

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 30 1984  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Wall House

and or common same; also Wall Parsonage

**2. Location**

street & number Woodville Street N/A not for publication

city, town Clinton N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county East Feliciana Parish code 037

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Randall Peay Home: 504-683-8402

street & number P. O. Box 8190 Mrs. Peay's work: 504-342-6120

city, town Clinton N/A vicinity of state LA 70722

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number St. Helena St. (no specific address) P. O. Box 263

city, town Clinton state LA 70722

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Sites 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Wall House was apparently built in three stages between the 1830's and c.1895. It is a story-and-a-half frame house with Queen Anne Revival and Italianate features. It is located on Woodville Street near the center of the town of Clinton. Despite a few alterations, the house retains its National Register eligibility.

Although the Wall House began in the 1830's, subsequent renovations were so complete that it is not possible to determine exactly what the original house looked like. It was evidently one room deep and two or three rooms wide (see sketch plan). The age of this part of the house is indicated by its wide floorboards and its pit sawn (or water mill sawn) joists. The only other visual remains from this early period are two Federal mantels, two nine over nine windows, and some double panel doors.

An 1892 photograph shows that sometime during the mid to late nineteenth century a front and side wing were added to the house (see plan). These were built in a conservative frame style with little architectural detailing. The date of these sections of the house is corroborated by the fact that the floorboards are narrow and the joists are circular sawn.

The house achieved its architectural significance shortly after 1892 with a major renovation and enlargement (see plan). Apparently much of the detailing of the earlier work was totally replaced. Moreover, the plan was reworked to produce a central hall house under a single massive front facing gable. The front parlor received a semihexagonal bay and the existing side wing received a turret with a faceted conical roof. Plate glass windows were installed and the exterior was fitted with Italianate brackets. The two front gallery columns have four brackets each, two of which face forward and two of which face to the sides.

For the most part, the interior is finished off simply. The parlor and the central hall have heavily cut fluted wainscoting and the bedroom in the side wing has a columnar mantel and overmantel. Door and window frames are not molded or planed in any way. The staircase in the central hall winds sharply to the upper half story.

### Alterations:

In 1940 a large kitchen wing was added in the rear. About fifteen years later a garage was built further to the rear. The present front parlor mantel is a reproduction in the high style Greek Revival mode. In recent years the present owners enclosed the front gallery of the side wing (see plan).

### Assessment of Integrity:

In our opinion, the changes mentioned in the preceding paragraph should not be regarded as detrimental to the Wall House's architectural significance. The modern extensions are set to the rear and out of sight. The enclosure of the side gallery and the installation of the reproduction mantel have had a minimal impact compared with the total scope of the house's architecture. In any case, the house retains those features which establish its significance (see Item 8).

# 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.1895 remodeling **Builder/Architect** Builder-c.1895 remodeling: Isaac D. Wall, Jr.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Wall House is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in Clinton's heritage of late nineteenth-early twentieth century residences.

Although the parish seat of Clinton is best known as a center of Greek Revival architecture, most of its extant older structures date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of the approximately fifty residences which date from this period, the Wall House is one of half a dozen landmarks. It stands above the more typical shotgun houses, cottages and bungalows because of its size, massing and detailing. With its three historic periods of construction, the Wall House is one of the largest residences in the town. In addition, of the six major landmarks from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it is one of only two which have four rather than two brackets atop each gallery column. Finally, there are four houses which feature some suggestion of a side tower. But of these, the Wall House is the only one which has a fully fledged conical roofed turret standing as an independent unit. This is important because the conical turret is one of the hallmarks of residential architecture of the period. Yet a tower such as the one at the Wall House is comparatively rare in small towns in Louisiana. Generally it is found on only the most distinctive residences.

### Historical Note:

The original portion of the house was constructed in the late 1830's by Reverend Isaac Wall, Sr., a Methodist minister who came from the state of New York. It was his son, Isaac Wall, Jr., who was responsible for the c.1895 remodeling.

