

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 McNutt Rural Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Belgard Bend Road and LA Hwy 121 N/A not for publication
city, town McNutt N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71409

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>28</u>	<u>11</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>28</u>	<u>11</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

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.

Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin Leslie P. Tassin, LA August 15, 1988
State or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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:) _____

Entered in the National Register
9/15/88
Jayne M. McPherson

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No style
Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls wood
roof asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The McNutt Historic District is a well-preserved rural landscape located in flat cotton growing country along Bayou Rapides. It is a crossroads cotton community consisting of five principal residences, a cotton gin, a store, and nine contributing quarters houses and copious outbuildings. Contributing elements range in date from 1847 to c.1930. Despite some alteration of contributing elements and a 27% intrusion rate, the district retains its National Register eligibility.

The rural settlement of McNutt takes its name from "McNutt Hill," which was named for Isaac McNutt, the son-in-law of John Texada, a federal land agent in the area during the early nineteenth century. The area's principal plantation house, Bayouside, was built by the Texada family. The name McNutt was applied to the settlement surrounding Bayouside by Albert E. Hunter sometime between 1904 and 1908. The settlement was noted as McNutt when it became a post village in 1908. In addition to twenty-eight historic buildings, McNutt contains three former gin sites, one dating from the antebellum period, one dating from the 1880s, and one dating from 1928.

The district runs for close to a mile along a curve on the south side of Bayou Rapides. Although there are some gaps, the buildings are in easy sight of each other, and thus there is a broad and open cohesiveness. Some of the major residences have treed yards, but most of the land is open, being still farmed for cotton. Even the largest buildings in the district tend to be humble and unpretentious. Bayouside (National Register), the district's most impressive structure, is a substantial Greek Revival galleried cottage with Doric posts and aedicule style mantels. It has a spacious front lawn overlooking the bayou which is delineated from adjacent properties by mature trees along the edges. The only other Greek Revival structure is Hope (National Register), a late example dating from c.1880. It features plain posts with slight molded capitals and an enormous false gallery (added c.1900).

The district's present intermittent character is of long standing and has some interesting aspects. As families developed, plantation houses for different generations of owners were often built very close together, thus resembling suburban development. This can be seen at McNutt in the relationship between Bayouside (#24) and the J. Dunnam House (#21). In the early twentieth century the parents' generation of the Dunnam family lived at Bayouside, but the plantation was actually administered by the son (J. Mack Dunnam), who built his own substantial frame house next door in 1915.

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Quarters houses were often intermittently rather than regularly spaced as one might expect. The surviving collection at McNutt shows how they were often grouped in a "clump" some distance from the landowner's house. Over the past 50 years, about five quarters houses have been lost at McNutt; however, the present collection of nine still visibly conveys the classic look of quarters houses on a sharecropper landscape.

The only other casualty of the past 50 years has been the gin. The present gin was built in 1952 to replace a nearby gin built in 1928. The present metal sided gable roofed structure is not markedly different in appearance from conventional utilitarian buildings of the 1920s. This gin is somewhat larger than its predecessor, but its visual presence as a character defining element is approximately the same. In any case, replacement of the gin has not diminished McNutt's value as a cotton community because all gins were replaced during the period c.1945-c.1955 to keep pace with cotton production technology. At that time hand-picked cotton was abandoned in favor of machine-picked, and thus new and larger gins had to be built to separate out the leaves, twigs, and other debris which came with machine harvesting. Thus the old gin could not possibly have survived; indeed no historic gins have survived.

Inventory

1. Hope (National Register; c.1880) Contributing element. Late Greek Revival frame galleried cottage with a rear "L" wing addition, an added rear gallery, and a c.1900 false gallery in front.
2. Hope Carriage House (c.1880-1900) Contributing element. Frame vertical board structure with simple gable roof and original side lean-to.
3. Hope Corn Crib (c.1900) Contributing element. Simple vertical board structure with a pitched roof.
4. Hope Barn (c.1880) Contributing element. A mortise and tenon structure with vertical slat walls and side animal pens under covered lean-tos.
5. McNutt Gin (1952) Non-contributing element. Corrugated metal over metal frame structure with moderately complex multi-gabled roof.
6. Non-contributing element. Asbestos sided frame cottage which serves as the office for the McNutt Gin.
7. Non-contributing element. (c.1952) Small metal sided storage building.
8. (1920s) Contributing element. Frame and metal "seed house" used for storing ginned cotton seeds.

