

PH0047899

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: <b>LOUISIANA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>IBERVILLE PARISH</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: <b>MAY 19 1972</b>	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Bayou Plaquemine Lock - U. S. Government Reservation (approx. 14 acres)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Plaquemine Lock

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Confluence of Bayou Plaquemine with the Mississippi River about 208.8 miles above the Head of Passes and in the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana

CITY OR TOWN: of Plaquemine, Louisiana

STATE: Louisiana	CODE: 22	COUNTY: Iberville	CODE: 047
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

Water area

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: U. S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans (Corps of Engineers)

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 60267

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans	STATE: Louisiana	CODE: 70764
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: U. S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans (Corps of Engineers)

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 60267

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans	STATE: Louisiana	CODE: 70764
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Preliminary Map of the Lower Mississippi River from the Mouth of Ohio to the Head of the Passes in 32 Sheets

DATE OF SURVEY: 1884-1885  Federal  State  County  Local

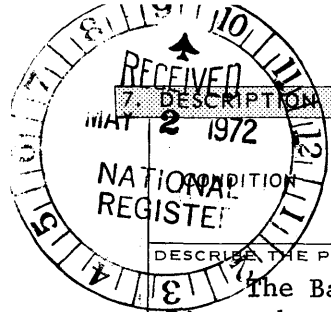
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: U. S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans (Corps of Engineers)

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 60267

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans	STATE: Louisiana	CODE: 70764
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 19 1972  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

MAY 2 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bayou Plaquemine Lock is situated on the west bank of the Mississippi River about 208.8 miles above the Head of Passes. Prior to 1867, Bayou Plaquemine functioned as a distributary of the Mississippi River and was navigable by the largest vessels at high stages. This connection between Bayou Plaquemine and the Mississippi River was closed in 1867 when the levee was built by Iverville Parish. The U. S. Government lock was constructed during the years 1895-1909. The lock restored a navigable connection between the Bayou and the River. The lock was closed to navigation in September 1961 upon completion of the Indian Village-Port Allen section of the Morgan City-Port Allen alternate route of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Bayou Plaquemine is one of the bodies of water referenced by Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, during his search for "La Salle's River," the Mississippi, in 1699 (see Bibliography: Davis and Faye). The Bayou is clearly shown on Jean B. B. d'Anville's "Carte de la Louisiane, 1732." On the d'Anville map, the Bayou is called "Rre. des Piakemines" and is shown flowing from the Mississippi River southwestward. On the map, the Bayou breaks into three streams that enter the Gulf of Mexico. The three streams are: "Bayou d'eau douce, qui conduit a l'ancien Villages des Chetimachas", just east of this is "Bayou d'eau douce"; and finally another outlet also called "Bayou d'eau douce."

The importance of Bayou Plaquemine's connection with the Mississippi River was established and recognized in the 18th century. The Acadians exiled from Nova Scotia traveled through Bayou Plaquemine to reach the Atchafalaya Basin and, eventually, the Teche and Atakapas country of Louisiana. In 1770, Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire, commandant of militia and magistrate of the Attakapas country headquartered in Opelousas, sent his most experienced engineer, Louis Landry, to survey Bayou Plaquemine preparatory to opening it to navigation for the Spanish. In 1791, Jean Batiste Degruis proposed to Governor Miro that the Bayou be dredged to a depth of 12' as far as the Village of the Chitimachas, about 6 miles below the present-day city of Plaquemine. In 1802, residents of the Teche country of Louisiana again asked that something be done about clearing, widening and deepening Bayou Plaquemine to facilitate trade. The original projects for improving the Bayou were adopted by the U. S. Congress under the provisions of the Rivers and Harbors Acts of August 2, 1882, and August 11, 1888. These Acts provided for a lock at the River end of the Bayou and for clearing and dredging the channel to a depth of 6' and a width of 60'. Construction of the lock began in 1895 and was completed in 1909. By the act of April 10, 1899, Congress authorized that Bayou Plaquemine be dredged to a depth of 10' and widened to 125'. Subsequent modifications of federal law provided for navigation by vessels with a deeper draft.

