well and a new brick floor.

Adjacent to the house is a small board and batten shack.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

Boundary lines were drawn to encompass the house, the gazebo and the rectangular grove of live oaks which go to form their setting. These oaks were planted by the Barrow family prior to the Civil War and are a major part of the aesthetic character of the property today. They lend distinctiveness to the area around the house and gazebo by distinguishing it from the surrounding countryside. They also help the house and site to convey their significant historical associations.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria A, B, and C

The present Rosale Plantation House is significant in the area of architecture as an unusual example of the noted Anglo-American heritage of the Feliciana parishes. It is an unornamented, two story, 5 bay, central hall plan, two rooms deep farmhouse. This is a large rural house type which was common in the eastern states throughout most of the nineteenth century. It is, however, rare in Louisiana.

The summer house is significant as an extant example of an antebellum garden pavilion. This is a type of structure which has its origins in European pastoral gardens of the eighteenth century. Relatively few plantations aspired to purely ornamental garden structures of this kind. Most of those have long vanished. Hence the summer house at Rosale is of state significance.

Rosale Plantation is an important historic site for two reasons. First, it is the site of Egypt Plantation, which figured prominently in the West Florida Rebellion of 1810. Secondly, it is significant because of its close association with the Barrow family, a clan which created and reigned over one of the greatest plantation empires in the antebellum South.

What would one day become Rosale Plantation began as a Spanish land grant to Alexander Stirling in 1795. Stirling called his plantation Egypt, and it was here in June, 1810 that a meeting took place which eventually led to the West Florida Rebellion. When the United States purchased Louisiana in 1803, West Florida (the present Florida parishes of Louisiana) was not included. It had been since 1779 under Spanish control; however, its inhabitants were anxious to be annexed to the Louisiana Purchase and eventually become part of the United States. This dissatisfaction came to a head in 1810 when a meeting was called at Egypt Plantation on June 23 to air grievances. This meeting was attended by more than 500 citizens. Although there had been rumblings before, this gathering is regarded as the "first outspoken move for liberty." The subsequent rebellion overthrew Spanish rule and created the short-lived West Florida Republic. Soon thereafter the area was added to the Louisiana Purchase and in 1812 became a part of the new state of Louisiana.

Alexander Stirling's daughter, Ann Stirling Skillman, acquired the property in 1820 and changed the plantation's name to China Lodge. The Skillmans did not find Alexander Stirling's home suitable for their needs, so they constructed a red brick manor house about three hundred yards from the original dwelling. There were many outbuildings on the grounds, including a summer house and a large schoolhouse (both included in present nomination).

In 1845 Robert H. Barrow, Jr. purchased the property from Ann Skillman, who was his maternal cousin. His wife was Mary Eliza Barrow, daughter of David Barrow, master of Afton Villa.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Floyd, William Barrow. The Barrow Family of Old Louisiana. Published by the Author, Lexington, Kentucky, 1963.  
Menn, Joseph K. The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana, 1860. Pelican Publishing Company, New Orleans, 1964.

(CONTINUED)

## 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property @ 20 acres

Quadrangle name

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

A 

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

B 

1	5	6	5	7	0	0	0	3	4	1	5	6	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	5	6	5	6	7	5	0	3	4	1	5	5	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	5	6	5	6	7	2	5	3	4	1	5	4	7	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Item 7 (Description)

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title General Robert H. Barrow

organization Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps date July 1980

street & number Headquarters, telephone

city or town Washington, state D. C. 20380

## 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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/29/80

*(per phone Dr. Tricker 11/10/80)*

For HCERS use only

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

*Beth Grosvenor*

date 12/8/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Rosale Plantation

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(Statement of Significance - cont'd)

The ninety-six live oaks which create a dramatic setting for the present Rosale were planted in 1845 by Robert and Mary Barrow. A rose garden was planted in front of the house and the name of the plantation was changed to Rosale by the Barrows. Tradition says that Rosale was an Indian word meaning "Garden of Roses."

