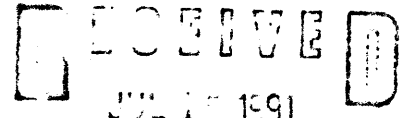


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 Labatut

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 420 and LA Hwy 10 N/A not for publication  
city, town New Roads X vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Pointe Coupee code 077 zip code 70760

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</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	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
		_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

Leslie P. Tassin July 10, 1991  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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. 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Melvin Dyer 8/15/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

brick

roof tin

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Labatut is a major two story Creole plantation house which exhibits Anglo-American influence in its floorplan and elaborate Federal woodwork. Although Labatut family tradition suggests that the house was built between 1790 and 1810, the architectural evidence points to c.1820 as a more reasonable construction date. The brick-between-post house is located on the south bank of the Mississippi River in Pointe Coupee Parish and stands only a few precarious feet from the encroaching levee and River Road. Despite its current condition of deterioration, the home is an architectural gem well worthy of National Register listing.

Labatut's Creole characteristics include the following:

- 1) a brick lower story surmounted by a second floor with pegged timber frame and brick infill,
- 2) a Class III hipped umbrella roof (see attached figure),
- 3) a rear loggia flanked by cabinets,
- 4) large round plastered brick columns outlining the first floor gallery and loggia, with smaller turned colonettes outlining the second level gallery and loggia spaces,
- 5) the treatment of the upper floor as the premier etage, or primary living space,
- 6) a highly decorated second floor gallery (including a paneled dado) which reflects the Creole tradition of using the gallery as an outdoor room,
- 7) exposed beaded ceiling beams in the interior hall and cabinets as well as on the rear loggia,
- 8) French doors featuring ten lights per leaf,
- 9) lozenge-like motifs within the lower floor's rectangular transoms, and
- 10) six boxed chimney flues and one surviving wraparound mantel.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLabatut, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

Although Labatut is primarily a French dwelling, it contains two important features which reflect the growing influence of Anglo-American architectural styles on Louisiana's Creole population. First, the home's floorplan is organized around a central hallway flanked by single rooms on each side (see attached plan). Second, the home features truly outstanding Federal detailing on both its first and second floors. This first floor treatment is contrary to the usual Creole custom of treating the lower floor as a spare utilitarian space.

Examples of Labatut's Federal detailing include:

- 1) elaborate cornices on the interior and exterior, including the second floor gallery ceiling,
- 2) richly molded and paneled baseboards,
- 3) elaborate yet delicately molded door and window surrounds (those in the cabinets are somewhat simpler than those in the formal rooms),
- 4) elongated front and rear central fanlights enscribed within rectangular spaces highlighted by fluted spandrels in the top corners, and
- 5) additional fanlights within the rectangular transoms above the second floor's exterior French doors.

In addition to all of these notable features, Labatut also has twelve-over-twelve windows, faux bois painted interior doors paneled in the Greek Revival style, paneling lining the inside of the door frames, paneled shutters (those on the upper gallery are more elaborate than those below), and a gallery balustrade displaying a stylized wheat sheaf pattern. Evidence of original paint pigments is still visible on some shutters, doors, and interior walls. The dining room punkah is in storage.

Unfortunately, Labatut has experienced a general deterioration in condition over time. However, the home is currently undergoing a slow but methodical restoration at the hands of current Labatut family members. Notable changes since the home's construction (other than general deterioration) include the following:

- 1) In the 1930s a hurricane blew out the downstairs front door and transom. Architectural evidence suggests that the replacement transom is shaped differently from the original.
- 2) The fanlight above the downstairs rear entrance has been replaced by a latticework trellis, and at some point (possibly the Victorian Era), the clear glass panes of this entrance's sidelights were replaced by etched and colored glass.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Labatut, New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   2  

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- 3) During the 1950s or 1960s, the upper floor of the front gallery was either replaced or underwent major repairs. Although an attempt was made to conform to the original, the gallery's exposed beaded ceiling beams were not replicated.
- 4) One of the upper cabinet rooms was converted into a bath. To accomplish this, exposed plumbing pipes were installed in the cabinet below.
- 5) The classical detailing of the dormers has been removed.
- 6) The home's original mantels were replaced by simple Greek Revival mantels in the 1840s or 1850s. All but one of these later mantels have been lost.

As a result of ongoing work on the house, the following additional changes have occurred:

- 1) All of the fireboxes have been rebuilt and lined with fire brick, and the chimneys are in the process of being rebuilt.
- 2) A concrete sub-floor has been added to the first story.
- 3) The damaged downstairs shutters have been replicated using the more elaborate shutters of the upper floor as a pattern.
- 4) Flooring and additional framing have been added in the attic.

