

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

RESIDENCE PLANTATION HOUSE, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, LA

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

RECEIVED JUL 25 2001 OMB No. 1024-0018 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Page 1 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

943

Historic Name: Residence Plantation House

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 8951 Park Avenue Not for publication: NA

City/Town Houma Vicinity: NA

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Terrebonne Code: 109 Zip Code: 70363

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: Statewide: Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

July 18, 2001 Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): _____

Entered in the National Register

9/8/01

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public-Local:
- Public-State:
- Public-Federal:

Category of Property

- Building(s):
- District:
- Site:
- Structure:
- Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

- 3
- ___
- ___
- ___
- 3

Non contributing

- 3 buildings
- ___ sites
- ___ structures
- ___ objects
- 3 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling/Secondary Structure

Current: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Vacant (Dependencies)

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Queen Anne Revival, Eastlake

Materials:

Foundation: brick
Walls: other: aluminum siding
Roof: asphalt
Other: wood shingles

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Residence Plantation House (1898) stands near a busy highway on the outskirts of the Terrebonne Parish seat of Houma. Located at the edge of what was once a large plantation, the two-story frame structure is an example of the Queen Anne Revival style. Although it has experienced alteration over the years, it retains its National Register eligibility.

Queen Anne features found in Residence include:

1. an asymmetrical footprint beneath cross gable massing.
2. two projecting polygonal bays with 45 degree corner cuts and one projecting square bay.
3. a window featuring one large pane of glass outlined by a series of small square shaped colored panes.
4. a wraparound gallery on the lower level and a non-wrapping balcony on the second floor.
5. the presence of texture, created by :
 - a) the treatment of the above-mentioned gallery and balcony. The former is distinguished by Eastlake columns and brackets, as well as a punch-work balustrade. The latter also exhibits a punch-work balustrade and Eastlake columns, but the balustrade's design is different from that below and the columns have no brackets.
 - b) the placement of shingles and a bargeboard in the front gable peak. Additionally, the bargeboard is outlined by a series of bull's eye corner blocks.
 - c) corbelled chimney caps.

The home's floor plan features a front and rear range of rooms, each range two rooms wide, and a two room ell wing. The left front room is a stair hall, while the right front room is a parlor. A second parlor is located behind this space; a large dining room stands behind the stair hall. At one time the dining room could be partitioned off from a center hallway connecting the stair hall to a rear L-shaped porch. However, the large folding doors which separated the dining room and hall were removed some time before 1937. The two room ell wing extends behind the dining room. It contains a former pantry/baking room (now used as a small den) and a kitchen. The previously mentioned two-story "L" shaped rear porch has been enclosed on both levels. The second story's floor plan mimics that of the first.

Interior features of interest in Residence Plantation House include the stair hall's winder stair, two sets of working pocket doors, and several period mantels. The latter include two in the Eastlake style and one with an overmantel.

In addition to the floorplan change and rear porch enclosure mentioned above, Residence's most notable alteration is the covering of its original clapboards with aluminum siding. This work was

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done over thirty years ago by the current owner's parents in a sensitive manner. It does not cover door and window frames or decorative features. An exterior metal staircase has been added at the rear where the two branches of the upper porch (now enclosed) join. Other changes in Residence include the conversion of an upper story room in the ell into a restroom, the loss of a rooftop widow's walk, the installation of metal canopies to protect several lower and upper story windows from the sun, the placement of window air conditioners in several rooms, the bricking over of the front steps, the leveling of the foundation and addition of a few needed piers, the addition of linoleum in the pantry/den and kitchen, and the further remodeling of the kitchen. Family members believe a first floor bathroom now attached to the front parlor was converted from a former screened porch. Although this scenario is not impossible, the space certainly has the appearance of an addition constructed well after completion of the original structure.

Although the above paragraph lists many alterations, most are fairly unimportant. The addition of aluminum siding to the home and the enclosure of the rear porches are the only areas of possible concern. Because the enclosed porches are located at the rear, they do not impact the principal views. Fortunately, the aluminum cladding was applied sensitively and does not hide or detract from the important Queen Anne features which give Residence Plantation House its architectural significance within Terrebonne Parish. The decorative front facing gable, projecting bays and cross gable massing, subdivided Queen Anne window, and the distinctive gallery and balcony decoration are the features which catch the visitor's immediate attention. It is only upon closer inspection that the presence of the aluminum siding becomes evident. As an important example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the parish, Residence is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Residence Plantation has been subdivided and redeveloped over the years, and there are a number of non-contributing buildings within the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the main house stands (for example, brick ranch houses for various family members).

