

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Item number

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ADDENDUM TO ROSALE NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING (West Feliciana Parish, LA)

Description:

This addendum enlarges the boundaries of the Rosale National Register listing in order to encompass three frame dependency cabins (see map) that remain on the plantation from the late-nineteenth century. All three cabins are somewhat deteriorated, but in our opinion, this has not imperiled their National Register eligibility.

The three clapboard cabins are of similar design. Each is raised about two feet above the ground and each has a pitched roof. Moreover, each is essentially one-and-a-half rooms deep with an open gallery in front.

Dependencies numbers 1 & 2 (see map and photos) are each one room wide with a side chimney, while #3 is two rooms wide with a central chimney. As originally built, #3 resembled the other dependencies, but about twenty years after it was constructed, a second room was added on the chimney side. Thus it evolved into what is termed a "saddle-bag" house by cultural geographers.

None of the dependencies has an interior hall. The detailing is simple in all three, with exposed stud walls and exposed beam ceilings. Window shutters and doors are of the simple board and batten type. All cabins feature variable width floorboards.

Few noteworthy changes have occurred in the cabins since construction. As previously mentioned, #3 was enlarged relatively shortly after it was built. In addition, #2 received side and rear lean-to board and batten additions in about 1900. These should be regarded as historic changes which are important in their own right. They record the growth of these structures during the heyday of their use--i.e., the early-twentieth century. All three have suffered some rotting of the siding, sashes, and shutters, and #1 has lost its porch columns. In addition, #3 has been covered in removable imitation brick asphalt siding.

However, despite the changes and the deterioration, these buildings are still easily recognizable as plantation cabins. Moreover, they represent a vanishing building type in the area (see Item 8). The fact that they have survived at all is remarkable. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, dependencies of this type are sufficiently rare that even seriously deteriorated examples would still be significant. Finally, the purpose of this application is to avail the Rosale dependencies of the National Register tax benefits contained in the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 so that they may be restored.

Part of this restoration may include the removal of dependency #2 to an alternative site. In its present location it is adjacent to an eroding gully which in time will cause destruction of the foundation. A 1940 aerial photograph reveals that at one time there were several more dependencies along the cabin road. If cabin #2 is moved, it will be to the site of one of the former cabins, thus helping to preserve its identity as a quarters type house association with Rosale Plantation.

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Rosale Addendum (continued)

Significance:

The addended area gives Rosale local significance in the area of agriculture as a rare surviving visual reminder of the sharecropping system within the context of West Feliciana Parish.

The surviving rural landscape at Rosale, with its three cabins, is an important reminder of a pervasive agrarian way of life in late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century Louisiana. It exemplifies the sharecropping system of land tenure, which replaced slavery as the dominant agricultural labor system in the cotton parishes after the Civil War. Cabins such as the ones at Rosale housed the sharecropper families, and for many they have come to symbolize the sharecropping system itself. In the late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century they were the most common manmade feature of the rural landscape, vastly outnumbering the "big" houses where the plantation owners lived.

It is impossible to accurately estimate the number of sharecropper cabins which existed in West Feliciana Parish at the end of the nineteenth century. A 1921 property ownership map shows seventy-six named plantations in the parish. If one uses the normal estimate of one cabin per twenty acres of cultivated land as a guide, it becomes obvious that at one time there must have been many hundreds of examples. However, cabins of this type have almost completely disappeared in West Feliciana. Today Rosale is one of four plantations in the parish which retain some cabins. Its three cabins are among only thirty which survive in the parish. (Of these thirty, some are antebellum slave cabins which survived into the sharecropper period. They were not built as sharecropper cabins.)

Bibliography:

Dart, Elisabeth. Personal communication concerning the number of cabins remaining in West Feliciana Parish. Ms. Dart is a local historian and preservationist.

Kilbourne, James H. 1921 Property Ownership Map, West Feliciana Parish. In possession of Elisabeth Dart, St. Francisville, LA.

Newton, Milton B., Jr. Assessment of Rosale Cabins. Copy in National Register File, LA State Historic Preservation Office. Professor Newton is Chairman of the Department of Anthropology and Geography at LSU-Baton Rouge. His speciality is cultural geography, particularly vernacular architecture.

Item 10: Boundary Justification: The new boundaries enlarge the nominated area from approximately 20 acres to 59 acres. The new boundaries were drawn to encompass the previously described dependencies. For a precise delineation, see attached scaled map.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Rosale Plantation (Boundary increase)
State Louisiana

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1.

for Keeper Patrick Andrews 6/16/83

Attest

2.

Keeper

Attest

3.

Keeper

Attest

4.

Keeper

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

SECTION LINE

ROSALE
DEPENDENCIES
NUMBERED IN RED

PHOTOS
NUMBERED IN BLACK

SCALE
1" = 400'

