

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMPH0687871
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 23 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sylvest House

AND/OR COMMON

Sylvest House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Parish Fairgrounds

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Franklinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

6th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input 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

Washington Parish Police Jury

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Franklinton

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 70438

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Franklinton

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

April 1978

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1977</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sylvest house has been placed in a rural environment in a wooded portion of the Washington Parish fairgrounds. Originally the house was in Fisher but was moved when it was threatened with demolition. The character of the new location approximates the old with the exception of a large one-story metal-sided building approximately 50 yards from the front of the house.

The house itself dates from the 1880's with a dog trot plan and an early 20th century kitchen attached to the back of the rear gallery. At one time there were brick chimneys at each end of the house. These were removed when the house was moved but they are slated to be reconstructed.

The house is constructed of small and medium sized round logs, saddle-notched at the corners. The sills and girths are over 45 feet long from end to end of the house. The sills rest upon solid wood supports cut in wedge shapes from wide diameter logs. The rear kitchen is of frame construction with board and batten siding. The windows and shutters are replaced. Originally the exposed side walls were sheathed in clapboard. This is slated to be replaced.

Because the house has been moved to its present location, only the building itself is being nominated to the National Register.

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 checked="" 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/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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nehemiah Sylvest

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Sylvest House is both architectural and agricultural. It is a surviving representative example of a log constructed dog trot house. Rare in the area, it is quite possibly the only extant example in Washington Parish. Its irregularly sized logs, its irregular corner construction, and its use of windows mark the Sylvest House as a distinctly late example. Preserving this late example is important because it represents the last generation of dog trot houses and log construction. It shows the degree to which vernacular architecture can perpetuate traditional forms. In addition it helps to give an overall sense of the development of the dog trot form and method of construction over time.

The late date (ca. 1880) of the Sylvest House provides an indication of the rather late date of the development of Washington Parish and is therefore an excellent representative of the local history of the area. According to local historian Daunton Gibbs, "Washington Parish was the center of a vast wilderness area and remained as such until 1900. Most of the land owners were stock raisers with a few acres of land in cultivation." The occupants of the Sylvest House seem to have been typical of the time and place.¹

According to local tradition, the Sylvest House was built by Nehemiah Sylvest in 1880 - 1881 while he, his wife, and their four or five children lived in a small structure which was to become their smokehouse.² Ultimately the parents reared a total of twelve children in the house.² (Since a courthouse fire in 1897 destroyed the local records of Washington Parish, most important early documents on the Sylvest House no longer exist.³)

In 1880, Sylvest was a thirty-five year old "farmer," according to the federal census. His wife Lenora, twenty-five years old, was "keeping house." They had been born in Louisiana, and both of their fathers had come here from Portugal. In 1880 they had four children--two sons and two daughters--ranging in age from one to seven.⁴

The 1880 Agriculture Census provides detailed information concerning Sylvest's farm as of that date. He owned a total of 160 acres, of which fifteen were under cultivation. The value of his farm, including land,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Census of 1880, Louisiana, Washington Parish, Population Schedule;
Agriculture Census.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	771-000	77,0971	3,411,6871	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C					D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary includes the exterior extent of the building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dauntion Gibbs and Roy Bankston

ORGANIZATION

Executive Committee of Mile Branch Settlement

DATE

August 25, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1510 Main Street

TELEPHONE

(504) 839-2239

CITY OR TOWN

Franklinton.

STATE

Louisiana 70438

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.

FEDERAL REGISTER SIGNATURE

Bernard Lamer

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11 Oct 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William Lebovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/23/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/16/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED NOV 15 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 23 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

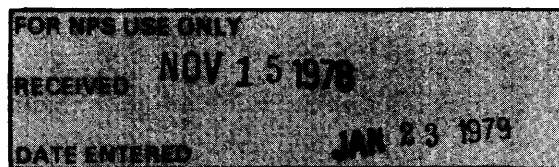
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fences, and buildings, was \$400. He owned \$255 worth of livestock and \$25 worth of implements and machinery. The estimated value of all his farm production in 1879 was \$235. His livestock consisted mainly of twenty-five swine and fifteen barnyard poultry. The poultry had produced 75 dozen eggs in 1879. Four acres of corn planted had produced 50 bushels. Seven acres of cotton had produced three bales. One acre of sweet potatoes had produced 100 bushels.⁵

Not much additional information is available on the Sylvests. Like most of the rest of the 1890 census, the data on Washington Parish for that year was destroyed. As of 1900, there were eight children, ranging in age from three to eighteen, living in the household with the parents. Since the agriculture census data for 1900 was also destroyed, there is no information available on the farm as of that time.⁶

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

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FOOTNOTES

¹Daunton Gibbs, "A brief History of Washington Parish," p. 1, typescript in National Register nomination file for Sylvest House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

²"Mile Branch Settlement: 1977," pamphlet by Washington Parish Fair Executive Committee, copy in National Register nomination file for Sylvest House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

³Amy Quick, The History of Bogulusa, the "Magic City" of Louisiana (Reprinted from Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Vol. 29, January, 1946), p. 9.