The U. S. Government reservation at Plaquemine occupies 14 acres. The original pumphouse on the south side of the lock still stands. This structure is white-painted brick with over-size, semi-circular windows. The adjoining two-story structure has a balcony on the second floor. The stair-step treatment of the end walls of the buildings distinguishes them from all other structures in Plaquemine. The raised cottage visible in the background of those photographs taken from the bell tower of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church was purchased from the Federal government and moved from its location several years ago. The cottage served as the home of the resident engineer.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Bayou Plaquemine and its distributary connection with the Mississippi River is among the oldest known and used bodies of water in Louisiana. Pierre le Moyné, Sieur d'Iberville, referenced the raft of trees and debris which were lodged at entrance of the Bayou in 1699. Jean B.B. d'Anville clearly traced the Bayou and its connection with the Mississippi River in his 1732 "Carte de la Louisiane" (published 1752). Bayou Plaquemine was made famous for all time by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his epic poem, "Evangeline" (1847). Speaking of the Acadian exiles, Longfellow said: "They, too, swerved from their course, and entering Bayou Plaquemine, were soon lost in a maze of sluggish and devious waters, which, like a network of steel, extended in every direction." The standard view of the arrival of the Acadians and Evangeline in Louisiana by a Louisianian is by Felix Voohries, who wrote of the exiles: "At last we launched on the turbulent waters of the Mississippi and floated down that noble stream as far as Bayou Plaquemine in Louisiana, where we landed."

The Bayou Plaquemine Lock, as the Bayou and City of the same name, all derive their name from the Illinois Indian word Piakimin meaning persimmon. How an Illinois Indian word came to be applied to a bayou in Louisiana is suggestive. The Chitimacha Indian tribes occupied that part of Louisiana between the Mississippi River and Bayou Teche, west of the Atchafalaya Basin. A village of Chitimacha Indians was located in the 18th century about 6 miles below the present-day city of Plaquemine.

The U. S. Government reservation at Plaquemine occupies 14 acres. The lock was designed by Colonel George W. Goethals of the U. S. Corps of Engineers. Goethal later served as chief engineer in the construction of the Panama Canal lock as well as the Zone's first governor. When the Bayou Plaquemine lock was completed in 1909, it enjoyed the distinction of having the highest fresh water lift of any lock in the world. It also possessed a unique engineering plan which enabled the lock to operate on a gravity-flow principle. At a later date, this operational feature was modernized and pumps installed.

Until the Plaquemine lock was sealed in September 1961, it and Bayou which it connected with the Mississippi River were an integral part of the intra-coastal canal system of the United States. Since September 1961, Bayou Plaquemine has been used on a limited basis for navigational purposes. The western terminus of the Bayou is the Intra-Coastal Gulf Waterway.

Areas of Bayou Plaquemine are used extensively for recreational and sporting purposes. The International Acadian Festival is held in the City of Plaquemine each year to commemorate the arrival of the Acadian exiles and to call attention to the cultural contribution made by these settlers to the state of Louisiana. A major attraction of the Festival is a re-enactment of

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Acadian Times, I, No. 1 (Nov., 1970) Special Publication, Plaquemine.  
 Comeaux, Malcolm L. Settlement and Folk Occupations of the Atchafalaya Basin, unpublished doctoral dissertation, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1969.  
 Consolidated Companies, Inc. Round the Bend...to Another 50 Years (New Orleans, 1957)  
 Davis, Edwin A. Louisiana, A Narrative History (Baton Rouge, 1971, 3rd ed.)  
 Faye, Stanley, "The Forked River," The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, XXV (Oct., 1942), 921-42 (see 933ff.)  
 D'Anville, Jean B.B., "Carte de la Louisiane, 1732" (Guillaume de la Haye,