Although the current condition of Labatut is certainly regrettable, the home retains more than enough Creole and Federal features to justify its nomination to the National Register. Its floorplan combining an Anglo-American central hall with a Creole loggia and cabinets remains unchanged, as does its massing and major Creole decorative features. A great deal of the home's fine Federal detailing also remains. Except for the mantels, the original interior woodwork is intact. The surviving c. 1850 mantel is itself historic, and the damaged shutters have been replicated using one of the home's historic shutters as a pattern. Furthermore, the existence of Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of Labatut, and the survival and storage of removed architectural remnants, ensures that the home's lost front doors, transoms, and dormer detailing can be replicated. It is the opinion of the National Register staff that any house which contains either the fine Creole features or the elaborate Federal detailing found here would be eligible for listing. When these features are combined as they are in Labatut, the result is an outstanding candidate for the National Register.

CONTINUED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Labatut, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 3

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### Non-Contributing Element

Standing near the rear corner of the home is a small reconstructed frame building which supposedly replicates Labatut's former detached kitchen. It is being designated as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Cooper, J. Wesley. Louisiana: A Treasure of Plantation Homes. Natchez: Southern Historical Publications, Inc., 1961.
- Gleason, David King. Plantation Homes of Louisiana and the Natchez Area. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982.
- Hays, Mrs. Drew Nelson. Louisiana: Sketches of Historical Homes and Sights. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965.
- Laughlin, Clarence John. Ghosts Along the Mississippi, 2nd ed. New York: American Legacy Press, 1961.
- Seebold, Herman de Bachellet. Old Louisiana Plantation Homes and Family Ties. n.p., 1941.
- Smith, J. Frazer. White Pillars: Early Life and Architecture of the Lower Mississippi Valley Country. New York: Bramhall House, 1941.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # LA 1205-A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

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 less than an acre

UTM References

A 15 645200 3400400  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries correspond to the house's fenced yard. To have followed property lines would have meant including extensive rural acreage that contained no historic buildings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1991  
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804  
 Owner: Mr. Jules B. Labatut, II  
517 Claiborne Street  
New Roads, LA 70760

**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)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c.1820  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c.1820  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

Labatut is significant in the area of architecture at the state level because it is a rare and landmark example of a major two story Creole plantation house. Labatut also exhibits finely crafted rare Federal decorative elements and a particularly rare transitional floorplan, both of which show how the Anglo-American building tradition influenced French Creole builders. Although it is unfortunate that the house is currently in a deteriorated condition, the historic fabric and details which remain mark Labatut as a most significant example of both Creole and Federal architecture.

The Creole style is regarded by the State Historic Preservation Office as the state's most important building tradition. It is the factor which distinguishes Louisiana from virtually every other state as well as being the principal non-British colonial style in the eastern half of the continental United States. The style, which embraces everything from one room cottages to large residences, finds its highest expression in the major, two-story Creole plantation house. Approximately thirty of these survive in Louisiana from the pre-Greek Revival period. Labatut is one of these. The home's rarity is further reinforced by its floorplan. Although one-story Anglo-French houses with transitional floorplans focused upon central hallways exist in Louisiana, two-story Creole plantation houses constructed with central hallways are very rare.

Finally, Labatut's Federal woodwork also contributes to its rarity. In Louisiana, far more Creole houses with Greek Revival woodwork have survived than have those showing Federal influence, and Labatut's woodwork is among the finest examples of the Federal style in the state. Its significant elements include elaborate cornices, paneled baseboards, delicately molded door and window surrounds, delicate fanlights, and fluted spandrels highlighting the second floor's central entrances.

Historical Note

According to Labatut family tradition, the house was built sometime between 1790 and 1810 for Don Evariste de Barra, a Spanish nobleman who helped defend New

See continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Labatut, New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA

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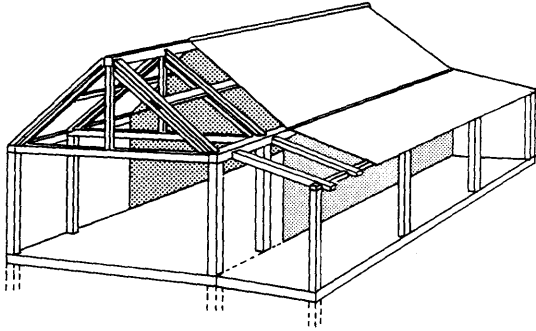
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Orleans during the War of 1812. As mentioned briefly above, architectural evidence (such as the home's central hall plan and molding profiles) points to a somewhat later construction date. At any rate, it is known that the home came into the hands of the Labatut family when de Barra's sister Euphemie married Jean Pierre Labatut. Jean Pierre was the son of Jean Baptist Labatut, who distinguished himself as attorney general of the Cabildo and, later, as treasurer of the City of New Orleans. The Labatut family continuously occupied the house until c. 1983. Although currently vacant, it remains in the family's hands.



