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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NOV 21 1991

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 Bay Tree
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3785 LA Hwy 18 not for publication
city, town Vacherie vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. James code 093 zip code 70090

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>	_____ 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>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture
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 P. Tassin October 15, 1991
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Date
Recreation and Tourism
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:) _____
Melores Byers 11/21/91
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)

Other: French Creole

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls aluminum

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Bay Tree (c. 1850) is a one story frame French Creole cottage which also shows the influence of the Greek Revival style. Located in St. James Parish, the house stands on the Mississippi's west bank and faces the historic River Road. Although it has undergone some alterations since its construction, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

French Creole characteristics found in Bay Tree include:

- 1) the fact that the house is raised two feet on brick piers,
- 2) a hand hewn frame with briquette-entre-poteaux (brick between posts) infill,
- 3) a Class III gable roof with central chimney (see enclosure),
- 4) a partially intact Creole floorplan with almost equal sized salle and chambre rooms,
- 5) two wraparound mantels,
- 6) three French doors, each having eight lights and two molded rectangular panels per leaf, and
- 7) a full length gallery.

Greek Revival features include 1) facade door surrounds featuring restrained Greek shoulder molding and 2) simple mantels with plain pilasters, smooth bases, molded capitals, and smooth entablatures. Other interesting original features in the home include five-pane transoms, three-panel shutters flanking exterior French doors, interior six panel doors, and a decorative molding highlighting the flue above one of the home's mantels.

Alterations to Bay Tree include:

- 1) the replacement of the floor, balustrade and posts of the deteriorated front gallery,
- 2) the relocation of the interior French door,

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bay Tree, St. James Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

- 3) the installation of decorative molding on one of the fireplace flues,
- 4) the construction of cabinets on one side of one fireplace, and the addition of a closet on one side of the other fireplace,
- 5) the installation of new flooring above the old,
- 6) the installation of aluminum siding on the exterior, and
- 7) changes and additions at the rear. These include the enclosure and subdivision of the loggia space, the addition of a shed roof porch and its later conversion to a kitchen, and the construction of a large den and bedroom wing.

Although the addition of the aluminum siding is regrettable, Bay Tree still retains the majority of its important architectural features. The home's Creole massing, exterior French doors, and salle and chambre spaces all remain intact. Although the mantel pieces are compromised on one side, they are still easily recognizable as French wraparound mantels. All of the home's new construction occurs at the rear, and historic fabric was carefully replicated when the gallery was rehabilitated. In addition, the home's transoms, shutters, and Greek Revival detailing remain unchanged. In summary, Bay Tree would be easily recognized by any person familiar with the structure during the nineteenth century. As a rare and old example of an architectural tradition which once dominated St. James Parish, Bay Tree is a worthy candidate for National Register listing.

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 NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1850

Significant Dates

c. 1850

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Bay Tree is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is among a limited number of French Creole residences in St. James Parish, which once had many more examples. It is also among the oldest Creole homes in the parish.

The 1858 Persac Map of the Mississippi River shows approximately 111 St. James Parish plantations identified by the names of their owners. In addition, the map depicts a large number of unnamed agricultural tracts. Because the Creoles were the dominant group to settle and develop the area before the Civil War, it is fair to assume that the majority of the houses on these plantations would have been in the Creole style. Thus, one can legitimately estimate that St. James Parish had a minimum of perhaps 200 Creole style houses in 1858. However, the Historic Structures Survey of the parish indicates that only about 31 Creole houses remain. Eighteen of these date from after 1870, leaving only thirteen to represent the parish's earlier Creole tradition. Bay Tree is one of these. In addition, Bay Tree is one of only nine Creole dwellings in the parish which use colombage construction (half timbering with infill) in their walls.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstracts and legal records of Bay Tree Plantation. 5 vol, bound copies in possession of Mr. Paul Ory.

Historic Structures Survey for St. James Parish.

"Plantations on the Mississippi River from Natchez to New Orleans, 1858", map by Persac; reprint ed, Pelican Publishing Co., Inc. 1967.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- 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 less than an acre

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the significant resource. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including non-contributing elements to the rear and side.

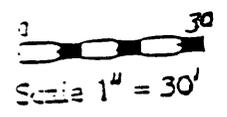
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

