

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 George Washington Cable House

AND/OR COMMON

George Washington Cable House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1313 Eighth Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

--- VICINITY OF

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Louisiana

CODE  
22

COUNTY  
Orleans

CODE  
071

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reily

STREET & NUMBER

1313 Eighth Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orleans Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

421 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Soon after his first publication of Sieur George, Cable began building his house on Eighth Street in the Garden District of New Orleans. It was a modest structure, with the living story, raised ten feet on square brick pillars above an open cement floored basement. The whole was painted in soft tones of red and olive. It was originally entered by a broad flight of steps leading up to a vine covered gallery. This arrangement is reminiscent of colonial Louisiana architecture, found in such house as Madam John's Legacy in the French Quarter. Semi-tropical plants, with orange and fig trees and many varieties of flowers filled the garden and a small greenhouse projected from one side of the open basement.

After Cable moved to New England he leased the house. It was then sold to Ann Robinson, an artist, who lived there for sixty-five years. Since Cable's time the house has undergone several extensive renovations. The basement was walled in, forming a two story duplex with the entrance steps removed and the entry placed on the ground floor. The current owner made extensive structural alterations to the interior although an effort was made to retain the upstairs gallery on the front of the house as it was when Cable lived there. The rear gallery, badly deteriorated, was removed.

The house originally sat in the center of two large lots. Land on either side was later sold for other houses. Cable's carriage house still **exists**, but is on the property of the house to the northwest. It is structurally unsound and will probably not remain standing for much longer.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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

1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This cottage in the Garden District was built under Cable's direction in 1874, when the New Orleans writer was just coming into national prominence. While in this house he produced some of his better known works, including his first novel, The Grandissimes, which was published serially in Scribner's Magazine in 1879. In the summer of 1884, Cable left New Orleans to make his home in New England where he would be able to become a part of an active literary circle,. His early years spent in this house, however, formed the style and set the content of his work for the remainder of his life.

### HISTORY

George Washington Cable was born in New Orleans in 1844. In 1863 the family left the occupied city and Cable joined the 4th Mississippi Cavalry in which he served for the remainder of the war. When the war was over, he found employment on the state survey of the levees along the Atchafalaya River. Soon after, however, he contracted malarial fever, which kept him from physical labor for almost two years.

It was during this period that he began to write a weekly column of miscellany in the New Orleans Picayune under the heading "Drop Shot." The success of the column led to its being made a daily feature. In 1869, Cable was made a staff reporter but when he refused to report theatrical performances, he was fired.

A.C. Black and Company, cotton factors, employed him as an accountant and correspondence clerk. While so employed, his scholarly interest continued. He mastered French and then began to explore the old records in the city archives fascinated by the strange romance he found in them. At first he had no thought of further writing but he eventually began to put the information into narratives of his own.

A chance encounter with Edward King, sent by Scribner's Monthly on a tour of the South in 1872, resulted in Cable sending some of his stories to J.G. Holland, editor of the monthly. In October 1873, his short story, "Sieur George" was published, followed by five others in the next three years. Then in 1879 these appeared in book form under the title of Old Creole Days. When the firm of A.C. Black and Company dissolved, Cable turned to writing as his full time profession.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bikle, Lucy., George W. Cable, His Life and Letters, New York, 1928.  
 Curtis, N.C. New Orleans, Its Houses, Shops and Public Buildings, Phila., 1933.  
 Turner, Arlin, George W. Cable, A Biography, Durham, N.C., 1956.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	78,12,10	3114020	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Cable house sits on a small lot facing Eighth Street on the west. The other three sides are bounded by adjoining properties, with tall hedges on all sides.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey DATE 5/23/75

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L. Street, NW. TELEPHONE 202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

# 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 REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

**Landmark** Dec 29, 1962  
**Designated:** .....  
**Boundary Certified:** .....  
*[Signature]*  
5/15/77 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

NATIONAL HISTORIC

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*  
2/18/77

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A year later, after it had run serially in Scribner's, he published The Grandissimes, 1884, an ambitious historical romance, followed by Madame Delphine. In the summer of that year, Cable left New Orleans to make his home in New England. Active in political reform, he turned his talents to efforts to gain prison reform, changes in election laws, abolition of the contract labor system and justice for the Negro. His outspoken views, especially in the series of papers later collected under the title "The Silent South, 1885, aroused the resentment of his native region against him. About this time he began a series of lecture tours, reading from his own works. Cable also made several tours with Mark Twain.

Throughout his life, Cable's interest varied widely. As a philanthropist, reformer and religious leader, he contributed much to his country. The titles of some of his later books show the range of his interests: The Negro Question, 1888; The Southern Struggle for Pure Government, 1890; The Busy Man's Bible and How to Teach It, 1893; The Amateur Gardener, 1914. But his lasting recognition and major contribution remain in the area of "local color" writing in his tales of New Orleans life.