

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Plaquemine Historic District encompasses approximately 21 blocks of Railroad Avenue, Main, Eden, Church, Plaquemine, and Court Streets. Contributing elements range in date from c.1840 to c.1938 and embrace styles running the gamut from Greek Revival to Modernistic. Most are historic brick commercial buildings and residences of either brick or frame construction. There are only 36 intrusions, or 28% of the total number of buildings. This rate is well within the normal range for Register districts in Louisiana.

Incorporated in 1838, the town of Plaquemine is the only community of any size within Iberville Parish. It originally developed as an interior port and a commercial center due to its location on the Mississippi River at the mouth of Bayou Plaquemine. Because the bayou in turn linked with other waterways, a lively steamboat trade centering upon Plaquemine penetrated well into the interior and made the community a bustling commercial hub. This trade was partially disrupted in 1866 when severe flooding problems required that a dam be built to separate Bayou Plaquemine from the Mississippi. Although local civic leaders turned to the railroad to restore their commercial ties, they continued to campaign for waterway improvements until the federal government opened the Plaquemine Lock in 1909. However, the re-linking of Bayou Plaquemine and the Mississippi River played only a temporary role in the community's growth. By 1909 railroads had gained the ascendancy and steamboat traffic throughout the Mississippi Valley was on the decline. As a result, the community's focus shifted inland from the river and bayou to Plaquemine's new railroad corridor. This shift was given additional impetus by the numerous "cave-ins" which occurred along the Mississippi's west bank during the late nineteenth century. Because Plaquemine is situated on a sharp curve of the river, its land has tended to erode away, precipitously plunging streets, businesses, and residences into the river. A major cave-in occurred in 1888, but there were many others.

Because of these cave-ins and the normal processes of deterioration and neglect, most of the original town of Plaquemine is gone. The historic district includes 1) the few Greek Revival structures which have survived the ravages of the river and time, 2) the later commercial area which developed along portions of Railroad Avenue, Main and Eden Streets between the 1880s and the 1930s, and 3) the residential neighborhoods which grew between the railroad and the river as well as along the west end of Main Street.

Although the Plaquemine Lock (National Register) is the only structure which remains to directly reflect the importance of river traffic in the development of the town, the influence of the railroad is clearly visible within the historic district. Tracks divide the east and west segments of Railroad Avenue. The community's depot stands at a place of honor at the head of Railroad at its intersection with Main, while the Beaux Arts courthouse (the third to serve the parish) anchors Railroad at its opposite end. The buildings between the two, as well as those within the 300 and 400 blocks of Main and the 200 block of Eden, are one and two story brick structures in a variety of styles. Several display fine Italianate or Renaissance Revival detailing. One has a cast-iron shopfront, another displays a pressed metal cornice, one contains a stylish Neo-classical loggia and arcade, two reflect the influence of 1930s Modernistic styling, and two are in the eighteenth century French Neoclassical style. Some of these buildings have party walls, while others stand independently. Several of the commercial structures feature their original metal awnings.

The majority of buildings in the district's two residential neighborhoods are one story in scale and represent a variety of late nineteenth and early twentieth century styles. The post-1880 houses range from shotguns to simple galleried Italianate cottages to small Queen Anne dwellings to 1920s bungalows. Highlights among these residences include a large two-story Queen Anne style house with elaborate Eastlake trim, two fine Colonial Revival dwellings, a finely crafted Italianate cottage, and two Craftsman style residences. It is also within these residential areas that the community's pre-1880 Greek Revival structures are to be found. These include several small cottages, a large two story dwelling, St. Basil's Academy (National Register), and the 1848 City Hall (National Register). Also located within the Main Street area of the historic residential district is the above-ground St. John Cemetery. Its oldest tomb dates to 1850. (See boundary justification for more information on cemetery.)

### Contributing Elements

The district is significant as an outstanding historic commercial and residential sector, with contributing elements ranging from c. 1840 to c.1938. While some of the buildings obviously make a

greater contribution to the significance than others, any 50+ year old building that has not been badly altered should be considered a contributing element.

### Intrusions

Although the Plaquemine Historic District's 28% intrusion rate is well within the norm for Louisiana Register districts, the area does contain a gap located within the mid-section of Railroad Avenue. However, despite the loss or alteration of a great many of the buildings which front this street, the space forms an important link in the Plaquemine Historic District. The distinctive streetscape is characterized by a wide boulevard with a rail line down the center. This arrangement survives complete with a historic railroad depot. In addition, the one story parapeted streetscape character survives. In our opinion, this railroad space vigorously conveys the importance of the railroad in developing the new (post-1880) town of Plaquemine. Indeed, the community's fine late Italianate, Queen Anne Revival, and twentieth century eclectic buildings owe their existence to the coming of the railroad. The importance of the railroad as the new town hub is further underscored by the fact that the new (1906) courthouse was built next to it. Thus, the relative paucity of historic buildings in the present Railroad Avenue corridor should not be seen as a reason to terminate the district. Although it represents something of a break in-visual character, it is a great historical link between the collections of historical buildings on both sides. Moreover, there are many precedents for National Register districts whose continuous visual character pauses and then picks up again.