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9. (1920s) Contributing element. Frame and metal "seed house" used for storing ginned cotton seeds.

Note: Both seed houses were moved to their present location near the gin in 1952 when the present gin was built. One was from McNutt, and the other was from the former cotton community of Tyrone. It is not know which is which. They are listed as contributing elements because their position in the rural landscape of McNutt is very much in keeping with their historic role as gin support structures.

10. McNutt Store (c.1880s) Contributing element. This pitch roofed frame structure has two front doors and two front windows with most of the original shutters and hardware. In 1904 it received two side lean-to additions and a rear board and batten addition. In c.1930 it was moved about a hundred feet, and at that time received its present three brick front porch posts. During the early years of this century, the store was operated by the Hunter Brothers, who also owned other stores along Bayou Rapides. Of these, the McNutt store is the only one which remains.
11. (1910) Contributing element. A plain substantial single story "L" shaped house with a hall-less plan, a complex hip roof, and drop siding. It is almost entirely encompassed by a gallery with simple square posts. The front bungalow style posts were added in the 1920s. The house was built for Oscar Hunter, a partner in the McNutt Store.
12. (1909) Contributing element. Large single story frame galleried house with a rear wing and 1918 side extension. The two Doric columns in front were added c.1930. The house was built for Albert B. Hunter, who was a partner in the McNutt Store.

In addition to the house, the Albert Hunter property includes the following eight outbuildings:

13. (c.1930) Contributing element. Metal sided frame garage.
14. (1909) Contributing element. Board and batten carriage house.
15. (c.1930) Contributing element. Metal sided over frame agricultural storage building with gable roof.
16. (c.1930) Contributing element. Metal sided over frame agricultural storage building with gable roof.
17. (c.1930) Contributing element. Metal sided over frame agricultural storage building with gable roof.
18. (1909) Contributing element. Frame barn, metal sided c.1930.

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19. (c.1920) Contributing element. Oil house; metal sided over frame with gable roof.
20. (c.1930) Contributing element. Lumber and equipment storage building. Clapboard front, metal sides.
21. (1915) Contributing element. Single story frame house with central hall plan, plain front gallery and rear wing. The house was built for J. Mack Dunnam, who administered the Dunnam plantation.

The Dunnam House property includes the following outbuildings:

22. (c.1930) Non-contributing element. Garage with c.1960 front.
23. Non-contributing element. Board and batten cabin moved in c.1980. It is listed as a non-contributing element because its location is not in keeping with its historic role as a quarters house. During the historic period such a dependency would not have been placed so close to the rear of the main house.
24. Bayouside (National Register - 1847) Contributing element. Bayouside resembles a central hall plantation house both by its form and fenestration pattern. But there is no hall; instead there is a central room with double doors front and rear. There is also a large rear room with a plain staircase ascending to the attic.

The house has two transitional mantels and two chimneys. The mantels are Greek Revival in form, but they also have a slight panel treatment which resembles earlier Adamesque mantels. Older doors in the house are of the two panel type.

Aside from a late nineteenth century rear "L" wing, Bayouside has been little altered since construction.

Bayouside was built by Captain John Augustin Texada in 1847. It was purchased by Milton J. Dunnam in 1876 and remained in the Dunnam family until 1969. The present owner, Alice Chilton, is a direct descendant of the builder.

The Bayouside property includes the following eight dependencies:

25. Non-contributing element. Board and batten cabin moved in c.1980. Building is listed as a non-contributing element because its location is not in keeping with its historic role. A quarters house of this kind would not have been located so close to the rear of a plantation house during the historic period.

