



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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Little Texas

other names/site number Genre House

2. Location

street & number 2834 LA Hwy 44 N/A  not for publication

city or town Paulina  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. James code 093 zip code 70763

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy 4/3/92  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date  
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Helena Byers **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 5/14/92

Little Texas  
Name of Property

St. James Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Louisiana's French Creole Architecture

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: French Creole  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
walls weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof metal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Little Texas, St. James Parish, LA

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Little Texas (c. 1840) is a one story frame dwelling in the French Creole style. It also displays Greek Revival decorative elements. The house faces the Mississippi River and stands in a rural setting on the eastern bank in St. James Parish near Paulina. Despite a very short move in 1928 and some interior renovations, the house's Creole features and National Register eligibility remain intact.

Characteristics of Creole architecture found in Little Texas include:

- 1) the fact that the house stands raised seven feet above grade on large, rectangular, stacked cypress blocks,
- 2) a Class III hipped roof whose knee-wall support system represents the last stage in the decline of the Norman truss roof,
- 3) a hand hewn mortised and pegged frame,
- 4) bousillage walls,
- 5) an unusual surviving original floorplan which displays the geometry associated with Creole architecture. The home is three rooms wide, and each of these rooms is equal in size. In addition, the building has a second range of equal sized rooms behind the first.
- 6) two sets of French doors on the facade,
- 7) a front gallery with exposed beaded ceiling beams,
- 8) exposed beaded ceiling beams in all six of the home's original rooms, and
- 9) one wraparound mantel.

Greek Revival decorative features found in Little Texas include:

- 1) the main entrance, which features an eight light transom, five pane sidelights, reeded pilasters flanking the single door, and a Greek shoulder molding motif outlining the entire ensemble,
- 2) simple Greek shoulder molding around the French doors which serve as the facade's secondary entrances,

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- 3) an interior opening featuring five pane sidelights and the Greek shoulder molding motif. This opening connects the home's two center rooms.
- 4) simple Greek Revival mantels composed of smooth pilasters, molded bases and capitals, plain entablatures, and very plain mantel shelves, and
- 5) dormers featuring pilasters with molded bases and capitals.

Other features of interest in Little Texas include ceilings 10.5 feet tall, two single leaf interior plank doors constructed of battens, and batten shutters on the windows.

Alterations to Little Texas have occurred in several distinct stages. These changes are as follows:

- 1) A rear gallery was added sometime during the late nineteenth century.
- 2) A renovation project, largely on the interior, occurred in 1923-1925. The plastered bousillage walls were covered with five inch double beaded tongue and groove boards. Cabinet rooms were added to the rear gallery. The newly created loggia was screened. A modern French door was installed in the opening between the center rear room and the loggia. Formerly only shutters protected this opening. New flooring was installed, and an interior kitchen was created in the right rear room.
- 3) A 1928 levee setback necessitated that the house be rolled back. In the process a few of the cypress block piers were replaced by brick, which was then plastered over.
- 4) Later in the twentieth century the right rear cabinet was expanded to create a laundry and pantry, while the left cabinet was converted into a bathroom.

Although Little Texas has been moved a short distance, it stands on its original plantation and still faces the Mississippi River as it has since the 1840s. The house retains its original Creole architectural character, alterations notwithstanding. As a rare and old example of an architectural tradition which once dominated St. James Parish, Little Texas is a worthy candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

**Period of Significance**

c.1840

**Significant Dates**

c.1840

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Little Texas  
Name of Property

St. James Parish, LA  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 1.3 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 719900 | 3323280  
Zone     Easting     Northing  
2 |     |     |    

3 |     |     |       
Zone     Easting     Northing  
4 |     |     |    

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title National Register Staff (based on draft nomination prepared by Dr. Jay Edwards, as referenced in bibliography)  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1992  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Little Texas is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is among a limited number of French Creole residences in St. James Parish, which once had many more examples. It is also among the oldest Creole homes in the parish and displays rare surviving construction techniques.

The 1858 Persac Map of the Mississippi River shows approximately 111 St. James Parish plantations identified by the names of their owners. In addition, the map depicts a large number of unnamed agricultural tracts. Because the Creoles were the dominant group to settle and develop the area before the Civil War, it is fair to assume that many of the houses on these plantations would have been in the Creole style. Thus, one can legitimately estimate that St. James Parish had a minimum of perhaps 150 Creole style houses in 1858. However, the Historic Structures Survey of the parish indicates that only about 31 Creole houses remain. Eighteen of these date from after 1870, leaving only thirteen to represent the parish's earlier Creole tradition. Little Texas is one of these. In addition, Little Texas is one of only nine Creole dwellings in the parish which use colombage construction (half timbering with infill) in their walls, and its stacked cypress block piers are a rare surviving example of this building technique.

Historical Note

Little Texas has belonged to descendants of the Brignac family since 1866, when the eight heirs of Pierre Brignac purchased it for \$3,800 at a public auction. Previously it had belonged to Francois Schexnayder. Shortly after the purchase Florian Brignac consolidated ownership of the property by buying out his co-owners. He then held the property until 1916, when he sold half to his son Charles and the other half to his son-in-law Charles Genre, who was married to Julie Brignac. In 1928, Charles Brignac sold his half of the property to his brother-in-law, making Charles Genre the sole owner. The current resident, Mrs. Marie Genre Donadieu, is the daughter of Charles and Julie Brignac Genre. She has lived in the home for much of her life.