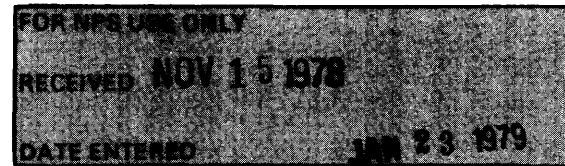
⁴Census of 1880, Louisiana, Washington Parish, Population Schedule, p. 6.

⁵Census of 1880, Louisiana, Washington Parish, Agriculture Census, p. 5.

⁶Census of 1900, Louisiana, Washington Parish, Population Schedule, as communicated in telephone interview with Mark Samuelson, Public Affairs Office, National Archives, Washington, D. C., July 5, 1978.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

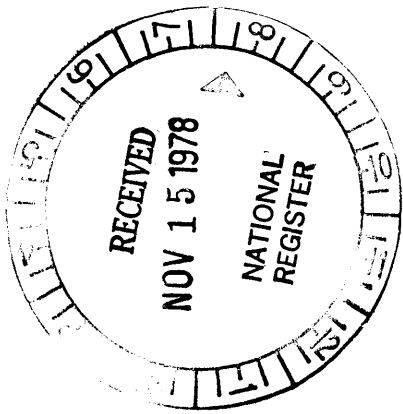
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Census of 1900, Louisiana, Washington Parish, Population Schedule, As communicated in telephone interview with Mark Samuelson, Public Affairs Office, Washington, D. C., July 5, 1978.

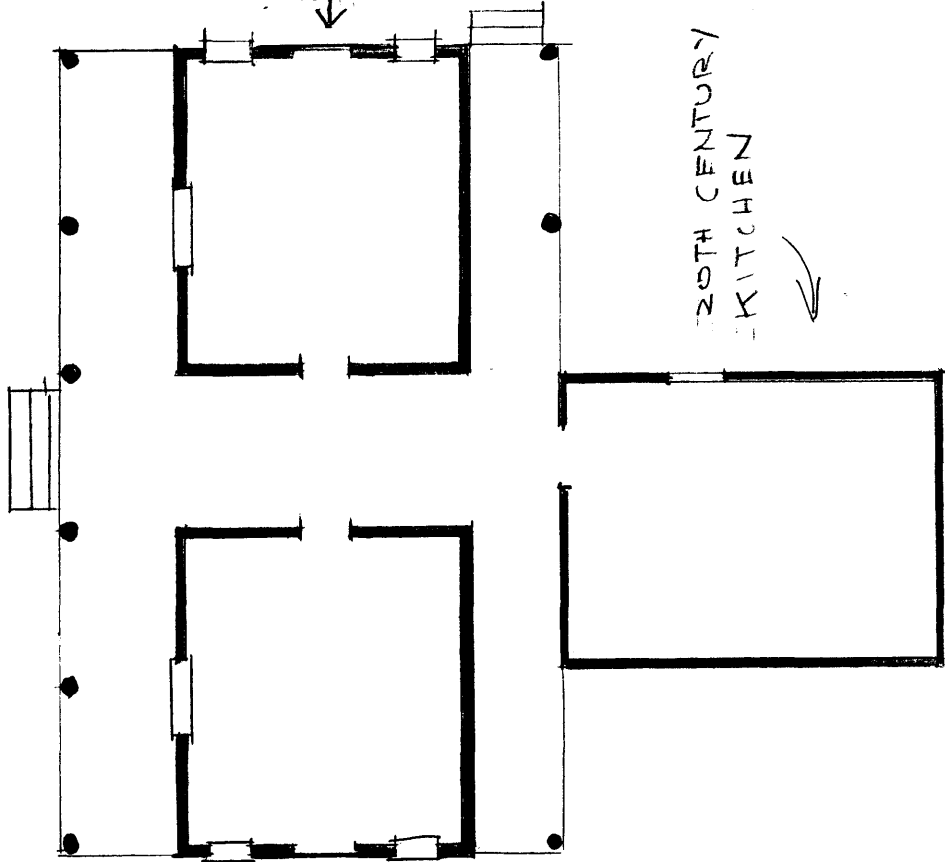
Gibbs, Daunton, "A Brief History of Washington Parish." Typescript in National Register nomination file for Sylvest House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

"Mile Branch Settlement: 1977." Pamphlet by Washington Parish Fair Executive Committee. Copy in National Register nomination file for Sylvest House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

Quick, Amy, The History of Bogalusa, the "Magic City" of Louisiana. Reprinted from Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Vol. 29 (Jan. 1946).



CHIMNEYS
REMOVED



SYLVEST
HOUSE