Robert H. Barrow, Jr. was a man of many accomplishments. The census of 1850 reveals that he owned 1,582 acres and 134 slaves in West Feliciana. By 1860, his slaves had increased to 144 and were occupying 32 cabins. His real estate was valued at \$126,000 and his personal estate at \$326,000. He is also noted as one of the first men to import Brahman cattle into the United States. In 1859 he sent to India for a bull and cow. When they arrived at Bayou Sara wharf, the cow was in such bad shape she had to be loaded on a wagon and drawn to Rosale, where she soon died. Barrow then bred the bull to his cows and the resultant crossbreed proved to be a great success since it was tick resistant. In addition, Barrow was known as an innovative, progressive planter. He experimented with new agricultural methods and a letter from Burke and Watt, cotton commission merchants of New Orleans, states that his new cotton was sold several cents higher than the best market quotation of that time.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, Robert H. Barrow, Jr. organized a company, which, by vote of the men, was called the Rosale Guards. Most of the recruits were from West Feliciana and Wilkinson County, Mississippi. The Rosale Guards were incorporated into the Eleventh Louisiana Infantry Regiment in August, 1861. This outfit was commanded by Col. S. F. Marks with Lt. Col. Robert H. Barrow as second in command. At the battle of Shiloh, Barrow commanded the Eleventh Louisiana Regiment (about 400 men). After the battle, he wrote a lengthy report of his regiment's activities which has been published in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

In 1888 a disastrous fire completely destroyed Rosale and all that remained were the schoolhouse and the summer house. Robert Barrow III, who owned the property at the time, moved into the schoolhouse where he resided for some time. In about 1900 he moved the schoolhouse to its present location and incorporated it into a much larger frame residence (the present plantation house). The present owner, General Robert H. Barrow, acquired Rosale in 1950. He is the great grandson of Robert H. Barrow, Jr., who bought the property in 1845.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

### Statement of Significance (cont'd)

Rosale's association with the Barrow family contributes mightily to the property's significance. The Barrows were noted for their large slave-holdings, immense wealth, and pretentious plantation homes. The 1860 census records show that members of the Barrow family owned a little over 1,000 slaves in West Feliciana Parish alone. This does not even take into account their holdings in other parishes. West Feliciana plantation homes built and/or owned by the Barrows included Rosale, Afton Villa, Greenwood, Ellerslie, Rosebank, Live Oak, and Highland, to mention but a few. Of course, the first Rosale, Afton Villa, and Greenwood have been claimed by fire and several of the others are no longer in the family's hands. In fact, out of the tremendous holdings owned by the Barrows, Rosale is the only Barrow property in West Feliciana that is still owned by a direct descendant.

In addition to the significance attached to the Rosale site, it should also be emphasized that the present plantation house has visual reminders of its antebellum past. These include the summer house, the schoolhouse which was incorporated into the present house, and the fact that it is owned by General Robert H. Barrow, the great grandson of the Robert H. Barrow, Jr., who purchased the property in 1845.

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DEC 8 1980

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

(Bibliography) (Cont'd)

Arthur, Stanley Clisby. The Story of the West Florida Rebellion. Published by St. Francisville Democrat, 1935.

Jennings, Virginia Lobdell. The Plains and the People: A History of Upper East Baton Rouge Parish. Pelican Publishing Company, New Orleans. 1962.

