

THEME: Architecture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Parlange Plantation House

AND/OR COMMON

Parlange Plantation House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Junction of La Route 1 and 78

CITY, TOWN

Mix

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Pointe Coupee

CODE

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Parlange Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

junction of La Route 1 and 78

CITY, TOWN

New Roads

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE Point Coupee Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN

New Roads

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Parlange exemplifies the style of the semitropic Louisiana river country house. The river front, with its two flanking pigeonniers is probably the most unchanged and interesting of its type remaining today.

The original house remains nearly intact except for a few changes, including the front steps leading outward from the main gallery floor. The present steps were evidently added at a later date, probably around 1860, because the true Louisiana colonial house invariably had the stairs housed entirely within the cover of its gallery to afford easy exterior circulation. Sometime prior to 1860 the hipped roof was extended to the rear. The present gallery was then added as before and it is believed that the stairway rose from inside the original rear gallery rather than the front, as it does today.

The raised basement is of brick, manufactured by slaves on the plantation, while the upper story walls are of cypress, hewn on the plantation. These walls, both inside and out, were plastered with a native mixture of mud, sand, Spanish moss and animal hair, then painted. A gallery or veranda with a typical light balustrade extends around all four sides at the second level. It is supported by brick columns, formed by wedged shaped bricks, stuccoed over, with unfinished square capitals and bases. The upper level is ringed by shuttered doors which provide cross ventilation in all directions. The floors on the ground level are paved with brick, the main gallery with cypress boards. From the gallery floor to the high, hipped, dormered roof are slender, turned cypress colonnettes.

The roof is covered with cypress shakes which have weathered to a silver-gray. Two chimneys extend high above it at either end, topped with a simple brick cap.

The ground story contains seven service rooms, including laundry, cool room, wine cellar and storage rooms for provisions. The second floor also contains seven rooms, arranged in a double line. The ceiling of the lower floor shows sturdy hand-hewn beams. The walls and ceiling throughout the house are constructed of close fitting cypress planks as at Homeplace and other area houses. The baseboards, wainscoting, cornices, doors, windows, and trim were all made of the same material. The natural resistance of cypress to rotting and water made it an invaluable building material in the humid swamp area. Even the chandelier medallion on the ceiling is of carved wood in the plume pattern of the Empire period. A hand carved mantel in the main parlor has double Ionic columns supporting an arch on which the shelf rests. Like other fireplaces in the region, those at Parlange are

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1750

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parlange Plantation House, erected about 1750, is the finest and least altered example of a large French colonial plantation house in the United States. It is a classic example of a two-story raised-cottage type of house as it developed in the lower Mississippi Valley. The main floor is set on a brick basement with brick pillars to support the gallery or veranda of the second story. A steeply pitched, dormered hipped roof creates the sheltering gallery. The house retains its tree shrouded setting within an active plantation. Facing on False River, once part of the ever changing Mississippi River, the house and its moss-draped trees, with horses and cattle straying around the grounds, maintains a serenity which lifts it from this century, linking it to another age.

HISTORY

Parlange was built by Vincent de Ternant, Marquis of Dansville-sur-Meuse, around 1750, on a French land grant which he developed into an Indigo Plantation. De Ternant died in 1757 and his son Claude inherited the property, changing the crop from indigo to sugar cane and cotton. Claude's first wife died after eight years of marriage and he remarried Virginie Trahan, a much younger woman. The house was furnished in great elegance from purchases made on many trips to France. Claude died before Virginie had grown far out of her teens. She remarried another Frenchman, Colonel Charles Parlange, from whom the plantation took its name. They had one son, also Charles, who survived the Civil War to begin a distinguished career that led consecutively to positions as a state senator, United States district attorney, lieutenant governor, Federal judge, and finally justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

When Virginie died, Charles and his wife moved to New Orleans and Parlange was vacant for the first time in more than a century. During the next twenty years the house was occupied by tenants until Charles' son Walter left New Orleans to return to his ancestral home and the life of a plantation farmer. His son continues the tradition today. Once 10,000 acres, Parlange extends back from False River in a fan shaped wedge, encompassing 1,767 acres of pasture and woodland.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 30

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 645040 3389640
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 15 644930 3389210

B 15 645180 3389290
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 15 644770 3389540

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project;
original form prepared by Charles W. Snell, 1968

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

6/9/75

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

Landmark

Designated: 5/19/70

date

Boundary Certified: 4-27-76

Chief. Hist. &

Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed:

Director, OAHF

date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

DATE

DATE

DATE

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deep and project far into the room. The proportions are attenuated as the overmantel stretches the height of the high ceilings, while the mantel-pieces themselves are boxed and paneled on the sides. In the dining room, the rounded columns support a fluted frieze. Interior second story doors are tall, narrow and paneled. Here the transoms have been closed and papered, unlike Homeplace where they are still used. The present wall-paper was placed on the walls before 1860, replacing the original French block paper. The house is still furnished with original pieces which date from the time of its construction and continue through the pre-war period, including rugs, furnishings, tapestries and paintings of seven generations of the Parlange family.

