

THE RAISED CREOLE PLANTATION HOUSE

STANDARDS: The material in this unit may be used to address the following Social Studies Standards:

G-1C-E4
G-1D-E1

H-1A-E3
H-1D-M6

H-1A-M4
H-1B-H1

DEFINITION/PURPOSE: Served as the big house on very prosperous rural Creole plantations

LOCATION: Southeast and south-central Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish

TYPES: Main living spaced (called *premier etage*) raised 6 to 8 feet on brick piers; area below living space open. (Attic present but not used)



Two (or almost two) stories high; area beneath main living space (called *premier etage*) enclosed and used for storage -- called raised (above ground) basement. (Attic present but not used.)



FLOOR PLAN:

Gallery: Full front gallery, usually on both levels, or



Gallery completely encircling house, usually on both levels



Exterior staircase rises to main floor



Hallways: Early examples have no hallways
Central halls added after Americans arrive

Rooms: Front at least two rooms wide room share common central chimney
Width of more than two rooms possible
May have rear range three or more rooms wide
Cabinet/loggia range in place of rear gallery



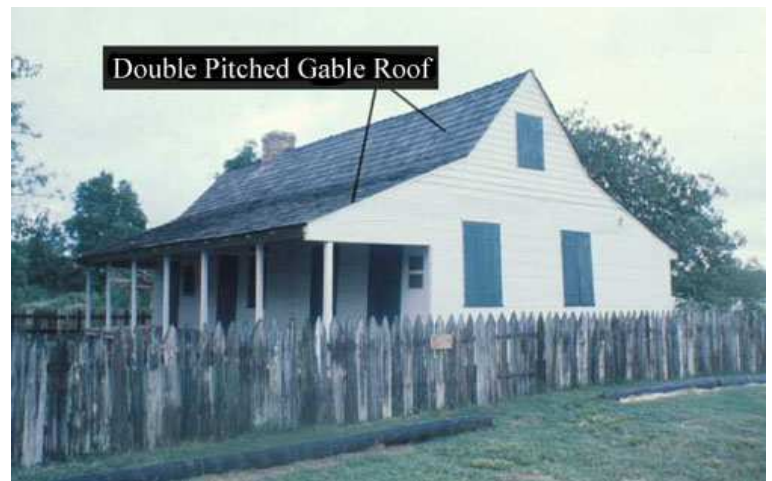
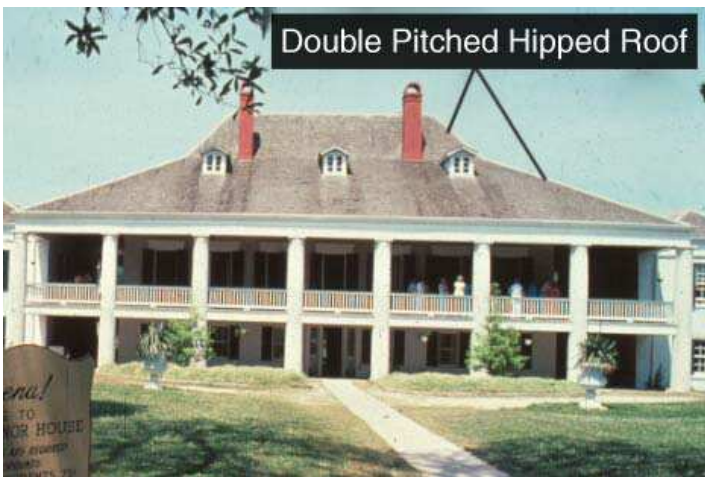
ROOF TYPES: Hipped



Gable

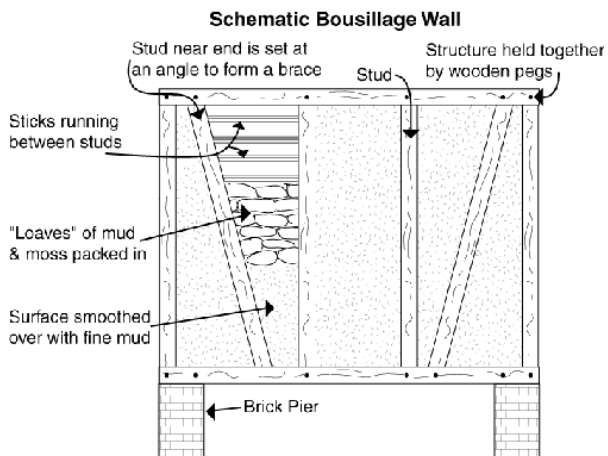


Double pitched



WALLS:

Bousillage - A mixture of Spanish moss, mud and sometimes animal hair which was placed between wooden timbers to create the walls of Creole houses.



brique entre poteaux (brick between posts)



sometimes both used

DOORS:

French doors



DECORATIVE FEATURES:

Exposed beam ceiling on gallery and/or interior
Chamfered gallery columns sometimes present
Wraparound fireplace mantel



ORIGIN: Origins may be traced to Canada, the West Indies, Italy and medieval France

EXAMPLES: Parlange, Pointe Coupee Parish
Stephanie, St. Martin Parish
John Lewis House, St. Landry Parish
Glendale, St. John the Baptist Parish
Labatut, Point Coupee Parish
Destrehan, St. Charles Parish
Ormond, St. Charles Parish
Homeplace. St. Charles Parish
Darby, St. Mary Parish