NB: The Louisiana State Review Committee requested that additional historical information be provided for this nomination. It can be found on the attached Item 8 continuation sheets. Historical significance is not being claimed for the Isaac Wall, Sr. and Mary Winans Wall association because their periods of significance pre-date the present c.1895 appearance of the house.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

1892 photograph of Wall House. Copy in National Register file.  
 Windshield survey of Clinton conducted by National Register staff, Division of Historic Preservation.

Wall Family Papers, in possession of owner of Wall House.  
 East Feliciana Parish, 1824-1974: "Land of Seven Springs and Seven Pastures." Published for East Feliciana Parish Sesquicentennial, no further publication information given.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Clinton, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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3	4	1	6	3	4	0
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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** See attached plat map for boundary description.  
 Justification: The boundaries follow property lot lines, as shown on the attached plat map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

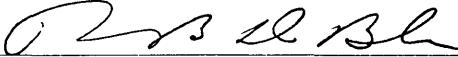
name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER  
 Division of Historic Preservation  
 organization State of Louisiana date January 1984  
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-6682  
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

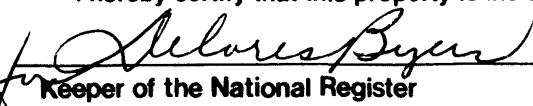
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 25, 1984

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
  
 Keeper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 5-31-84

Attest: date  
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ISAAC WALL FAMILY

Isaac Wall Sr. was an early Methodist minister (in the "local order," which meant that he had additional occupations other than ministerial) in the Mississippi Conference in the second quarter of the 19th century. (The Florida Parishes and mid-Mississippi parish areas were in the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church; in 1845, the area west of the Mississippi was removed from the Conference.)

Born in New Jersey, he came to Louisiana about 1827, where he married Mary Susannah Winans, the daughter of William Winans, a well-known Methodist minister of full connection in southwest Mississippi and of national reputation. (Indeed, Winans helped found the Methodist church in New Orleans in the early 19th century.) The lead Methodist church in Clinton, Louisiana, where Wall established his family, was named for his wife, Mary Winans Wall.

Wall pursued careers in architecture, construction and the ministry. An 1839-42 journal of his recently discovered and transcribed reveals new information on his participation in the drafting of particular elements and in the construction of the East Feliciana Parish Courthouse (National Historic Landmark) as well as other structures in the parish which he either designed or built. Additionally, he gives the earliest day-to-day accounts of Methodism and its beginnings in the Felicianas that are known to exist.

The nucleus of the present Wall House is the one described in Wall's journal several times: "working my house" (October 1839); "All working this week at my buildings. . ." (November 12-13, 1839); "working my house" (November 27, 1839); and "Boys at my house" (November 2, 1839).

Wall thus becomes not only the earliest Methodist minister stationed in Clinton on which we have documents, but also one of very few 19th century builders and/or architects in the Felicianas on whom we have documented information. No other journals ascribed to Feliciana builders are known to exist. Five of the most noteworthy are: C. N. Gibbens, East Feliciana State Hospital (the Asylum) at Jackson and Grace Episcopal Church, St. Francisville; Robert Perry, Roseneath, East Louisiana State Hospital and the McGill (Jones) House in Jackson; Isaac Wall, Sr., Lyons Building/House, Wall House and East Feliciana Parish Courthouse in Clinton and the Taylor House, Jackson; Judge Lafayette Saunders, East Feliciana Parish Courthouse, Lyons Building/House, and Stonehenge, Clinton; and G. W. A. Simpson, Administration Building at Centenary College, Jackson.

Wall died in Clinton in 1872, and his home, though renovated in the early 1890's, remains as the only dwelling intimately connected with his activity as a Methodist preacher. The Courthouse with its dome and judges' bench drafted and constructed by him still stands, as does the Taylor House, which is in deteriorated condition and owned by the state of Louisiana. The Lyons Building/House may be the Lyons law office in which case it still stands as one of the 5 members of "Lawyers' Row" (National Historic Landmark). However, it may also be the Lyons residence, about which virtually nothing is known, other than it no longer exists. It is not clear which structure built for Lyons is being described in Wall's journal.