Within the acreage being included in this nomination are the following buildings:

Quarters house (contributing): This one-story frame building stands in a field to the rear of the main house. It consists of two rooms plus shed rooms at the rear. Although the owner believes it to be a slave cabin, it may be a post-bellum tenant house. (The current main house replaced one from the antebellum period.) The building is being considered as a contributing element because it would have been present on the plantation when the candidate was built.

Chicken House (contributing): This low wooden dependency formed of vertical slats with spaces between may well be roughly contemporaneous with the main house. Hence it is being considered a contributing element.

Dairy Office (non-contributing): This one-story asbestos and clapboard covered building stands about a foot from the rear end of the home's ell wing. Because of notable alterations, it is being considered non-contributing.

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Wash Room (non-contributing). This wooden structure was built c. 1950, according to family history.

Modern House (non-contributing): This slab-on-grade ranch house is located roughly 200 feet to the side of the candidate.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A__ B__ C X D__

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA
 A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1898

Significant Dates: 1898

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Residence Plantation House is locally significant in the area of architecture within Terrebonne Parish because it is a rare and important example of the Queen Anne Revival style. In a parish in which prosperous citizens were slow to abandon previously accepted housing forms, the building is one of only a few which attempt to articulate characteristics of this style on a house of any distinction.

Terrebonne Parish developed during the first half of the nineteenth century as a center for the growing and refining of sugar. However, during the early twentieth century the industry experienced a downturn caused by disease, floods, and inadequate tariffs. Then the lumber and seafood industries supplanted sugar in importance. Despite the presence of these industries, the parish remained mostly rural. The parish seat of Houma (population 32,602 in 1980) is the only town of any size. (Much of the parish is wetlands. All other communities are small villages.)

Architecturally, Terrebonne contains a core of elaborate homes displaying outdated architectural styles. For example, as late as the last two decades of the nineteenth century, large houses in the older Gothic Revival and Greek Revival modes were being erected by wealthy but conservative citizens who generally withheld their patronage from the newer Queen Anne style. Instead, it was the more stylistically up-to-date middle class which adopted elements of the Queen Anne by attaching semi-hexagonal or semi-octagonal bays and gables with patterned shingles to otherwise plain cottages. As a result, the Queen Anne seldom reached its full decorative potential on a Terrebonne parish house.

The foregoing is documented in the standing structures survey for Terrebonne Parish. Of over 1,100 buildings recorded, only a handful (roughly a half dozen) are major examples of the Queen Anne Revival style. With its elaborate massing, distinctive decorative elements and size, Residence makes an important contribution to Terrebonne Parish's late nineteenth/early twentieth century patrimony.

Historical Note:

Residence Plantation House was built in 1898 by Roberta Barrow, daughter of Robert Ruffin Barrow. The latter was a very wealthy and well-known antebellum planter who owned many properties in South Louisiana. He settled on the Residence site in the mid-1830s and built a home there in the 1840s, according to family history. Roberta Barrow demolished her father's antebellum home and built the current structure on its site. According to family history, she reused some of the old materials. The home is the repository of important paintings, books, and papers, including those of Confederate Captain Horace Hunley, a Civil War submarine officer.

Note: Although Barrow and Hunley are important to the overall Residence story, National Register significance cannot be claimed because neither man lived in the candidate.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Division of Historic Preservation, Standing Structures Survey of Terrebonne Parish.

Site visit by National Register staff

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: approximately 4.7 acres

UTM References: **Zone Easting Northing**
 15 723790 3276300

Verbal Boundary Description: See attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification:

As noted in Part 7, Residence Plantation has been subdivided over the years, and there are various non-contributing buildings on the property (for example, brick ranch houses for family members). The boundaries for this nomination were chosen to exclude most of these non-contributing buildings and to include the candidate and two contributing buildings. (One brick ranch house – F on the map – was included so that the boundaries would not be so irregular.) The southern boundary recognizes the home's historic relationship to the thoroughfare now known as Park Avenue and the bayou beyond the road.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