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Historic Structures Survey for St. James Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic  
Preservation.

Edwards, Jay. Draft National Register Nomination, Department of Geography and  
Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge.



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Boundary Justification

The property's two side boundaries follow fence lines. The front boundary is defined by the edge of LA Highway 44. The rear boundary cuts close to the house in order to exclude non-contributing elements.

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Mr. Dalton Pollet  
9140 Sage Circle  
Baton Rouge, LA

Mrs. Irene Thibodeaux  
9344 Donna Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Mr. Robert Pollet  
P. O. Box 797  
Gramercy, LA 70052

Mrs. Lois Reistroph  
Rt. 3, Box 463  
Plaquemine, LA 70764

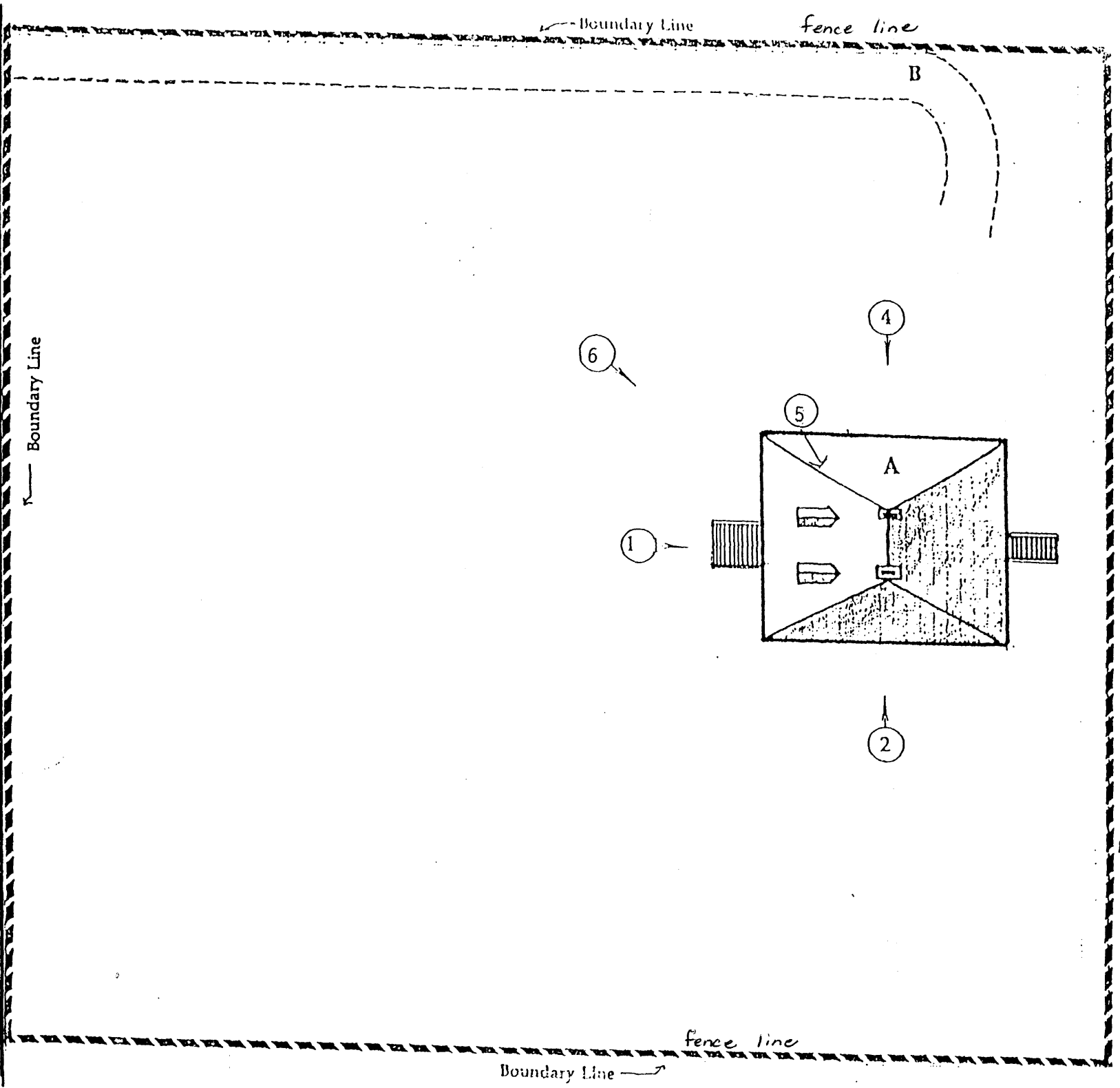
Ms. Margaret Scheck  
1552 Thibodeaux Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Mr. Henry Chandler  
6970 Seven Oaks Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

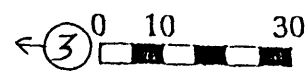
Dr. Charles Genre  
1428 Webster Street  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Mrs. Marie Donadieu  
P. O. Box 22  
Paulina, LA 70763

LA Hwy 44  
(River Road)



- A - House
- B - Gravel Drive



Scale 1" = 30'



### MAP OF LITTLE TEXAS PLANTATION HOUSE

PAULINA VICINITY  
St. James Parish,  
Louisiana