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Mary Winans Wall came from a family which had made its name in education as well as Methodism. Her father, William Winans, was a leading light in the operation of Centenary College at Jackson. Thus she came by her interest in education naturally, and she was significant in her own right as a teacher and the founder of her school, the Clinton Female Seminary. East Feliciana in its antebellum days enjoyed the reputation as the center of education in Louisiana, at least outside of New Orleans. Mrs. Winans and her associate, Clara Dunbar, contributed to this renown through the Seminary. Records in the Wall Family Papers as well as a 1947 article in the Louisiana Historical Quarterly document this school and the fact that Mary Wall taught both blacks and whites, girls and boys. Supported for the main by pupils' tuition, the Seminary flourished, but the Peabody Fund donated more money to it than any other school of its size in Louisiana between 1868 and 1872.

Mrs. Wall was also noteworthy for her missionary efforts among the blacks. She established a Sunday School for blacks before the Civil War and held classes regularly for approximately 100 pupils. Some of her students went on to become Methodist preachers, according to Rev. William Nailor, a black minister and former student who was ordained in 1875.

One of the two buildings in which she held classes is still standing, having been moved from the Wall House lot in the 20th century to a distance of two lots down the street from the house. It is a small modest 1-story Greek Revival cottage and is used as a residence today. Other accounts placed her school at one point in a now-lost 2-story frame building next to her house. Apparently two different buildings were used at one time or another for the school. The Wall House and the schoolhouse are the only two buildings directly connected with Mrs. Wall's prominent activities in education in the town of Clinton and in East Feliciana Parish. Her school lasted approximately 40 years, until 1872/73, its closure encouraged by the destitution of Reconstruction and probably by the death of her husband (1872). The church structure named for her was built in the late 19th century and was replaced with a new sanctuary in the early 1960's.

Mobley wrote in "The Academy Movement in Louisiana"(LHQ, 1947) that:

Probably the most fortunate parish in the State was East Feliciana. . . other institutions had to provide for the education of girls. . . and Mrs. Mary Wall and Mrs. Clara Dunbar of Clinton Female Seminary at Clinton helped to make a name for the parish in educational activities that received most favorable comment in the editorial columns of the Baton Rouge papers.

The major renovations to the Wall House as we know it today were done about 1892 at the time of the marriage of Mary's son, Colonel Isaac D. Wall, to Marie L. Beaven (Beavin), both of whom lived with his mother at the Wall House. Col. Wall also was a figure of local significance, who served as district attorney in East and West Feliciana Parishes (1896-1900) and later served East Feliciana as state representative from 1908-1912. He lived in the Wall House during both these terms of office. In addition to his public service, Col. Wall maintained a widely-known private law practice and was the publisher of the newspaper in his home town of Clinton. He moved to Baton Rouge in 1913 where he was a strong figure in the First Methodist Church and continued his public service as a member of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors until his death on January 12, 1929.

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Mary Winans Wall lived in the Wall House with her son and his family until she died, February 28, 1897.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WALL HISTORICAL SKETCH

"Journal of Isaac D. Wall, 1839-1842," Wall Family Papers, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Morris, Clinton, LA

Wall Family Papers, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Morris, Clinton, LA

"The Academy Movement in Louisiana," by James William Mobley, Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Vol. 30, No. 3, July 1947, p. 825, 967

New Orleans Times Picayune, March 2, 1897, Mary Winans Wall Obituary

New Orleans Times Picayune, January 13/14(?), 1929, Colonel Isaac D. Wall Obituary

William Winans, Methodist Leader in Antebellum Mississippi, Ray Holder, Jackson, MS:1977

