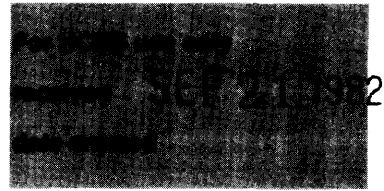


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Ardoyne Plantation House

and/or common same

2. Location NW of Houma on LA 311

street & number on Hwy. 311 @ 5 miles northwest of Houma N/A not for publication

city, town Houma X vicinity of congressional district 3rd--W.J. Tauzin

state LA code 22 county Terrebonne Parish code 109

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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Margaret Minor Shaffer

street & number Ardoyne Plantation, Star Rt. 1, Box 733

city, town Schriever X vicinity of state LA 70395

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Terrebonne Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 1569

city, town Houma state LA 70361

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET FOR SUMMARY PARAGRAPH)

Ardoyne Plantation House is set in a cluster of live oaks in a rural area approximately 5 miles northwest of the town of Houma. The house is approached via a circular driveway. It is constructed of cypress which, according to family tradition, was cut on the place and milled in St. Louis.

Despite the house's elaborate exterior articulation, the floor plan is comparatively commonplace. It consists of a central hall on both floors with large rooms each side. The house is 2 rooms deep, with additional rooms in a 2-story rear wing and a 1-story kitchen at the rear.

The scale of the house is enormous. Most of the 21 rooms have 16 foot ceilings. In addition, the exterior massing is dominated by a corner tower which reaches a height of 75 feet.

The only unusual aspect of the plan is the corner tower. On the first story it is an octagonal space. On the second story it is square, and on the attic level it takes the form of an extremely tall and angular set of transverse gables.

The visual character of the exterior of the house is something of an anachronism. The house was built c. 1894, yet the exterior details (the elaborate bargeboards, the strongly vertical gables, the lancet galleries, and the hood molded windows) are mainly characteristic of the early Victorian period (c. 1845). Moreover, the composition of the massing, with its restless grouping of gables, its verticality, and its jarring asymmetry is mainly characteristic of the mid-Victorian period (c. 1870).

The interiors are more characteristic of their time and have remained relatively unchanged. They feature wooden, cove molded ceilings with octagonal patterns of beaded beams. Most rooms have paneling below the chair rail. Some of the rooms connect via sliding doors, though there is no overall attempt to create spatial effects. The great staircase at the rear of the hall has elaborate Eastlake balustrades. Most of the mantels have mirrored overmantels and many are elaborately carved. The most noteworthy is the dining room mantel, which has a pair of 2 foot carved griffins. Most of the rooms retain their original gas fixtures though all have been electrified. (When it was built, the house had its own gas plant.) Finally, the central hall retains its original c. 1894 wallpaper in near perfect condition.

Assessment of Integrity:

Since construction there have only been three noteworthy changes in the house:

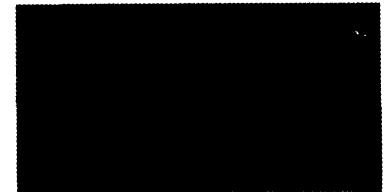
- (1) the screening in of part of a side gallery
- (2) the installation of a rear metal awning
- (3) the painting over of an ornamental wooden ceiling in one of the bedrooms

These changes should be regarded as minor.

Contributing Elements:

Ardoyne is significant because of its architectural magnificence, which is enhanced by the well treed setting. There are, however, three small outbuildings (see map) which, although they are contemporaneous with the house, are humble, unornamented, and of no architectural value. They are therefore listing as non-contributing elements.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Ardoyne

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

Ardoyne Plantation House (c.1894) is an enormous frame Victorian Gothic residence set in a cluster of live oaks in a rural area about five miles from the town of Houma. The house has been altered very little and is in a good state of repair.

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. 1894 **Builder/Architect** Builder: John D. Shaffer
 Architect: W. C. Williams & Bro., New Orleans

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

Ardoyne Plantation House is architecturally significant on the state level as a landmark in rural Victorian architecture in Louisiana. Comparatively few Louisiana plantation houses were built in the Gothic style, and many of those that were are no longer extant. Ardoyne stands as probably the largest and most elaborate remaining example in the state.

In addition, Ardoyne exemplifies the mainstream of Victorian taste as few extant nineteenth century Louisiana plantation houses do. Other examples (such as San Francisco and Nottoway) bear some imprint of Victorian fashion, but few have the amount of "high style" detailing as found at Ardoyne.

More importantly, Ardoyne exemplifies Victorian fashion beyond the mere application of details. Its massing is very characteristic of the mid-Victorian period. This can be seen in its striking, overly dominant side tower and in its spiky, crowded, and highly unbalanced asymmetrical composition.

The exact date of Ardoyne's construction is somewhat of a mystery. According to information passed down through the family, it was begun in 1897 and completed in 1900. However, a book printed in 1894 contains a picture of Ardoyne. Since the builder, John D. Shaffer, acquired the property in 1888, it must have been built sometime between then and 1894. According to family tradition, the architect designed Ardoyne from a picture of a Scottish castle which Shaffer had seen in a magazine. The house has remained in the Shaffer family since its construction and is presently owned by Margaret Minor Shaffer, the great great granddaughter of the builder.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

Ardoyne is architecturally significant on the state level because it is one of Louisiana's finest extant Victorian plantation houses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title, Terrebonne Parish Courthouse

The City of New Orleans. The Book of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Louisiana And Other Public Bodies of the "Crescent City." 1st edition, Geo. W. Engelhardt, Publishers, New Orleans, 1894.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 8.4 acres

Quadrangle name Gray, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map. The boundaries were drawn to encompass the house and its setting - the surrounding grove of live oaks. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elliott James Redmond

organization Nicholls State University Folk Architecture Class

date August 1981

street & number P. O. Box 86

telephone 504-594-3258

city or town Monteque

state LA 70377

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

Robert B. DeBlieux
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 9, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Anders
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/1/82

Attest: *Patrick Anders*

Chief of Registration

date 11/1/82

ARDOYNE PLANTATION HOUSE

HOUUMA, LOUISIANA (VICINITY)

400 FT.

BOUNDARIES ENCOMPASS THE SURROUNDING LIVE OAK GROVE.

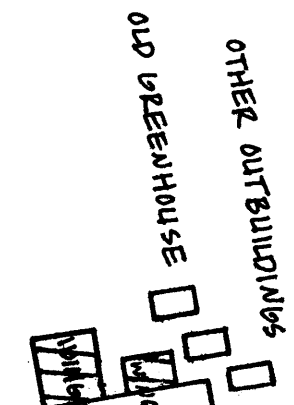


PHOTO #1

PHOTO #4

PHOTO #5

PHOTO #10

PHOTO #1

PHOTO #3

PHOTO #2

PHOTO #1

PHOTO #3

PHOTO #2

300 FT.

300 FT.

300 FT.

Hwy. 311

LOCATION OF THE SQUARE IS DETERMINED BY A LINE PERPENDICULAR TO THE MID POINT OF THE FRONT FACADE SET AGAINST HWY 311

BOUNDARIES ARE FORMED BY A SQUARE SET AGAINST HWY 311

TO HOUMA

N

SCALE 1"=100' APPROX.