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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Mulberry Grove

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

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 405, 7 miles east-northeast of its intersection N/A not for publication with LA Hwy 1 at White Castle

city or town White Castle  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Ascension code 005 zip code 70346

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.)

Gerry Hobdy 9/8/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerry 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

Delores Byers **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 10/14/93

Mulberry Grove  
Name of Property

Ascension 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	
6	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
7	1	Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

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

DOMESTIC/single dwelling (house)

VACANT/not in use (quarters)

**7. Description**

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

Greek Revival

Other: French Creole

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls stucco, weatherboard

roof asphalt, metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

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Mulberry Grove (c. 1836) is a grand, two-story, double galleried plantation house in the Greek Revival style. Located within the sugar cane belt on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish, the antebellum mansion stands back from the River Road within a well-manicured lawn. The brick and frame structure has undergone some alteration over the years, but its integrity easily remains intact. Also within the nominated area are six contributing dependencies: four c.1890 quarters houses with one surviving privy and a cistern contemporaneous with the main house.

Mulberry Grove has a symmetrical central hall floorplan with front and rear double galleries. The lower floor's two front rooms, identical in size, are larger than the spaces behind them. The rear upriver space is subdivided to create a recessed stair hall and a cabinet-like room, both of which are original to the home. These two rooms have their own exterior doors opening to the rear gallery. The rear downriver room has been subdivided to create a kitchen, bathroom, closet, and hallway. The plan of the upper floor is similar. Its differences include 1) the absence of exterior doors in the recessed stair hall and cabinet-like room; 2) the subdivision of the cabinet-like room to create a bath, hallway, and closets; 3) an original staircase ascending from the second floor central hall to the attic; 4) the fact that the downriver rear room has not been subdivided in the manner of its lower floor counterpart, and 5) the addition of closets and a bath to the front downriver room. This was accomplished in such a way as to leave the fireplace set in an arched alcove (see photo).

Mulberry Grove contains a number of finely crafted Greek Revival features. Among the mansion's important design elements are the following:

- 1) a denticulated entablature,
- 2) transoms and side lights subdivided in the Greek Revival manner. These features surround the four primary front and rear entrances.
- 3) door and window surrounds featuring pediment shaped lintels and shoulder molding. The door surrounds taper toward the top in a pronounced manner. This treatment is found on all the openings on the upper front gallery and all the first floor interior openings.
- 4) thin front and rear upper gallery pillars which are paneled on all sides. These pillars are surmounted by molded capitals. Matching corner boards are also used.

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Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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Although Mulberry Grove's primary architectural thrust is Greek Revival, it also displays the influence of Louisiana's native French Creole tradition. This can be seen in the following features:

- 1) a brick lower story surmounted by a frame upper floor. The bricks are covered by stucco, as is the upper level facade.
- 2) two sets of French doors,
- 3) an exterior staircase on the rear gallery, and
- 4) the fact that the facade behind the upper gallery displays more decorative elements than that below. In the Creole tradition, this space was often highly decorated and treated as an outdoor room.

Although they cannot be classified specifically as Greek Revival or French Creole, Mulberry Grove has other features worthy of mention. They include:

- 1) paneled embrasures on the lower story windows on the interior. In addition, molded panels are found below the first floor windows and all the side lights.
- 2) elaborately molded cornices throughout the lower floor and in the second floor central hall. Simpler cornices are found in the second floor rooms.
- 3) chair rails in the lower floor's central hall and downriver front room,
- 4) the aforementioned staircases. The lower floor stair is distinguished by its curving shape. Elaborate enough to serve as the primary stair in another house, the second floor straight stair features curved scroll motifs on the sides of its risers.
- 5) double hung windows. Nine over nine windows open onto the upper front gallery. Six over six windows are found throughout the rest of the home.

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Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

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Mulberry Grove was allowed to deteriorate in the twentieth century but was rescued and rehabilitated during the 1950s. In addition to the changes to the floorplan mentioned above, other alterations made at that time include:

- 1) the screening of the rear upper gallery,
- 2) the addition of scenic wallpaper in the dining room, the replacement of the lower central hall's lost floor, the addition of pine paneling and built-in bookcases to the downstairs cabinet-like room, and the installation of new mantels. Although no concrete information is available, it is likely that the original mantels had been lost.
- 3) the construction of a large masonry garage/utility building on the downriver side of the home. It is connected to the mansion's rear gallery by a covered breezeway.