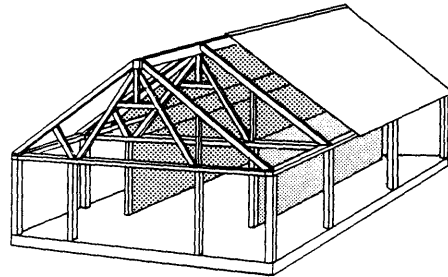
# FIGURE 5

## SOME CLASSES OF CREOLE VERNACULAR HOUSES



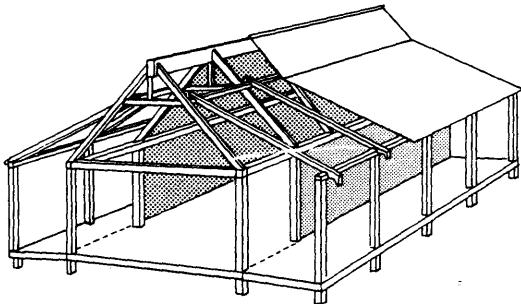
**CLASS I**

Single-pitch roof. Truss system includes the use of a king post and a double rafter system. Rafters set on wall plate. Inner rafters (truss blades) set on tie beam. Gallery optional. If present, gallery rafters tied into wall plate or front wall, and supported by an outer gallery plate, which is itself supported by light weight colonnettes.



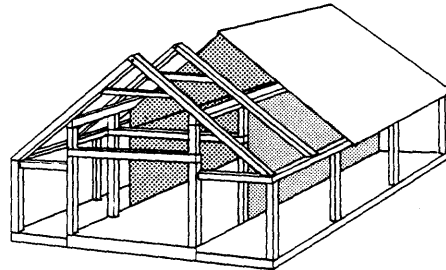
**CLASS IIIa**

Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof. Truss blades (principal rafters) mounted on wall plates. Long outer rafters mounted on outer gallery wall plates and let into or notched over the roof ridge. These rafters supported in their middles by posts (right side) or braces (left side), or by purlins supported by these.



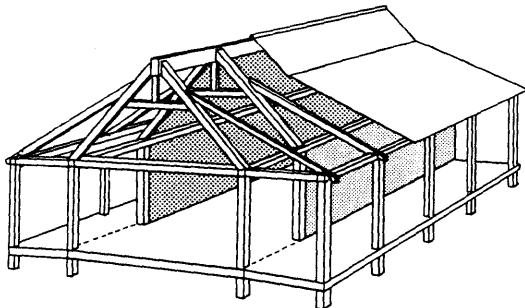
**CLASS IIa**

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (early form). Gallery always present. Gallery rafters notched over principal purlin and supported on outer gallery plate.



**CLASS IIIb**

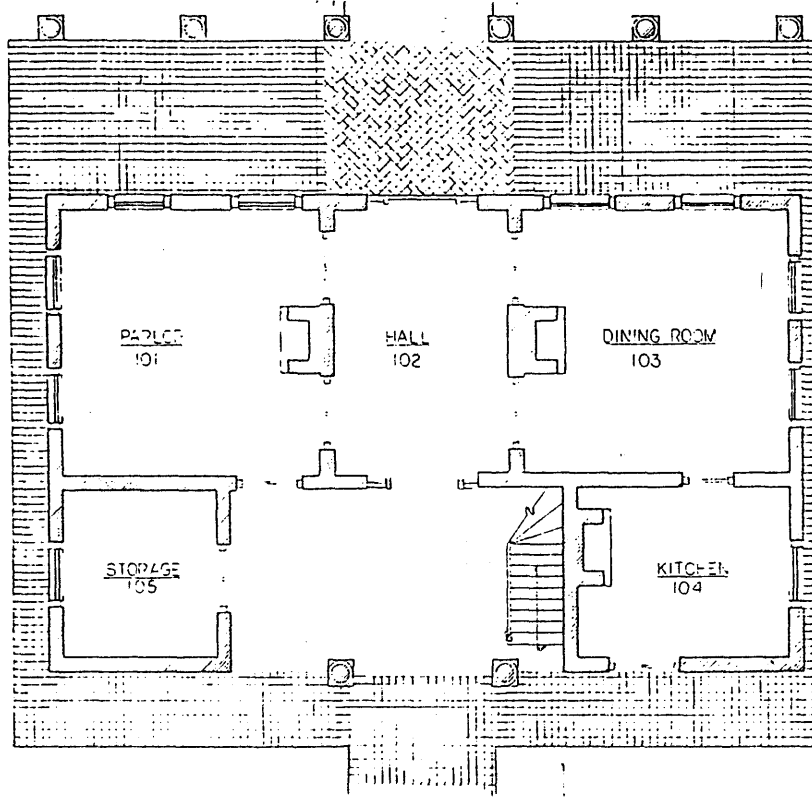
Full (single-pitch) umbrella roof (later form). Truss blades now absent. Outer rafters supported in their middles by posts or by post-supported purlins. Roof ridge generally not present.