The house was once surrounded by a formal garden tended by French gardeners brought over for that purpose. It was into this setting that the two brick, octagonal pigeonniers were set. The two structures remain although the gardens were destroyed during the Civil War. Century old oaks still line the drive with younger cedars dripping with Spanish moss. A new kitchen was recently built to the rear of the house, which although not original, still maintains the separateness of function and blends well stylistically with the house.

Parlange remains very little altered and has never been restored. The plantation of 1,767 acres stretches for three miles back from False River in a fan-shaped wedge of pasture and woodland. On the land, the Parlanges still raise a Creole breed of cattle, sugar cane and cotton. About ten tenant farmers live on the land and work under contract with Parlange.

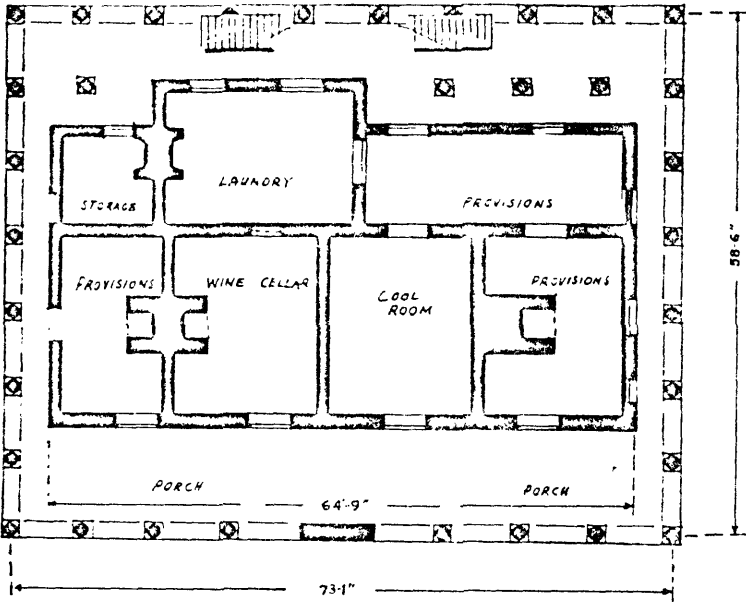
Five years ago the family added a small rear wing. This unobtrusive two-story addition is connected to the main house by means of a breezeway. Although it is styled to resemble the house, the wing cannot be mistaken for original fabric. It is set to the rear south corner of the house and is not visible from the main approach.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

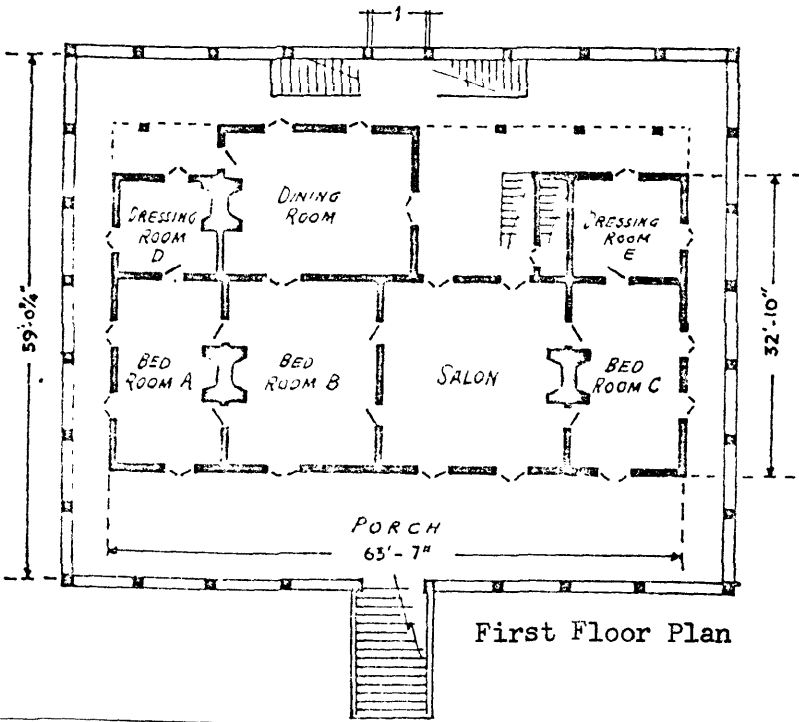
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PARLANGE: Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

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Parlange Plantation House sits back from Route 1, sheltered from surrounding tenant houses by broad lawns and large moss covered trees. Route 78 bisects the entire plantation almost exactly in half and tenant houses cluster along both Route 1 and down Route 78 on the plantation property. Because of these houses, the bisecting road, and the great acreage involved, the majority of which is located to the rear of the house, the landmark boundary falls around the house and immediate grounds. Beginning at the southeast corner at the intersection of Routes 1 and 78 the landmark boundary proceeds southwest along the north edge of the right of way of Route 78 to the fence line as marked on the USGS Map, then northwest along the fence line to the end of the wooded area as indicated on the USGS Map, then following this wooded area line in a northeasterly direction to Route 1, then southeast along the west edge of the right of way of Route 1 to the point of beginning. The USGS Map referred to is 7.5' Series, New Roads Quadrangle dated 1962. The house and Pigeonniers are the designated landmark buildings. Other structures in the area are farm buildings and do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.