The above mentioned alterations do not seriously impact the architectural integrity of Mulberry Grove. The mansion's exterior Greek Revival detailing is completely intact. The changes to the floorplan are minor and do not obscure its original configuration. Although the loss of the mantels is regrettable, they were only one aspect of a superior interior which otherwise survives. As a fine and rare example of a Greek Revival River Road mansion, Mulberry Grove is an outstanding candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Elements

Six contributing elements stand on the Mulberry Grove property. The first is a large barrel-shaped cistern constructed of hard cypress staves and iron bands. It stands on a foundation of old brick covered by plaster. This dependency appears to be contemporary with the antebellum house.

Four small c. 1890 quarters houses survive on the property. They stand in a row facing the River Road slightly downriver from the main house. Of board and batten

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Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

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construction, each is two rooms wide and has a front gallery beneath the mass of its metal roof. Three of the four have received rear or side additions. The houses' end gables feature decoratively cut vergeboards. All have had their original doors replaced. The interiors feature beaded board walls and ceilings. These cabins are being counted as contributing elements because, as archetypes rare in their own right (see Part 8), they are independently eligible for Register listing.

The final contributing element is a privy. Contemporary with the quarters cabin which it stands behind, it is constructed of boards and battens and has a metal roof.

Non-Contributing Element

Because it is a modern structure, the aforementioned masonry garage/utility building is being counted as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

Mulberry Grove  
Name of Property

Ascension Parish, LA  
County and State

### 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

N/A

(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.

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

#### Period of Significance

c.1836; c.1890

#### Significant Dates

c.1836; c.1890

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mulberry Grove  
Name of Property

Ascension Parish, LA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** @ 3 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5	6	8	9	0	8	0	3	3	4	1	6	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Please refer to sketch map.

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1993

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

**Additional Documentation**

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)

**Property Owner**

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

name Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Noel, III; Allen T. Noel

street & number P. O. Box 466 telephone (504) 473-9283

city or town Donaldsonville state Louisiana zip code 70346

**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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Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

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Mulberry Grove is significant in the area of architecture at the state level because it is a superb and rare surviving example of the grand Greek Revival plantation homes which once lined Louisiana's Great River Road between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Its quarters houses are significant at the local level in the area of architecture because they are exceedingly rare within Ascension Parish.

Architecturally, Louisiana is best known for its fine collections of French Creole houses and grand Greek Revival plantation homes. The state's most famous and recognizable group of monumental Greek Revival plantation houses is found on the historic River Road. These homes, built by immensely wealthy sugar cane planters during the thirty years prior to the Civil War, were the absolute apex of the Greek Revival style in Louisiana. They may be briefly characterized as columned or pillared two story mansions with broad double galleries which sometimes encircle the house. The columns may be monumental, in which case they rise to the roofline in one continuous shaft, or a separate series of columns may be found on each level. No one will ever know the exact number of these houses which once existed on the River Road. However, an 1858 map of Mississippi River land holdings suggests that many more once existed than have survived. Today, only eight River Road Greek Revival landmark plantation houses remain. Mulberry Grove is one of these monumental structures, all of which are individually eligible for the National Register. Mulberry Grove is especially distinguished by its superior Greek Revival woodwork, which features pediment shaped lintels, shoulder molding, and tapered door surrounds.

The Mulberry Grove quarters cabins are locally significant in the area of architecture because they are extremely rare survivors of a once common building type. Hundreds of these cabins existed in rural Ascension Parish at one time. However, survey data collected by the Division of Historic Preservation indicates that only 34 quarters houses survive. Of this number, most are isolated cabins scattered throughout the parish. Only two clusters of cabins still stand in the row configurations in which they were built. Mulberry Grove's cabins form one of these clusters.

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Historical Note

Mulberry Grove was built for Dr. Edward Duffel, a native of Virginia, and his Acadian bride. After the Civil War the property was acquired by John B. Reuss, who made it a part of his large Germania Plantation holding. Upon his death, Reuss left the Mulberry Grove portion of Germania to one of his daughters. In 1951 she sold it to Mrs. C. C. Clifton, who accomplished the home's restoration. In the late 1980s Mrs. Clifton sold Mulberry Grove to the Noel family, who operate the property as a working plantation.