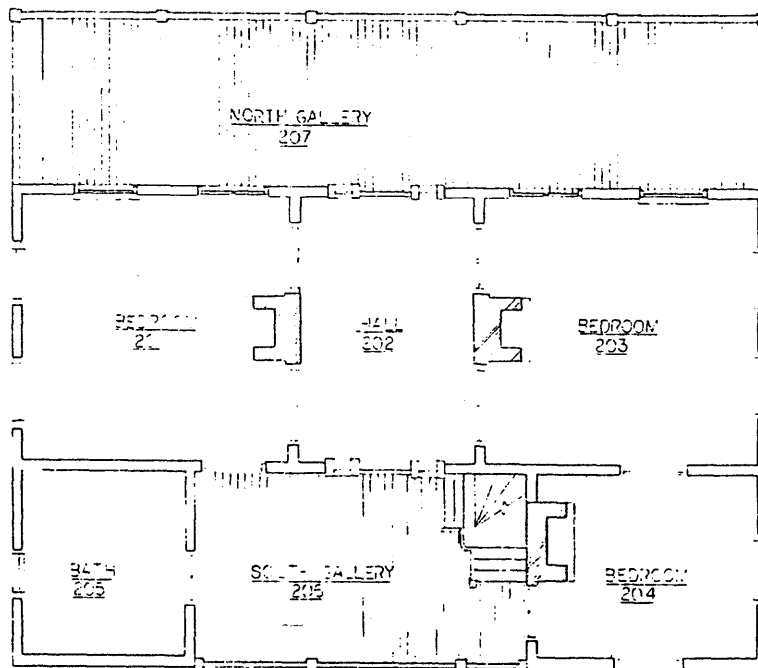
**CLASS IIb**

Mississippi Valley French Colonial broken-pitch roof (later form). Principal rafters (single or doubled) set on wall plate. Gallery rafters let into backs of principal rafters and supported on outer gallery plates.

LABATUT



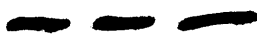
GROUND FLOOR



UPPER FLOOR

Labatut  
New Roads vicinity, Pointe Coupee Parish  
Louisiana

Scale: 1" = 30'

Boundary: 

Non-Contributing Element: 



Mississippi River



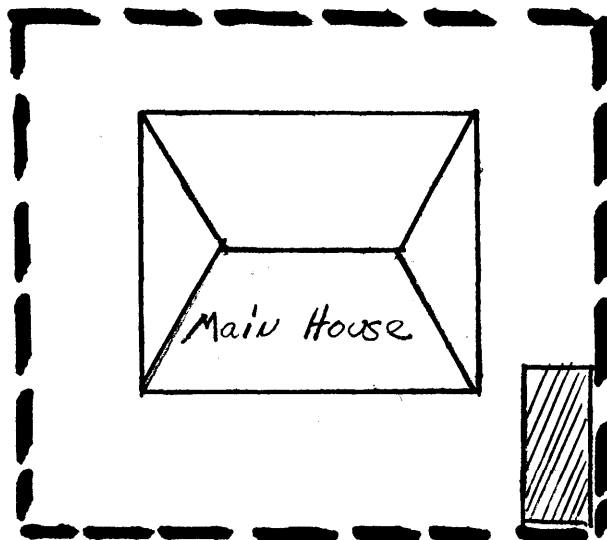
Levee

①

②



River Road (LA 420)



reconstructed kitchen

⑤

④

③