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26. Non-contributing element. Board and batten cabin moved in c.1980. Building is listed as a non-contributing element because its location is not in keeping with its historic role. A quarters house of this kind would not have been located so close to the rear of a plantation house during the historic period.
 27. Non-contributing element. Small c.1970 garage.
 28. (c.1850) Contributing element. Large barn consisting of two half dovetail notched log cribs with a dogtrot between. The structure is surrounded by animal pens under a continuous skirting roof.
 29. (c.1910) Contributing element. Four room board and batten sharecropper's cabin with a multi-plane pitched roof, a front gallery with a more recent lean-to side extension, and tar paper covering.
 30. (c.1910) Contributing element. Four room board and batten sharecropper's cabin with a multi-plane pitched roof, a front gallery with a more recent lean-to side extension, and tar paper covering.
 31. (c.1910) Contributing element. Single pen sharecropper's cabin with board and batten construction with side lean-to and tar paper.
 32. (c.1910) Contributing element. Single pen sharecropper's house with board and batten construction, side extension and tar paper covering.
 33. Non-contributing element. Small frame slab-on-grade ranch house.
 34. Non-contributing element. Small asbestos sided cottage moved in from Alexandria c.1965.
 35. (c.1920) Contributing element. Board and batten shotgun house.
 36. (c.1910) Contributing element. Four room sharecropper's cabin with board and batten construction and tar paper covering.
 37. (c.1910) Contributing element. Four room sharecropper's cabin with board and batten construction and tar paper covering.
 38. Non-contributing element. Small plain frame garage.
 39. (c.1910) Contributing element. Four room sharecropper's cabin with board and batten construction and tar paper covering.

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Contributing Elements

These are defined as structures dating from the period of historical significance (1847-c.1930) or historic structures that have been moved in and placed in a location which is sympathetic to their historic role in a rural cotton landscape. Non-contributing elements are either not 50 years old or are 50+ year old structures which have been moved in and placed in an inappropriate way. All contributing elements relate to the agricultural theme of the district being either plantation houses, support structures, sharecropper houses, cotton seed houses, or in one case a rural community store. Despite a 27% intrusion rate, it should be noted that all but one of the intrusions (the gin) are small largely ancillary structures of little visual impact. Thus the community retains its overall historic appearance.

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
agriculture

Period of Significance
1847 - c.1930

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

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

The McNutt Rural Historic District is locally significant in the area of agriculture because it is a rare surviving example of a historic cotton production landscape within the context of the central Louisiana parishes of Rapides, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches.

Taken as a whole, cotton has historically been king in Louisiana, despite the considerable importance of sugar in the southern part of the state. This is certainly true of central Louisiana, which has been a prime cotton growing area from the pre-Civil War period up to the present day. Rapides Parish (where McNutt is located) has some of the richest soil in the state. This is evidenced by the 1860 census, which shows that there were 89 major slave holdings in the parish. (Major slave holdings are defined by historians as 50 or more slaves.) Moreover, the average size of a large slave holding in Rapides Parish was 125, which was the highest in the state. Of course, the cotton plantation system has undergone considerable adjustment since the Civil War. But in central Louisiana cotton maintained its position as the area's primary cash crop for most of the twentieth century, spanning the era of sharecropping and the subsequent period of larger-scale commercial agriculture.

The manmade rural landscape of the cotton growing region, with its gins and various support structures, certainly did not have an idyllic pastoral appearance. Development was also irregular in character, with arable land along transportation routes given over to sporadic groupings of quarters houses, outbuildings, plantation houses, stores, and gins. Generally a crossroads community such as McNutt had only one store and one gin. These facilities attracted patrons from several surrounding plantation holdings, thus becoming the "center of the world" for a few mile stretch of a particular bayou or bayou road. In its heyday McNutt was enough established to have the status of a post village. However, it did not look markedly different from a single plantation holding with the same facilities -- i.e., a store and a gin.

Developments of this kind are hard to find today. Although they were once numerous in central Louisiana, most have either rotted to the ground or have become hopelessly fragmented by modern intrusions. The latter case is often seen where a particular cotton community has become a major center of cotton (or more recently soybean) production. Thus the pressure to develop the area has brought in large metal farm buildings and new houses for the workers. Cotton communities situated along

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, Natchitoches, Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes. Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Personal communication with Alice Hunter Chilton of Bayou Side Plantation. Dr. Chilton's family has lived at McNutt since 1847, and she has done a great deal of research on the history of the area.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 80 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

1	5	5	3	4	7	0	0	3	4	6	3	8	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	5	5	3	4	7	8	0	3	4	6	4	1	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	5	5	3	2	9	2	0	3	4	6	3	7	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed to-scale sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were chosen to encompass the continuous area of rural settlement described in Item 7. They exclude areas of open land behind the buildings as well as two peripheral intrusions. One is a corrugated metal roof covering a cotton trailer parking lot south of the gin (#5). The other is a drastically modernized older house just east of the district. The north side of Bayou Rapides was excluded because although it once contained sharecropper cabins, they were demolished in 1987. Please note that although the USGS map shows buildings located outside the district, these have either been demolished, See continuation sheet or are modern or very badly altered.