Date: May 2001

PROPERTY OWNERS

C. S. Gaidry, Inc.
8911 Park Avenue
Houma, Louisiana 70363
(985) 851-4700


CONTACT PERSON:


Wilson J. Gaidry, III
Home Phone: (985) 876-5115

RESIDENCE PLANTATION HOUSE

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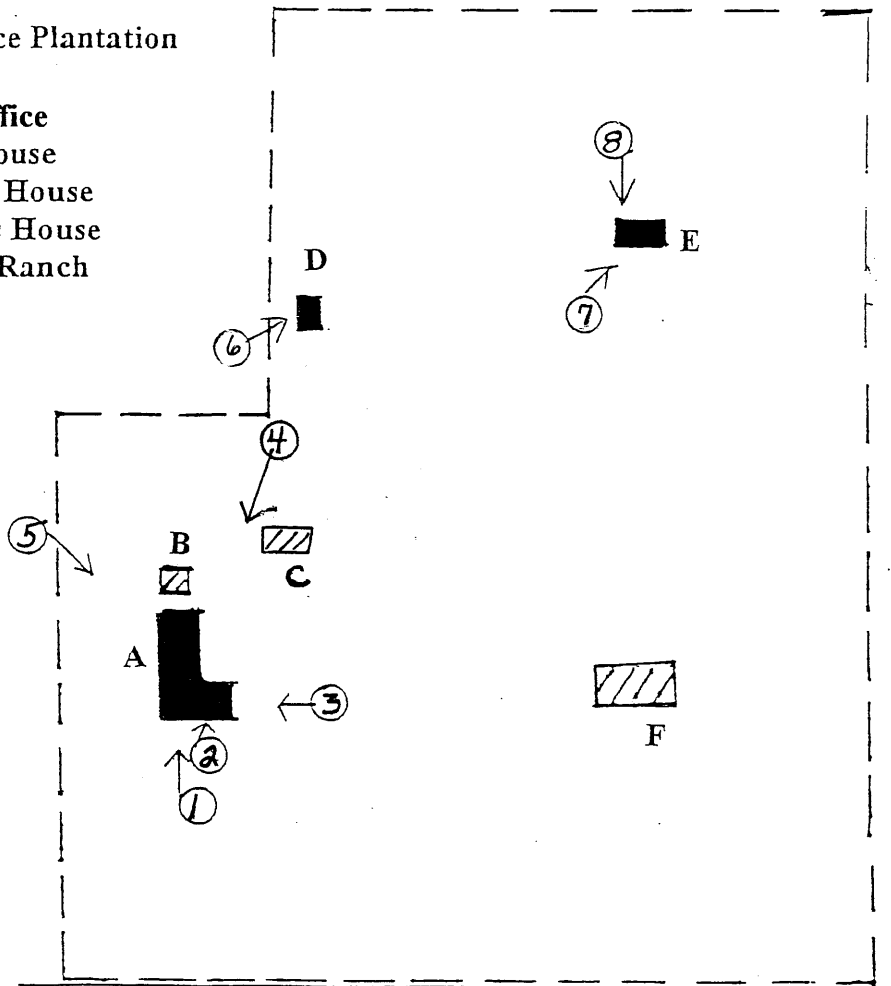
Scale: 1" = 100'

Contributing Element: 

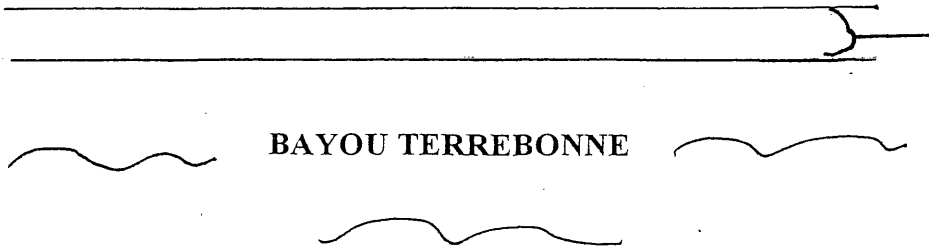
Non-Contributing Element: 



- A = Residence Plantation House
- B = Dairy Office
- C = Wash House
- D = Chicken House
- E = Quarters House
- F = Modern Ranch House



PARK AVENUE



Land between road and bayou

BAYOU TERREBONNE