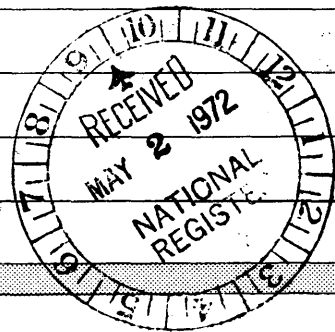
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30 ° 17 ' 29 "	91 ° 14 ' 0 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Gary J. Hebert, Editor and Publisher

ORGANIZATION: The Greater Plaquemine Post DATE: April 21, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1114 Belleview Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Plaquemine, STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: George W. Peck  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: 25 April 1972

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date: 5/19/72

ATTEST:  
John Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: May 12, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 2 1972

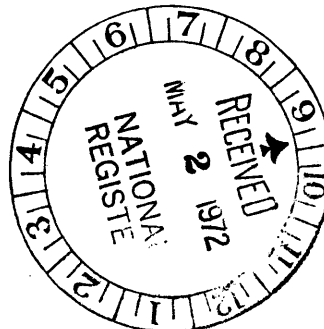
(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd)

the arrival of Evangeline (Emmeline Labiche) in the waters of Bayou Plaquemine. The ceremony is staged in downtown Plaquemine, where the Bayou winds gently to meet the Plaquemine Lock structure.

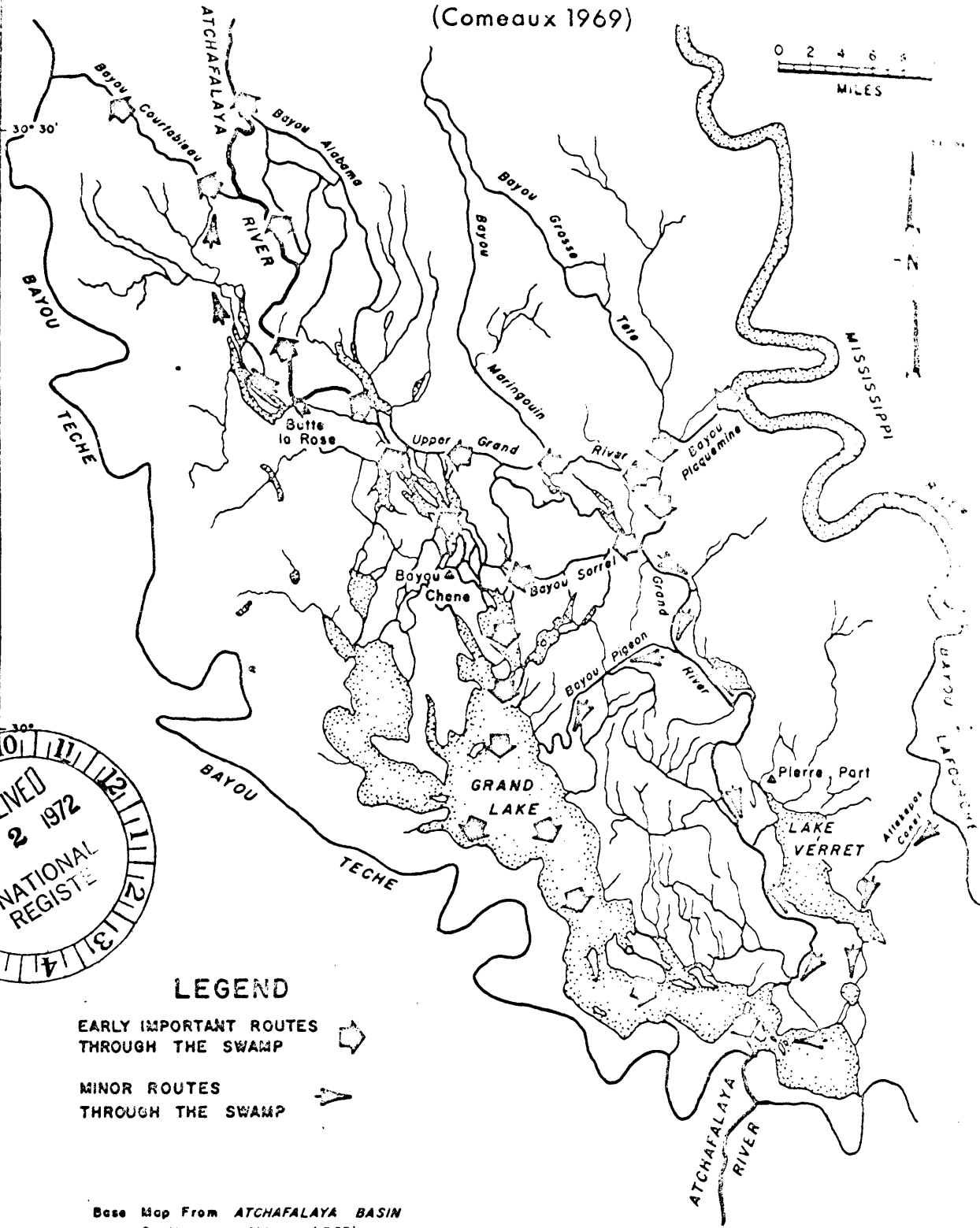
9. Bibliographical References (cont'd)

- Parish, 1752).
- Fortier, Alcee (ed.), Louisiana: Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form (Century Historical Association, 1914, rev. ed.), II, 314.
- Hebert, Gary J. "A Fight to Save a Bayou and the Environment," personal scrap book (Assembled for entry in the National Community Service Contest, The National Newspaper Association).
- Hebert, Gary J., "This is Worth Saving," Special Section, Plaquemine Post, May 27, 1971.
- Kniffen, Fred B. The Indians of Louisiana (Baton Rouge, 1965)
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. Complete Works, 11 vols. (New York, 1886, Riverside Edition).
- Martin, Francois Xavier, The History of Louisiana From the Earliest Period (New Orleans, 1882, rpr. 1963), 98-100, 300, 331.
- Newton, Milton B., Jr., Atlas of Louisiana. A Guide for Students. Louisiana State University School of Geoscience, Miscellaneous Publication 72-1 (Baton Rouge, 1972).
- Postell, Paul Everett, "John Hampton Randolph, A Louisiana Planter," The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, XXV (January, 1942), 149-233.
- Uhler, John E., Jr., "Early Louisiana Maps," Louisiana Library Association Bulletin (Fall, 1958), 93-97
- Voochries, Felix, Acadian Reminiscences (New Orleans, 1907).
- U. S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans, Draft Environmental Statement. Bayou Plaquemine Waterway and (closed) Lock as Affected by Proposed Re-location of Louisiana State Highway Route I in Plaquemine, Iberville Parish (Corps of Engineers, February, 1972).





# ATCHAFALAYA BASIN HISTORIC WATER ROUTES

(Comeaux 1969)

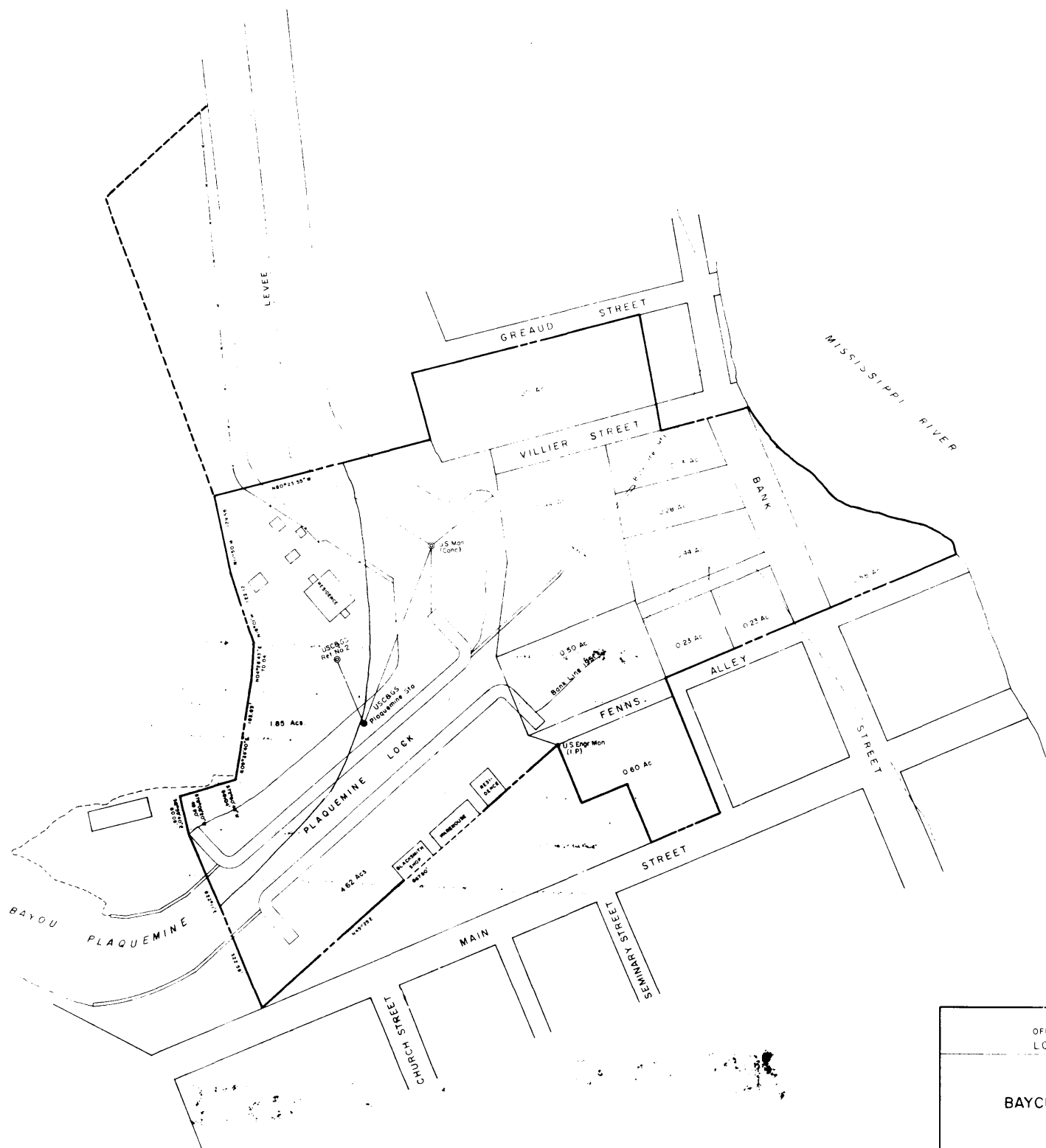


## LEGEND

- EARLY IMPORTANT ROUTES THROUGH THE SWAMP 
- MINOR ROUTES THROUGH THE SWAMP 

Base Map From ATCHAFALAYA BASIN  
By Henry L. Abbot (1863)

I B E R V I L L E P A R I S H



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ENGINEER  
LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION

BAYOU PLAQUEMINE LOCK & RESERVATION

PLAQUEMINE, LOUISIANA

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	5/19/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Bayou Plaquemine Lock	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Plaquemine, Louisiana			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Louisiana			Iberville
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
Dept. of Army, District of New Orleans, Corps of Engineers			
SCALE:			
DATE: Jan. 15, 1962			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

MA

PI