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY DR. ALICE CHILTON

name/title National Regsiter Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1988

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

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major transportation thoroughfares have also experienced roadside development such as convenience stores and filling stations. Another factor contributing to this loss was the introduction of mechanically picked cotton in the 1940s, which reduced the work force (and hence the need for quarters houses) as well as increased the need for housing large-scale machinery.

McNutt survives today as one of few places in the central Louisiana plantation parishes of Rapides, Natchitoches, and Avoyelles where one can still see the overall look of a "King Cotton" landscape. There are no other comparable agricultural settlements along Bayou Rapides, which is the principal plantation artery of Rapides Parish. In addition, there is only one other comparable property in the parish as a whole (Inglewood Plantation Rural Historic District, National Register). The recent survey of Natchitoches Parish has identified only two comparable cotton production landscapes (Oakland and Magnolia Plantations, both listed on the Register), and none are known to survive in Avoyelles. Although McNutt is admittedly not of the caliber of these properties, it is still a rare survivor.

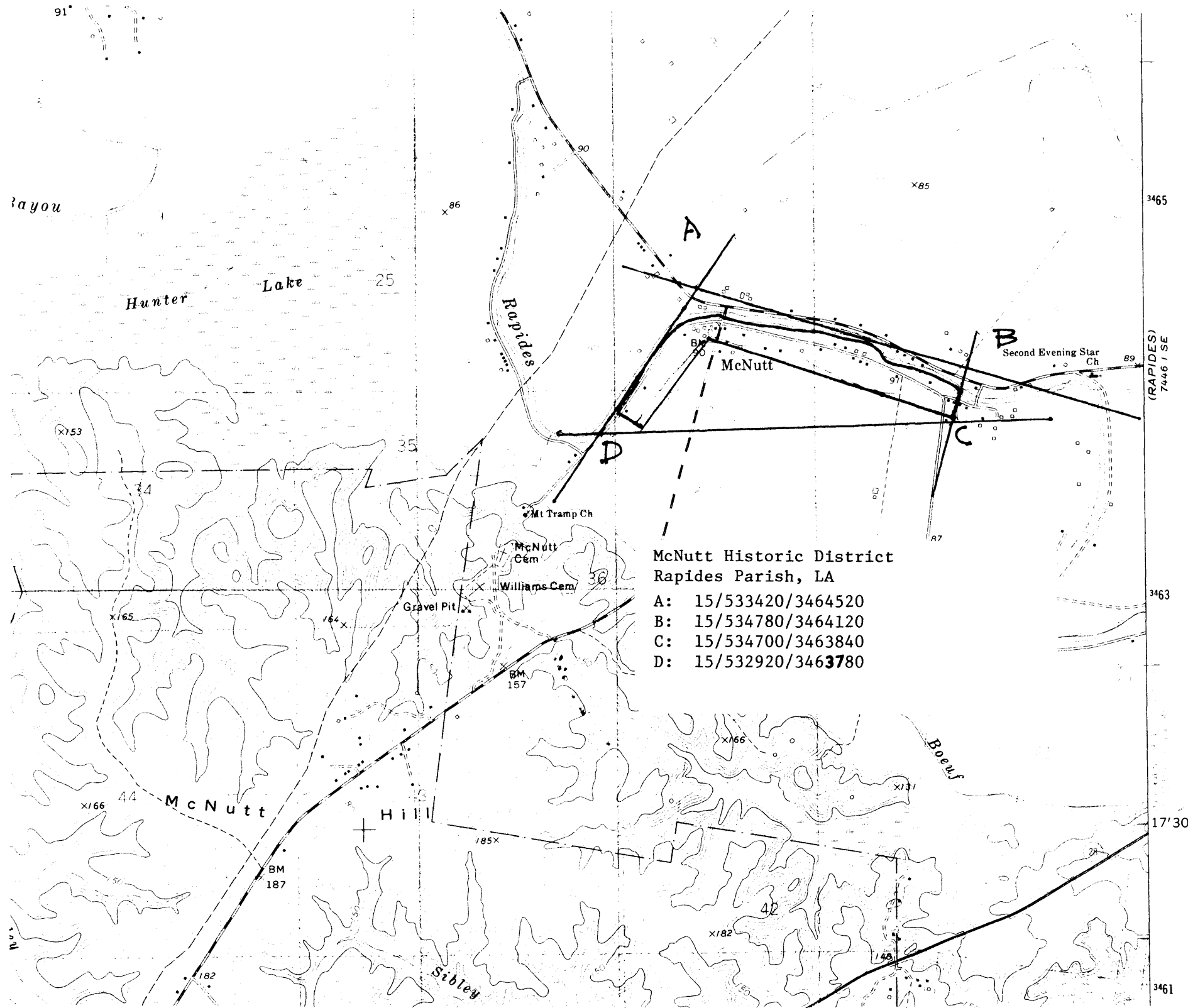
Bayou

Hunter Lake

Rapides

McNutt Historic District
Rapides Parish, LA

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- C: 15/534700/3463840
- D: 15/532920/3463780



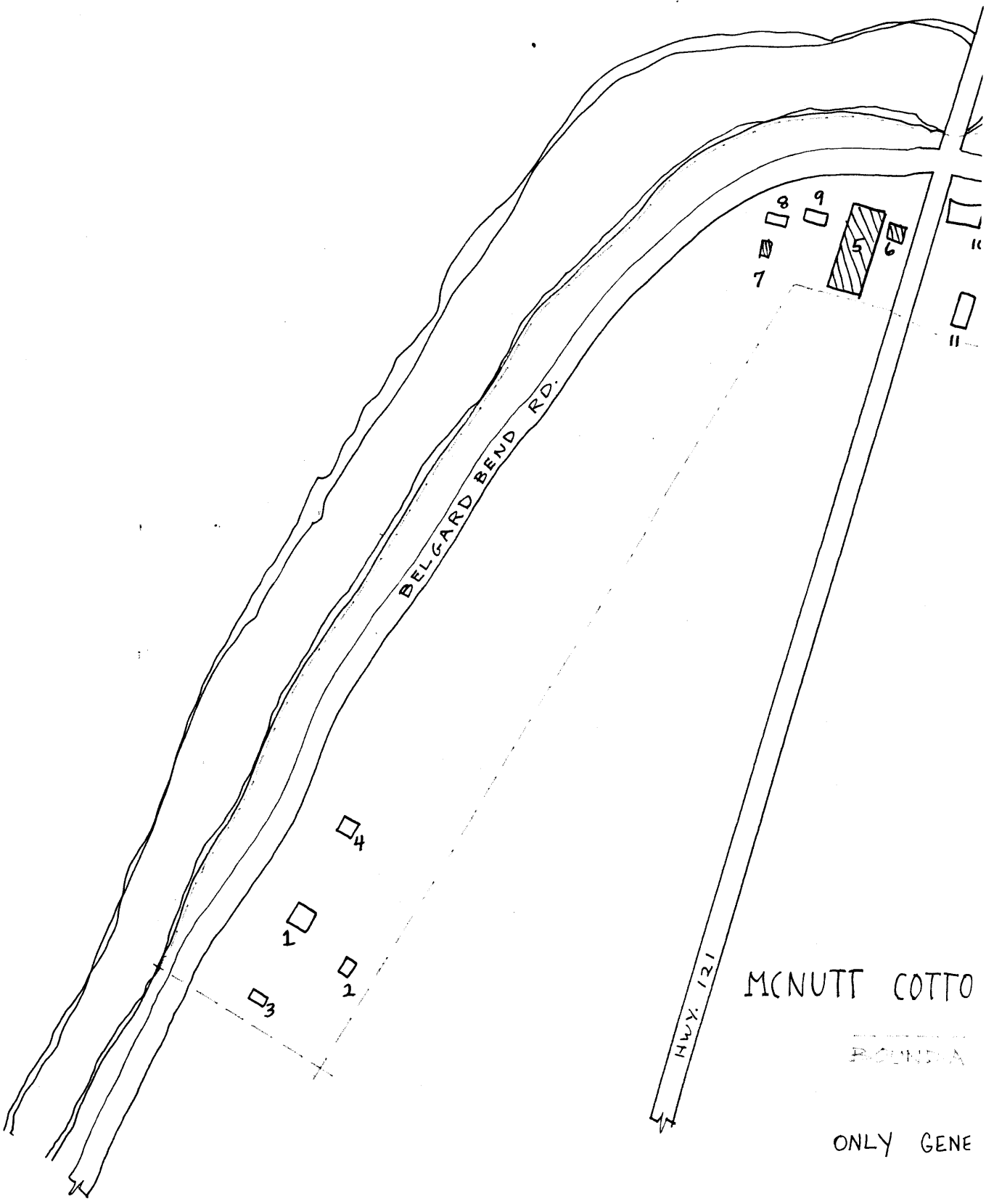
3465

(RAPIDES)
7446 1 SE

3463

17'30"

