

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Louisiana
COUNTY: St. John the Baptist
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
San Francisco Plantation House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Route #44

CITY OR TOWN:
3 miles upriver from Reserve

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
8

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

COUNTY:
St. John the Baptist

CODE:
095

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
San Francisco Planting and Manufacturing Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 1399

CITY OR TOWN:
Reserve

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John the Baptist Parish Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgard

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

San Francisco is generally dated 1849-50 although it may incorporate older construction. It is built on a brick platform approximately 100 feet square, said to be 6 feet deep, and exposed as the flooring of the ground story. Although having similarities to the local raised cottages, it is of a scale to merit comparison to villas with pianos nobile, such as the first owner may have known in southern France.

The exterior is a layer cake. The ground floor is extremely simple with square plastered brick columns supporting the gallery across the front and halfway back the sides. The front entrance is reached by a divided stair which rises from the front corners of the house to the central opening in the gallery. The fluted wood columns with cast-iron Corinthian capitals support an arcuated architrave beneath an overhanging deck. The stair balusters are of turned wood, the gallery railing of cast iron and the deck railing of wood. The attic, which begins at the deck, is a Victorian construction which gives the house a unique silhouette sometimes identified as "Steamboat Gothic." Paired louvered openings alternate with ornate brackets under an immense cornice. The hip roof is pierced by tall dormers with diamond-paned, Tudor-arched windows and is crowned by a rectangular clerestory, flat-roofed and elaborately railed.

The plan is as unique as the exterior. The principal floor is arranged in suites of parlor, foyer, and bedroom on either side of the central hall which leads to the dining room, centered in the rear between stair wells. The rear corner rooms may once have been servants' rooms or dressing rooms but have been converted to baths. The interior decoration includes fluted Corinthian columns and fine mantels and moldings but is most notable for paintings attributed to Dominique Canova on wood ceiling and door panels. Although legend claims the immense attic was used as a ballroom, the narrow access stairs and obstructive roof support structure refute that possibility.

Where now the levee and road squeeze between the house and the Mississippi River, at one time there are said to have been gardens leading to the water. There are no extant outbuildings and the flanking cisterns have suffered hurricane damage

There are conflicting legends relating to the naming of the plantation by its first owner, Edmond Marmillion. The first suggests the name celebrated the gold rush of 1849 and was chosen by Mme. Marmillion. The other attributes it to a misunderstood French phrase, "son saint-frusquin," literally meaning "the shirt off his back," supposed to have been Marmillion's assessment of its cost of construction.

For the past 20 years the property has been in the custody, though not the ownership, of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Thompson. Their maintenance of the house as their home and private museum has prevented its demolition by neglect and provided continuing repair. It has also made San Francisco accessible to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849-50

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unique among all plantation houses in its foundation structure, plan, and silhouette, San Francisco is unquestionably a landmark as that term is popularly understood. It has been pictured in American, British, and Swedish periodicals as one of the major sights of the New Orleans area. The exterior combines a variety of architectural motifs in a design dominated by an immense and ornate roof construction. The interior is notable for the paintings which ornament the ceilings and door panels of the parlors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 02' 57½"	90° 36' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul Goeldner, Architect, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys, National Park Service** DATE: **1/17/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

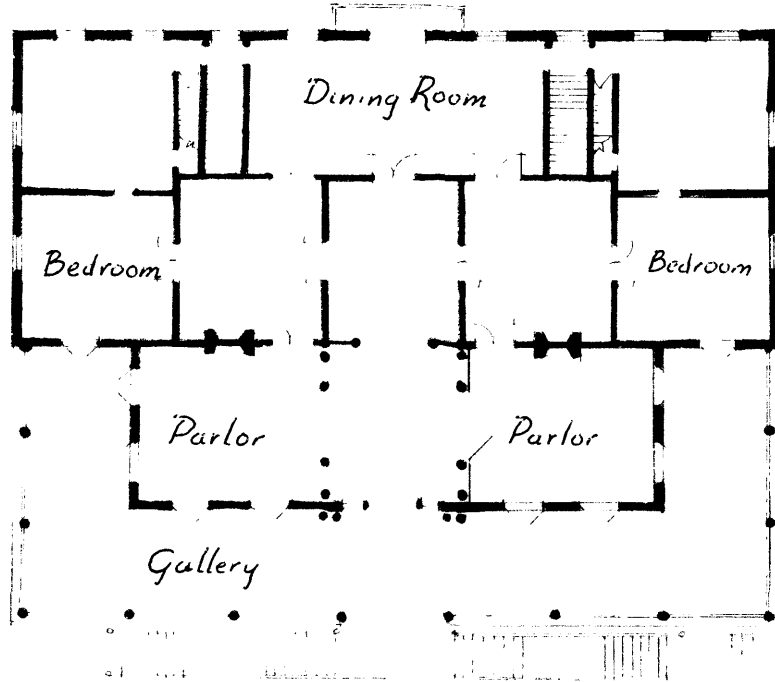
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

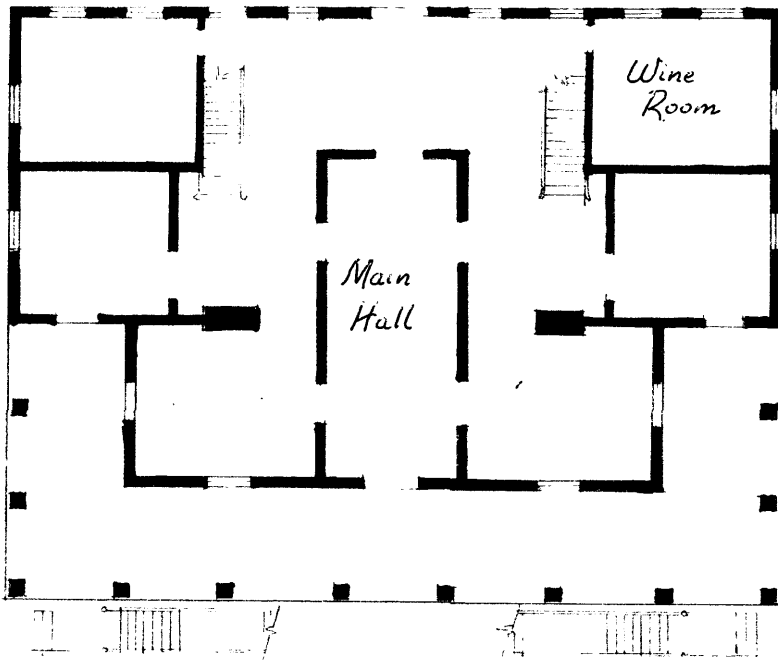
STATE Louisiana	
COUNTY St. John the Baptist	
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(Number all entries) 7. Description

San Francisco
Plantation House
Reserve, Louisiana



Principal Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan