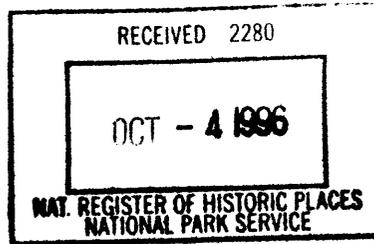


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 Allendale Plantation Historic District

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

2. Location

street & number N. River Road & Allendale Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Port Allen  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county West Baton Rouge code 121 zip code 70767

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.)

Jonathan Fricker 9/26/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy 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 commenting 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:)

Boon H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11.1.96  
National Register

Allendale Plantation Historic District  
Name of Property

West Baton Rouge 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	
15		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
15	0	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  
religion / religious facility  
commerce / trade / office building

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

domestic / single dwelling  
vacant / not in use  
commerce / trade / office building  
religion/religious facility

**7. Description**

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

No style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls clapboard (weatherboard)  
roof metal  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The boundaries of the Allendale Plantation Historic District encompass a grouping of 15 wood framed structures including 13 residences, a church and an office. The buildings are disposed in a double row along North River Road and a roughly parallel dirt lane in rural West Baton Rouge Parish adjacent to the Mississippi River (see sketch map). The complex is bisected in a generally east/west direction by the Texas and Pacific Railroad. As can be seen in the attached sketch map, there are a few gaps where quarters once stood. All of the cabins face either River Road or the above mentioned dirt road with their backs to the railroad, with the exception of #5 (see below) which faces the tracks. Despite some deterioration, alterations, and loss of structures, Allendale remains an impressive surviving plantation quarters complex representing the post-bellum plantation economy in the sugar growing region of Louisiana.

**The Cabins**

The cabins range in date from circa 1870 to circa 1900. Unlike plantation slave quarters, which were often double houses consisting of two rooms, with one family in each room, these are generally four-room cabins occupied by a single family. Thus, they represent improved living conditions for the now free plantation laboring families. All of the Allendale cabins feature wide ceiling boards and wide tongue and groove floor boards. Almost all have exposed beams on the front gallery ceiling. The earliest cabins are constructed of heavy timbers with square nails and French joinery -- i.e., angle braces which extend in an almost vertical fashion from the sill to the plate. They may be said to represent the last generation of this early Louisiana building convention. In addition, the early cabins feature chimneys with boards nailed so as to form a crude wraparound mantel. An inventory description of each cabin will follow.

**Other Buildings: Church and Office**

Like other plantations of the era, Allendale provided its own church for laborers who lived and worked on the plantation. The plantation office was the administrative center of the operation in which records were kept and official business discharged.

**The Moves**

As was common on plantations in Louisiana, particularly those on the Mississippi, the buildings at Allendale have been moved more than once. In addition

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

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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to the usual floods and subsequent levee construction, Allendale was vulnerable due to its location in a horseshoe bend of the river, with soil erosion causing the levee to be moved several times. The most recent major move was in the 1930s. Almost all of the present buildings were in their current location by the mid to late 1930s as related by an elder member of the Kahao family. (The Kahaos have owned and operated Allendale since the 1880s.) Two were moved to their present location in the mid-1940s. It seems likely that these are the two cabins which rest upon pre-cast concrete piers (#s 1 & 8). As previously mentioned, some of the cabins feature chimneys with wraparound mantels. These were evidently re-built and re-assembled in the old way after the most recent move.

**Inventory**

1. Circa 1900 four-room cabin of board and batten construction with inset front gallery and broken pitch roof in the rear. Cabin rests upon concrete piers.
2. Circa 1870 four-room Creole quarters house with clapboard siding with inset front gallery, gallery columns with partially molded capitals and transoms over the two front doors. The interior features a central chimney between the two front rooms with crude wraparound mantels. The original four-room plan was augmented by a rear two-room lean-to in the twentieth century.
3. Circa 1870 clapboard house with 6/6 windows, a central chimney, and an inset front gallery. Rear gabled additions are probably more recent.
4. The Allendale Church - Circa 1930. This plain frame church replaced an earlier church on the plantation, as documented in an old photo. It features a pitched roof with exposed rafters tails in the bungalow tradition. The church culminates in an entrance porch with a front tower under a pyramidal roof. Lean-tos have been added to either side of the tower, and there has also been a rear extension. The present windows are metal replacements of the original.
5. Circa 1870 Creole cottage with crumbling central chimney and crude wrap-around mantels. French joinery is visible. The building is deteriorated -- porch floor missing. Board and batten siding is placed over the original clapboard.

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

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

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6. Circa 1870 four-room cottage with front inset gallery and central chimney. House too overgrown to inspect.
7. Circa 1870 Creole house with a central chimney, crude wraparound mantels, and visible French joinery.
8. Circa 1900. This house is larger than the others, being 3 rooms wide, in addition to the normal 2-room depth. It features a wide inset gallery and a broken pitch roof in the rear. The house rests upon concrete piers and is currently sheathed in tar paper.
9. Circa 1870. This small cabin is only one room wide, but has the standard 2-room depth. It features clapboard construction, 6/6 windows, and a side chimney with a crude wraparound mantel.
10. Circa 1890 - plantation office. Frame cottage-like building consisting of 3 rooms with an inset gallery and prominent side gables featuring Queen Anne Revival imbricated shingles. The gallery openings have been replaced in such a way that the gallery is no longer accessible from the interior.
11. Circa 1870 frame clapboard cottage with inset front gallery. Chimney removed. Some of windows replaced.
12. Circa 1870 frame cottage with inset front gallery and central chimney with crude wraparound mantels. Board and batten siding added later.
13. Circa 1870 frame cottage with inset front gallery. Chimney removed; extended to rear. Building currently sheathed in tar paper.
14. Circa 1870 frame cottage with inset front gallery. Chimney removed. Building currently sheathed in tar paper; windows replaced.
15. Circa 1890 board and batten cottage with unusual horizontal framing members forming the structure. House features central chimney with crude wraparound mantels. Porch badly deteriorated.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 4

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### **Assessment of Integrity**

There are no non-contributing elements within the Allendale Historic District. However, there have been alterations to contributing elements. These include tar paper sheathing, replaced porch columns, replaced doors and windows, a few concrete piers, and a few lean-to additions. In addition, some of the buildings are deteriorated with missing clapboards and rotted porch floors. Despite the foregoing and despite gaps where quarters once stood, the Allendale buildings are still very obviously a plantation quarters complex. Thus, the buildings still convey their historic identity and hence retain their National Register eligibility.

**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. (one building)
- 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)

agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1870 - 1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** @ 13 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	665600	33749810
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	15	6659410	33748610
Zone	Easting	Northing	

3	15	6658610	33746810
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	15	6655010	33748010
Zone	Easting	Northing	

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**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 August 1996

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 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 multiple - main contact: Charles B. Kahao

street & number 1368 Belvedere Street telephone 504-924-8032 (home)  
504-928-0383 (office)

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70808

**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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Allendale Plantation Historic District is of state significance in the area of agriculture as a rare and distinctive example of an archetype closely associated with the postbellum sugar plantation system in southern Louisiana. The period of significance spans from c.1870, the date of the earliest buildings, to 1946, the fifty year cutoff. Allendale remains a working sugar plantation, and agricultural workers lived in and used the buildings in question past the fifty year cutoff.

Beginning in the early nineteenth century and continuing into the mid-twentieth century, sugar and cotton were the two major plantation crops grown in Louisiana, with sugar dominating the southern part of the state. Each has its own distinctive history. Prior to the Civil War, of course, both were dependent upon slave labor. With emancipation, both plantation systems underwent a fundamental shift. By and large, cotton plantations shifted to a system of sharecropping in which a landless tenant farmer would work a portion of the planter's land for a share of the crop. By contrast, sugar plantations shifted to paid labor, which was more centralized and controlled than sharecropping. Each plantation developed with rows of quarters houses, a church, an office, a store and a sugar mill with various support structures. In many ways they resembled antebellum complexes but there were important differences. New buildings were added to the mix (churches and stores), and the quarters themselves were larger and generally occupied by one family rather than two.

The plantation complex exemplified by Allendale remained a "signature" of the south Louisiana sugarcane landscape into the mid-twentieth century. Historically there were hundreds of comparable examples across the region with literally thousands of cabins in their distinctive row configuration. During the past fifty years the characteristic "cabinscape" has all but disappeared in the sugar growing parishes. Today there are only six major postbellum sugar plantation complexes remaining in south Louisiana, one of which is in imminent danger of demolition by neglect. (The term "major" is being used to distinguish between good size complexes and sugar plantations that may retain three or four buildings. Also included are a few instances of cabins that are so overgrown and deteriorating that they are almost archaeological sites.)

Historical Note:

Allendale takes its name from Henry Watkins Allen, who with William Nolan purchased what was then Westover plantation in 1852. Nolan and Allen remained partners until 1855, when they divided the property. Nolan continued to call his portion Westover and Allen's came to be known as Allendale. In 1864 Allen was elected governor of the state. After the war and Allen's

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

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

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death in Mexico, there were several owners of Allendale. In 1882 it was purchased by John and Martin James Kahao, natives of Kansas. The two brothers subsequently bought several other tracts of land and added them to the plantation. Allendale remains a working sugar plantation owned and operated by the Kahaos. The church and office are still in use, and a few of the cabins are occupied. The "big house" and the sugar mill with its support buildings are long gone.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Historical sketch on Allendale Plantation prepared by Mary Jane Kahao, based upon primary source research and family recollections. Typescript copy in National Register file.

Interview with Kenneth Kahao. Mr. Kahao provided information regarding the 1930s and '40s moves.

Division of Historic Preservation staff knowledge of extant sugar plantation complexes in the state.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Allendale Plantation Historic District, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

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**Boundary Description:** Please refer to attached sketch map.

**Boundary Justification:** Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource at Allendale -- the grouping of historic buildings described and assessed elsewhere in this nomination.