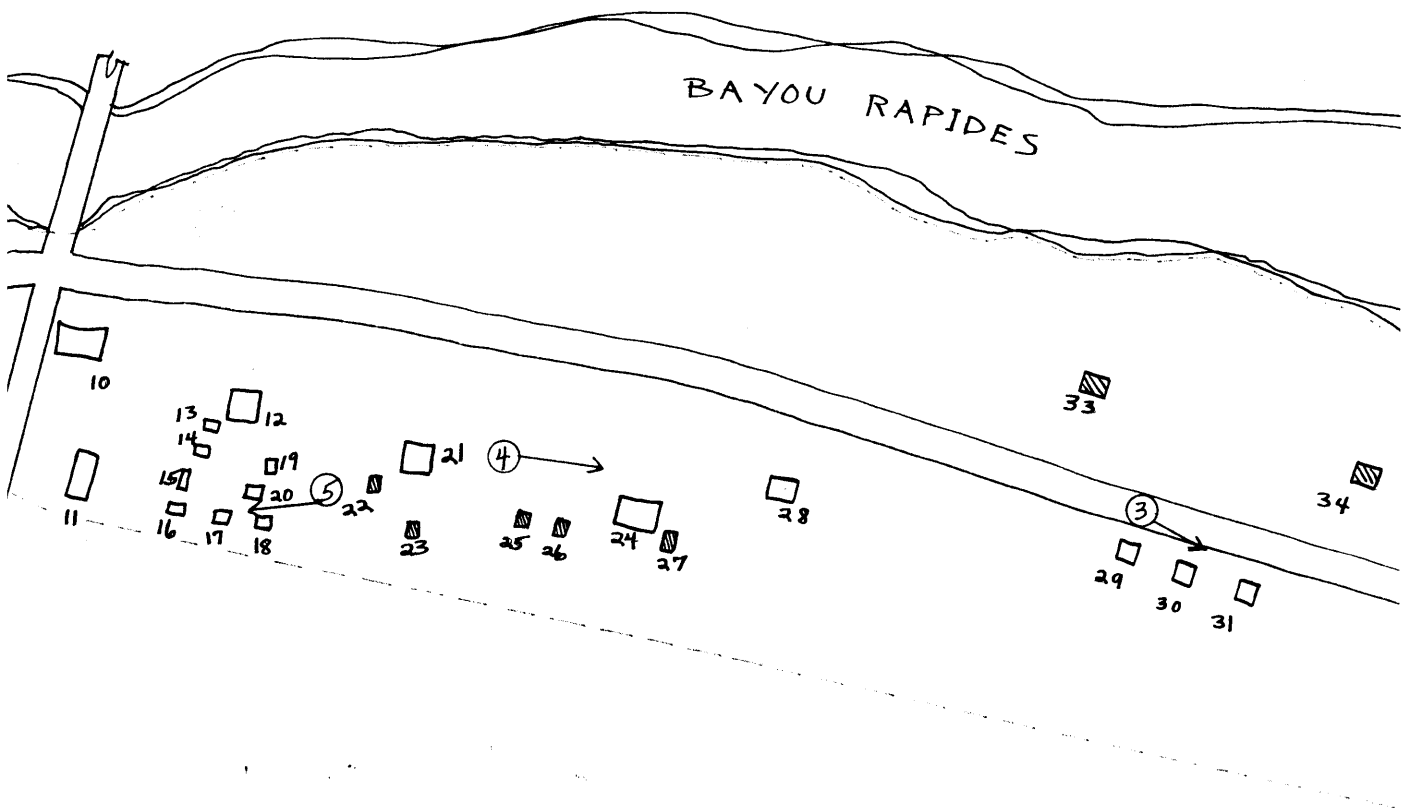
3461



MCNUTT COTTO

BOUNDARY

ONLY GENE

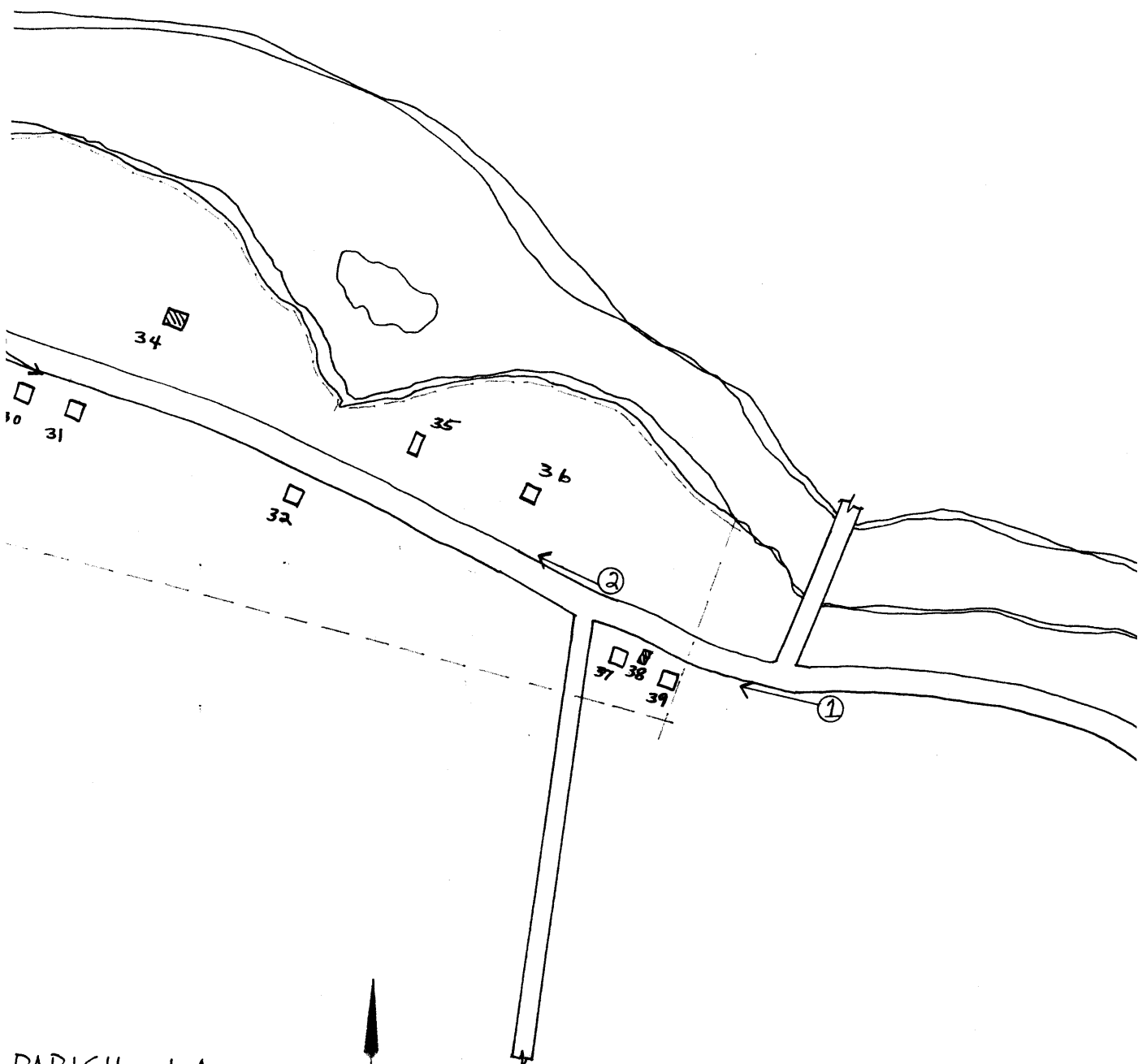


COTTON COMMUNITY RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT RAPIDES PARISH, LA

BOUNDARY SCALE 1" = 250'

- CONTRIBUTING
- ▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING

GENERAL VIEWS ARE KEYED TO MAP



PARISH, LA.

NG
IBUTING