Methodism in the Mississippi Conference, 1840-1894, W. B. Jones

Personal telephone communication, Dr. Carol Taylor, Will W. Alexander Library, Dillard University, New Orleans

Personal telephone communication, Carolyn Garison, Magale Library, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport

Personal interview with Mrs. June Peay, owner of the Wall House, who interviewed John Hobgood, Malcolm Cain, Louis McKnight, Jr. and Mrs. Bess McKnight Irving of Clinton, LA and Ray Holder, Jackson, MS

Personal interviews done by Mrs. Ginger Pullig Grand of Clinton, LA of Clay McKnight, Louis McKnight, Ikey McKnight of Clinton, LA

"Memories of Plains Plantation," by J. B. Cain, undated (1960?) and unidentified Mississippi newspaper article (Natchez?), Wall Family Papers, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Morris, Clinton, LA

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Clinton, LA

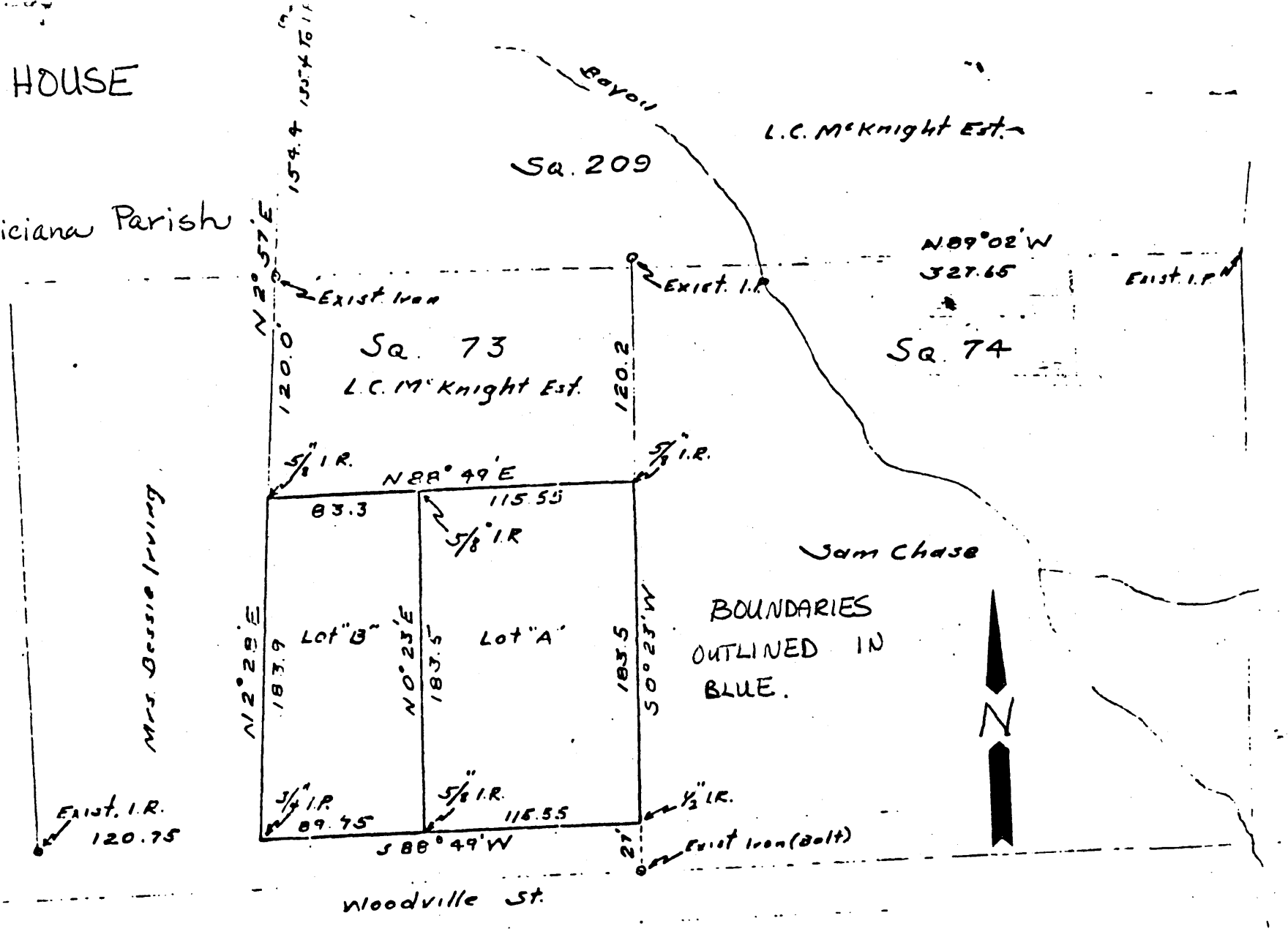
Clerk of Court's Office, East Feliciana Parish Courthouse, Clinton, LA