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA

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## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Standing Structures Survey of  
Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

Gulf South Appraisal Company, "Market Value Appraisal of The Hattie Grace Clifton  
Mulberry Grove Plantation, Hohen Solms, Ascension Parish, Louisiana."  
Typescript, July 9, 1988. (Copy of pertinent pages in National Register file.)

Persac, Adrien, "Norman's Chart of the Mississippi River from Natchez to New  
Orleans," 1858.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mulberry Grove, Ascension Parish, LA  
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## Boundary Justification

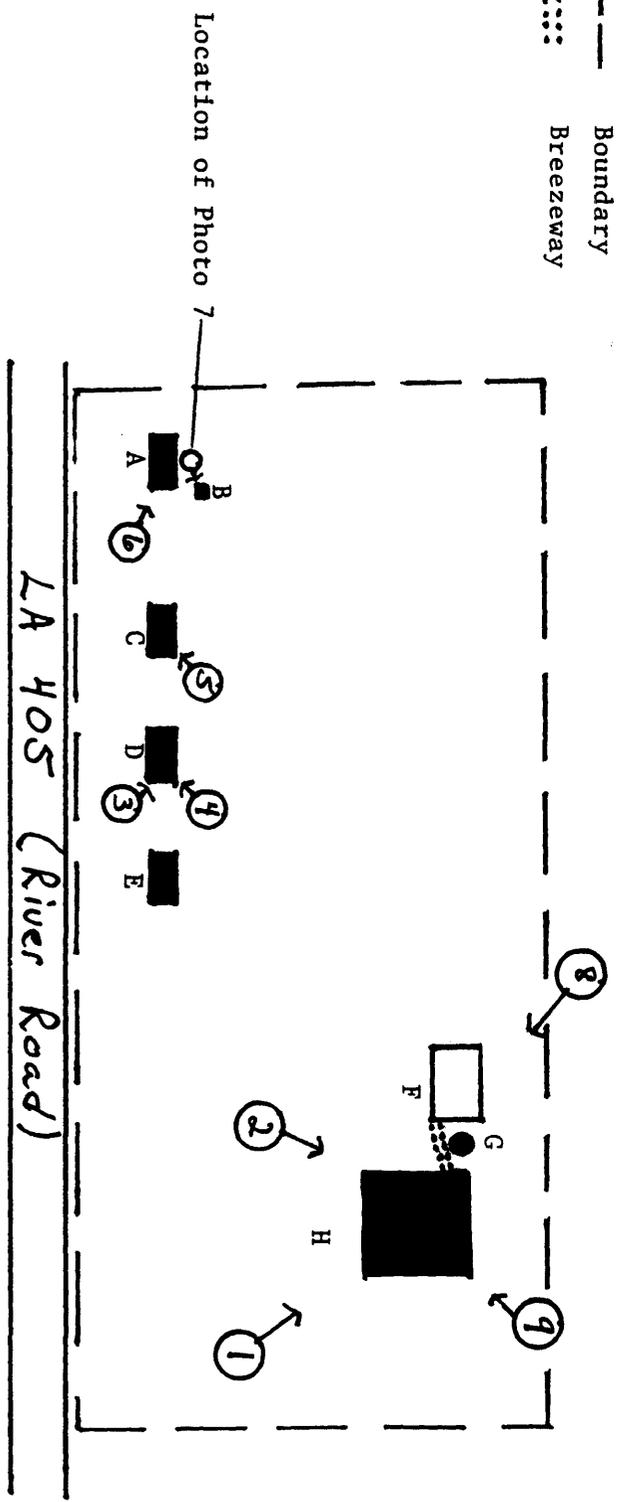
Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resources at Mulberry Grove, as explained in Parts 7 & 8. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including extensive rural acreage and various non-contributing elements scattered about the property.

MULBERRY GROVE  
 White Castle vicinity  
 Ascension Parish, LA

LEGEND:

- A = Quarters
- B = Privy
- C = Quarters
- D = Quarters
- E = Quarters
- F = Modern Garage
- G = Cistern
- H = Main House

-  Contributing Element
-  Non-Contributing Element
-  Boundary
-  Brezeway



North  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'