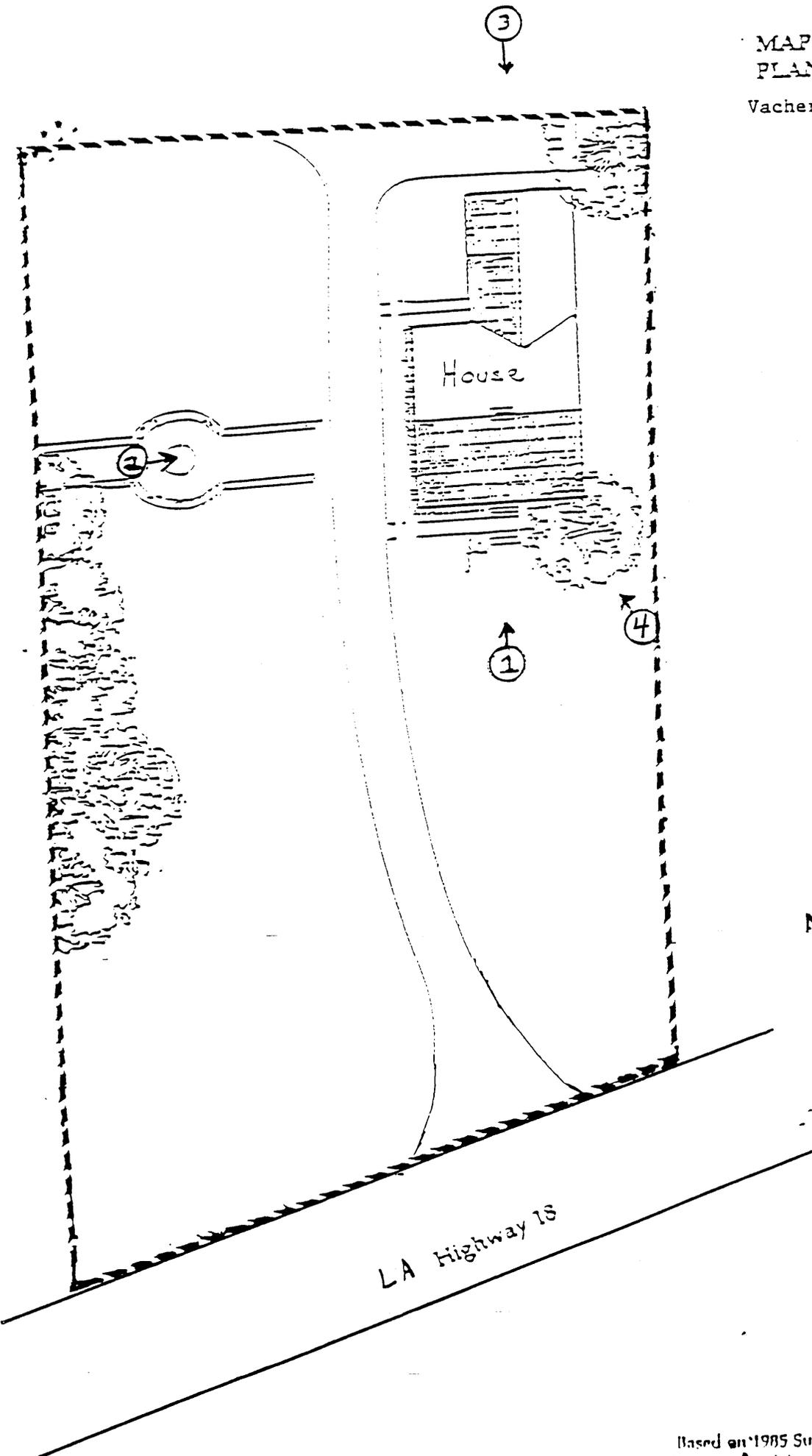
name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date September 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804
Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ory
3785 LA Hwy 18
Vacherie, LA 70090

MAP OF BAY TREE
PLANTATION HOUSE

Vacherie vicinity, St. James
Parish, Louisiana



--- BOUNDARY

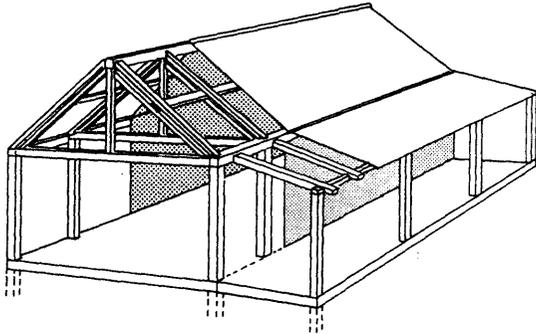


North

Based on 1985 Survey by E.L. Dornier, Jr. & Associates,
Kenner, Louisiana.

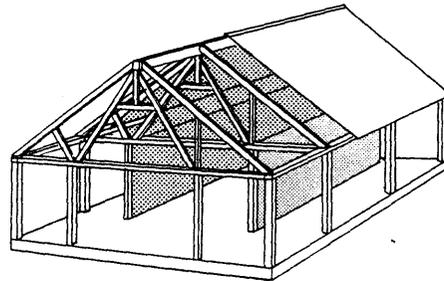
FIGURE 5

SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



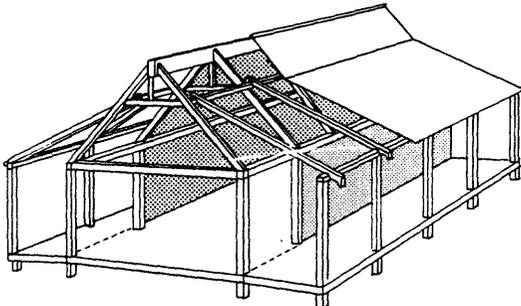
CLASS I

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



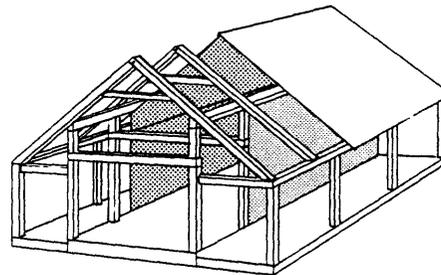
CLASS IIIa

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



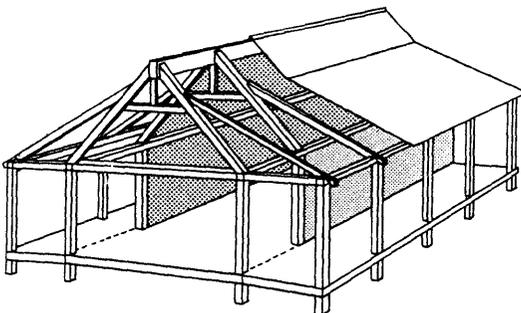
CLASS IIa

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



CLASS IIIb

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present



CLASS IIb

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.