

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 9 1985
date entered MAY

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

1. Name

historic Frithland
and or common Same

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 29 south of Bunkie N/A not for publication
city, town Bunkie vicinity of
state LA code 22 parish Avoyelles code 009

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" 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 Frithland Plantation, Inc.
street & number P. O. Box 643 (318) 346-6104
city, town Bunkie N/A vicinity of state LA 71322

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Avoyelles Parish Courthouse
street & number Main Street (no specific address)
city, town Marksville state LA 71351

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Frithland Plantation House is a large, two-and-a-half story, frame residence built in 1919 in the Colonial Revival style. It is located along Bayou Huffpower about one mile south of Bunkie and is surrounded by several hundred acres of working farmland. Despite a few changes and a significant addition, the house easily retains its National Register eligibility.

A monumental gallery featuring colossal, fluted, composite order columns and end pilasters encompasses almost the entire front of Frithland. The house is surmounted by a more or less full entablature, a balustrade, and a hip roof with three front-facing dormer windows. There is also a small balcony with French doors over the main entrance. As a rule, windows are set in groups of two, three or more. Most have multiple small panes in the upper sash and a large single pane in the lower sash (a carry-over from the late-nineteenth century Colonial Revival).

The original building block has a central hall plan with a rear "L." There are two rooms on one side of the hall and a linear room on the other. Detailing is pure Colonial Revival with an elliptical fanlighted front doorway, a delicate balustraded central staircase, and vaguely Adamesque mantels. The mantels have a basic Adamesque shape without panels or pilasters, but with denticular cornices. Door surrounds, room cornices, and baseboards are all relatively plain. Most of the public spaces have glass doors, mounted in pairs, which lead from room to room and outside.

Assessment of Integrity:

The following major changes have been made in the house since construction:

1. In 1949 the screened upper story sleeping porch on the rear and side elevations was fitted with windows.
2. A large bay window was added at the end of the dining room in 1949.
3. In 1979 a single story rear addition was constructed which extends beyond the main block of the original house on the north side.
4. Also, in 1979 a rear covered walkway was added to connect with a garage.

In our view these changes have not adversely affected Frithland's significance because the house still retains the essential features which establish its architectural importance (see Item 8).

Across Highway 29 and immediately in front of Frithland is the plantation's late-nineteenth century board and batten commissary. It is listed as a contributing element because it is a historic outbuilding of the plantation and helps establish the identity of Frithland as a plantation.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1919 **Builder/Architect** Builders; Henry Winn Frith & Zenobia Olivia Buie Frith
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Contractor: Alfred E. Dupuy

Criterion C

Frithland is locally significant in the area of architecture because its superior Colonial Revival styling makes it a landmark among the late nineteenth-early twentieth century residences of Avoyelles Parish.

There are some 812 50+ year old buildings in Avoyelles Parish recorded in the Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey. Of these, 649 are residences dating from the period c.1880 to c.1935. About half (320) of these are unpretentious vernacular types such as shotgun houses, late Creole cottages, single and double pen houses, or bluffland houses. There are also 152 examples of the bungalow influence, virtually all of which are fairly ordinary. Finally, there are 177 residences in the parish which reflect the Queen Anne or Colonial Revival influences. On the whole, this last group contains the parish's largest and most elaborately styled houses, although most are merely cottages with applied features.

Frithland is conspicuous among this group because it is an almost pure reflection of the Colonial Revival taste, and hence was more stylistically advanced in its day than its fellows. It is one of only seventeen relatively pure examples of the Colonial Revival style in the parish. Of these, it is one of only three which feature colossal columns. Frithland's imposing mansion-like facade, its large size, and its "up-to-date" "colonial" styling set it at the architectural apogee in Avoyelles Parish. It easily predominates in an area where most period residences are small and backwardly styled, if they are styled at all. Significant features at Frithland include the colossal gallery, the fanlighted front doorway, the mantels, and other extant Colonial Revival details.

Historical Note:

The Frith family was one of the earliest to settle in and around the town of Bunkie. The house being nominated is the third Frith home on Frithland Plantation.

FRITHLAND AVOYELLES PARISH, LA.

(NOT TO SCALE)

BOUNDARY