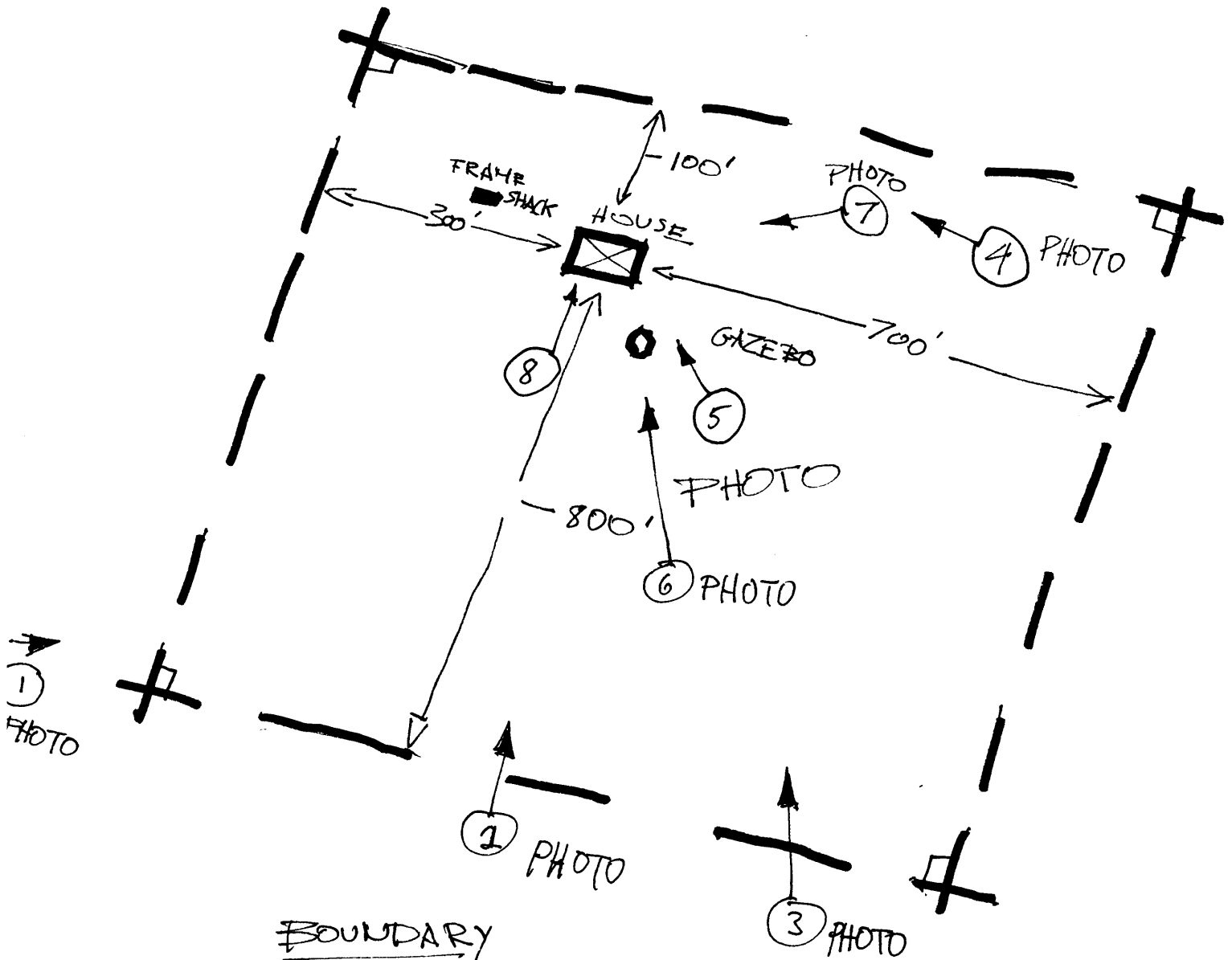
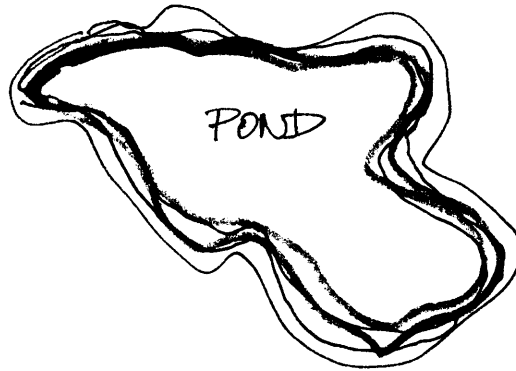
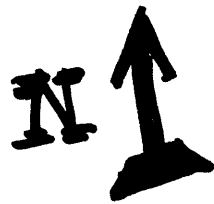
Chain of Title, Rosale Plantation, West Feliciana Parish.

Arthur, Stanley Clisby, ed. Old Families of Louisiana. Claitor's Publishing Division, Baton Rouge, 1971.

# Rosale Plantation

North of St. Francisville

NOV 5 1980



BOUNDARY  
LINES PARALLEL TO  
FACADES OF HOUSE