

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCERS use only

received NOV 5 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Poché, Judge Felix, Plantation House

historic Judge Poché Plantation House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number River Road not for publication

city, town Convent vicinity of congressional district 8th-Gillis Long

state La. code 22 county St. James Parish code 093

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Kenneth W. and Beth D. Watkins

street & number River Road (P.O. Box 155)

city, town Convent vicinity of state La.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. James Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Convent state La.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state La.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1929

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Judge Poché Plantation House was moved 300 feet to its present location in 1929 in order to provide for an enlarged levee for the Mississippi River at Convent. The story and a half, raised cypress house has 9 foot galleries on three sides and a rear kitchen wing which may be older than the house itself. The central hall has a rear stair set in a side alcove and flanking parlors, one of which has a semihexagonal bay. The upper half story is set under a broad gable roof and has a central hall which extends into huge front and rear dormers. Gallery access is provided by numerous floor length sliphead windows and French doors. The three main facades are treated with shiplap siding. The front gallery is handsomely treated with a system consisting of paired and single chamfered posts and round and elliptical arches. The two front rooms have marble mantels with large round arches and scroll keystones. The two rear mantels are simpler. One has an aedicule motif, and the other is similar in style to the front mantels, but is made of cast iron. Floorboards, louvered shutters, and cast iron vents are original. The front central dormer is treated with double round arches and oeil-de-boeuf motifs. Its roof and the two flanking dormers date from the 1920's. These are the only replacements in the house.

Adjacent to the house is a small frame law office that was used by Judge Poché and a cistern.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates circa 1870 **Builder/Architect** Judge Felix Poché

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria B & C

The Judge Poché Plantation House is significant in the area of architecture as a fine example of a raised plantation house built under the influence of the Victorian Renaissance Revival. This can principally be seen in its large front dormer with its oeil-de-boeuf motifs and in its arcaded front gallery. This decorative treatment is unusual because most plantation houses were characterized by Greek Revival styling.

The Judge Poché Plantation House is also significant because of its association with Felix Pierre Poché, Civil War diarist, Democratic party leader, and prominent jurist. Poché built the house and maintained it as his residence until 1880 when he moved to New Orleans. It served as his summer house from then until 1892, at which time he sold the property.

Poché's Civil War diary is regarded as an important source for scholars, especially those studying the war east of the Mississippi in the waning months of the conflict. Poché, who was bilingual, kept his journal in French. It has since been translated and published and is one of the few Confederate diaries describing the war in Louisiana that is in print.

After the war Poché returned to St. James Parish, resumed his law practice, and assumed an active role in the Democratic party. In January, 1866, he was elected to the Louisiana Senate to fill a vacancy occasioned by a resignation and served in this capacity until the adoption of the new state constitution in 1868. He attended the Democratic party conventions of 1868, 1870, 1872, 1874, and 1876 and was a member and president of the 1879 party convention which nominated Governor Wiltz. Poché was also a member of the 1879 constitutional convention. On the national level he was an alternate delegate to the 1872 and 1876 Democratic conventions and was a Tilden elector in 1876.

In addition to these accomplishments, Poché was a well-known jurist. In 1880 he was appointed associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and served in this position until 1890 when his term expired. Poché was also one of the founders and charter members of the American Bar Association. At a social reunion in 1876 at Saratoga he originated the idea of a national association for his profession and proposed it to several others there. The idea was adopted and in 1877 the association met for the first time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Research Report Prepared by Kenneth W. Watkins, Located in Judge Poché Plantation House National Register File, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.
 "The Celebration of the Centenary of the Supreme Court of Louisiana." Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Volume 4, 1921.
 (CONTINUED)

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 2 acres
 Quadrangle name Convent, LA. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	115	71019	61010	313	211	914	10	B							
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing				
C								D							
E								F							
G								H							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached maps.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth W. and Beth D. Watkins
 organization _____ date August 1980
 street & number P.O. Box 155 telephone 562-7127
 city or town Convent state La.

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Handwritten Signature]

title Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/29/80 *(per phone to Fricker 11/6/80)*

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	date <u>12-3-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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DATE ENTERED DEC 3 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Bibliography (Continued)

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, Volume II, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1892, pages 314-316.

Bearss, Edwin C., ed. A Louisiana Confederate: Diary of Felix Pierre Poché.

Louisiana Studies Institute, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, 1972.

St. James Parish Courthouse Records

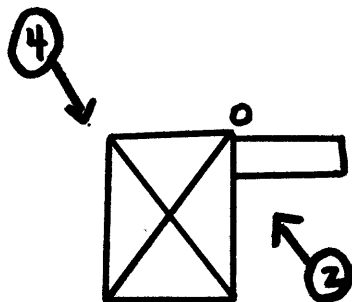
Interview with Edward Ellinghauser, great grandson-in-law of Felix Poché, New Orleans.

Interview with Samuel Wilson, architectural consultant, New Orleans

Judge Poche Plantation House Convent, Louisiana

1N

Mississippi River



2 Acres centered
on the House.

NOV 5 1980