District Attorney's Office, East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse, Baton Rouge, LA

WALL HOUSE

Clinton

EAST Feliciana Parish



L.C. McKnight Est.

Sq. 209

N 2° 57' E  
120.0

Exist. Iron

Sq. 73

L.C. McKnight Est.

120.2

Exist. I.P.

N 89° 02' W

327.65

Exist. I.P.

Sq. 74

5/8" I.R.

N 88° 49' E

83.3

115.55

5/8" I.R.

Mrs. Jessie Irving

Sam Chase

BOUNDARIES  
OUTLINED IN  
BLUE.



N 2° 28' E  
183.9

Lot "B"

N 0° 23' E  
183.5

Lot "A"

183.5

S 0° 23' W  
183.5

Exist. I.R.  
120.75

5/8" I.R.

S 88° 49' W

115.55

5/8" I.R.

1/2" I.R.

Exist. Iron (Bolt)

Woodville St.

Map Shows A Subdivision of A Portion of The L.C. McKnight Est.  
in Sq. 73 Town of Clinton La. into Lots "A" & "B"

Scale 0 20 40 60 80 100 Feet

W. RANDALL PEAY PROPERTY, Clinton, Louisiana

A.M. McConnell  
2/29/72

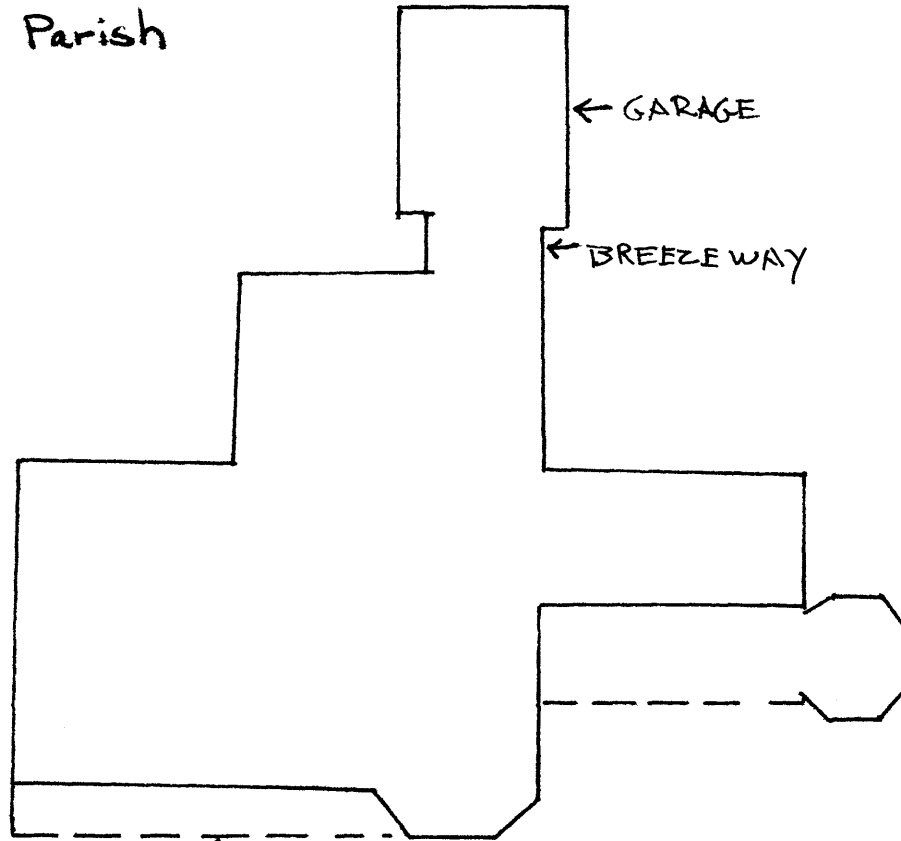


# WALL HOUSE

Clinton

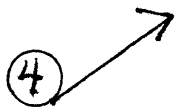
East Feliciana Parish

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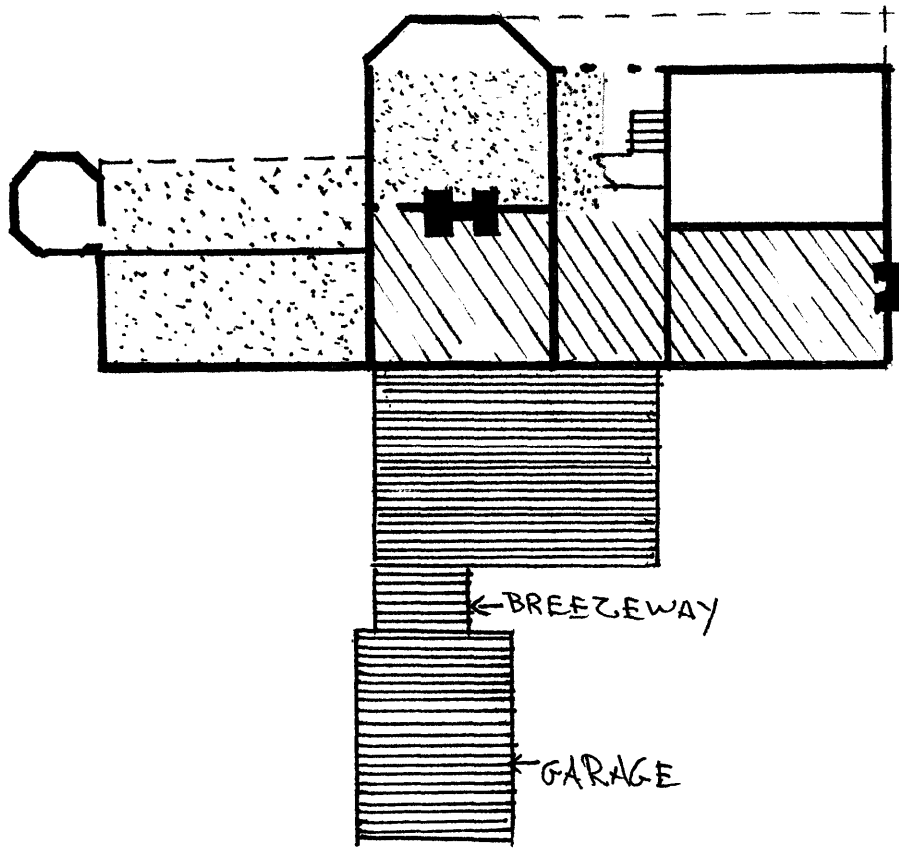


← GARAGE



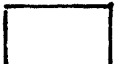

← BREEZE WAY



WOODVILLE ST



WALL HOUSE  
(NOT TO SCALE)

-  1830's
-  MID TO LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> C.
-  SHORTLY AFTER 1892
-  1940 OR LATER