### Assessment of Integrity

Alterations of contributing elements run the gamut from the installation of awnings to replaced shopfronts to the removal of a few porch columns. There are also some more severe changes such as the loss of the 1906 courthouse cupola. In addition, several of the residences have undergone siding replacement. However, each contributing element still retains a strong architectural character and identity. When the district was surveyed, each element had to clearly convey its period or style in order to be listed as contributing.

Breakdown by Period

c. 1840-1850	5	4%
c. 1870-1879	3	2%
c. 1880-1899	27	21%
c. 1900-1919	23	18%
c. 1920-1929	27	21%
c. 1930-1938	8	6%
Non-contributing	36	28%

### PLAQUEMINE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

1. 824 Main Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story frame single shotgun with bungalow trim.
2. 822 Main Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One Story frame house with folk bungalow plan (2 rooms wide and 2 or 3 rooms deep). Columns replaced. Bungalow style rafter ends and brackets.
3. 826 Main Street. c.1910. Contributing element. Frame single shotgun with gables front roof.
4. 818 Main Street. c.1910. Contributing element. Frame single shotgun with gables front roof.
5. 816 Main Street. c.1910. Contributing element. Frame single shotgun with gables front roof.
6. 814 Main Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Two story brick duplex.

7. Main Street. c.1850. St. John's Cemetery. Contributing element. Above ground cemetery with the oldest tomb dating to c.1850 and approximately one fifth of the tombs dating prior to 1900. A large Italian Society tomb (c.1918) and two large family tombs (c.1911 and c.1920) are especially noteworthy. (St. John's Cemetery is placed in the c.1880-1899 category on the accompanying district map because most of the architecturally significant above ground tombs date from this period.)
8. 808 Main Street. c.1885. Contributing element. One story frame three bay Italianate/Greek Revival cottage with chamfered posts.
9. 806 Main Street. c.1885. Contributing element. One story frame Italianate/Greek Revival cottage with reproduction Italianate/Queen Anne bay added on porch.
10. 804-802 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame shotgun with severe alterations.
11. 800 Main Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame five bay Italianate cottage with c.1900 Queen Anne style bay covering the two right bays of the porch.
12. 718 Main Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story frame Arts and Crafts style cottage with large tripped roof, fairly massive dormers, and decorative rafter ends.
13. 719 Main Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame four bay Italianate cottage. Original columns shortened and supported by bungalow piers.
14. 716 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame cottage with bungalow style columns.
15. 715 Main Street. c.1840. Contributing element. One story frame five-bay Greek Revival cottage.
16. 714 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame bungalow with serious alterations.
17. 717 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. One story frame side hall shotgun with drop siding, gabled roof, and scrollsawn trim on entablature.
18. 711 Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. One story brick ranch style house.
19. 709 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame bungalow with serious alterations.
20. 712 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame shotgun with serious alterations.
21. 705 Main Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame four bay cottage with three bay porch in bungalow style.
22. 710 Main Street. Non-contributing element. Two story asbestos sided duplex with brick veneer front on first story.
23. 703 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. One story frame four bay galleried cottage.
24. 706 Main Street. c.1930. Contributing element. One and one-half story brick house with porte-cochere and elliptical brick arches on porch.
25. 701 Main Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame five bay late Greek Revival cottage with molded capitals and French doors.
26. 700 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame bungalow with serious alterations.
27. 619 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. One story frame Eastlake cottage.

28. 604 Main Street. Non-contributing element. One story brick cottage with serious alterations.
29. 617 Main Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame Greek Revival/Italianate cottage with simple ornamentation.
30. 602 Main Street. c.1905. Contributing element. One and one half story raised frame Colonial Revival house with rounded gallery. Both the dormer gables and the area beneath the eaves display denticular cornices. Stair curves outward at street level.
31. 615 Main Street. c.1890. Contributing element. One story frame Greek Revival/Italianate cottage with rounded transoms above twin front doors.
32. 600 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. Large one story frame Queen Anne style cottage with polygonal bays, polygonal dormers, and Eastlake porch columns.
33. 613 Main Street. c.1885. Contributing element. One story frame Italianate cottage with dormer ornamented by segmental arch window and lozenge. Large bungalow-like side wing. Porch columns shortened and supported by bungalow piers.
34. 611 Main Street. c.1926. Contributing element. One story metal sided repair shop with heavy timbered roof and double windows.
35. 609 Main Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story brick false front commercial building with original gallery and shopfront intact. Plain detailing.
36. 521 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. Two story brick commercial building with segmental arch windows and original fixed awning. Shopfront replaced.
37. 519 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame bungalow with four bay porch and two front doors.
38. 512 Main Street. c.1890. Contributing element. One story frame Eastlake cottage with elaborate ornamentation on its five bay gallery.
39. 517 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame bungalow with bungalow style details.
40. 510 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. Large one story frame cottage with hexagonal porch columns and arcaded five bay porch.
41. 513 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame bungalow with bungalow style details.
42. 511 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame bungalow with bungalow style details.
43. 509 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story frame cottage with bungalow details, heavy porch posts, and Colonial Revival arches between posts.
44. 508 Main Street. c.1930. Contributing element. One story buff brick commercial building with plain entablature.
45. 202 Railroad Avenue. c.1926. Contributing element. One story brick false front commercial building with multi-layer brick cornice.
46. Main Street. c.1955. Non-contributing element. Modern brick and metal commercial building.
47. Main Street. Railroad Depot. c.1920. Contributing element. One story rectangular brick depot with original freight attachment and breezeway, rough tapestry brick, and metal awnings with opalescent glass jabots.
48. 433 Main Street. 1960. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building.

49. Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story brick false front commercial building with cornice and the suggestion of pilasters at each end.
50. Main Street. c.1965. Non-contributing element. One story brick and metal modern bank building.
51. 429 Main Street. c.1900. Contributing element. Two story brick, stuccoed, and scored Italianate commercial building with segmental arched windows with keystone and corbelled table.
52. 423 Main Street. c.1925. Contributing element. Two story brick Neo classical commercial building with full entablature and parapet. The first story features large plate glass windows between scored stuccoed pilasters. The second story features an open arcade with pilasters between the arches. Decorative lion's heads attach awning support wires to structure.
53. 417 Main Street. c.1920. Contributing element. Two story brick commercial building with original fixed unaltered awnings, awning support wires attached to building by lion's heads, black and red patterned brick, and pediment shaped parapet.
54. Eden Street. 1970. Non-contributing element. One story modern bank.
55. Main Street. St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. 1926. Emile Weil, Architect. Contributing element. Brick church featuring an Italian Romanesque front, large oculus, and monumental side tower. There is also an Italian Renaissance style loggia. The interior resembles an Early Christian basilica, complete with open truss ceiling.
56. Main Street. St. John School. c.1915. Contributing element. Three story brick Italian Renaissance style school with two story pedimented entrance, prominent quoins and bracketed eaves. Roof raised to add third floor.
57. 209 Main Street. Old Iberville Parish Courthouse, Old Plaquemine City Hall. c.1848. Contributing element. One story stuccoed brick Greek Revival five bay structure with handsome Doric portico. (N.R.)
58. Main Street. Plaquemine Lock Building. 1909. Contributing element. Two story glazed brick building with large arched windows, distinctive stepped gables, and cast-iron gallery. (N.R.)
59. Main Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. One story brick and frame Youth Center.
60. Church Street. c.1950. Non-contributing element. One story brick fire station.
61. 211 Church Street. c.1925. Contributing element. Frame camelback house with bungalow details and Colonial Revival door.
62. 213 Church Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story frame shotgun with bungalow details. Columns altered.
63. 215 Church Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. One story brick ranch style house
64. 220 Plaquemine Street. c.1920. Contributing element. Frame shotgun with bungalow details.
65. 218 Plaquemine Street. c.1890. Contributing element. Frame camelback with late Italianate columns.
66. 207 Plaquemine Street. c.1880. Contributing element. One story frame Greek Revival cottage with two sets of French doors. Porch floor removed. Columns supported on brick bases.

67. 300 Plaquemine Street. c.1880. Contributing element. Two story frame rectory with Italianate single bay porch, Italianate side bay, and Italianate doors. Other detailing extremely plain. Aluminum siding.
68. 301 Plaquemine Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story brick gas station with tripped roof, overhanging eaves with rafter ends, and massive bungalow piers.
69. 311 Church Street. St. Basil's Academy. c.1850. Contributing element. Two and a half story brick and frame Greek Revival structure with unusually wide Doric posts, pairs of pedimented dormers on the front and rear, and a two story front gallery featuring French doors on the second level. (N.R.)
70. 310 Church Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story frame bungalow with side and front Queen Anne-like bays.
71. 312 Church Street. c.1875. Contributing element. One and one half story frame Italianate raised cottage with handsome entablature, encircling gallery and side additions.
72. 207 Court Street. c.1895. Contributing element. Two and one half story frame Queen Anne style house with elaborate Eastlake trim, encircling two story gallery, fishscale shingles, corbelled chimney caps, metal roof cresting, and lunette-like dormers in roof.
73. 400 Church Street. c.1910. Contributing element. Plain two story frame structure with some Queen Anne influence. Although its siding and porch railings have been altered, the house still displays fishscale shingles in its front gable and an oriel window on its side.
74. 402 Church Street. c.1885. Contributing element. One story frame five bay Greek Revival cottage with Italianate doors.
75. 406 Church Street. c.1925. Contributing element. Large one and one half story frame cottage with very large frontal shed dormer.
76. 410 Church Street. c.1905. Contributing element. One and one half story frame Colonial Revival residence with three pedimented dormers.
77. 412 Church Street. Non-contributing element. One story frame Queen Anne cottage with serious alterations.
78. 418 Church Street. c.1915. Contributing element. Two story frame Craftsman style residence with tapered porch columns upon piers and overhanging bracketed eaves.
79. 422 Church Street. c.1905. Contributing element. Large two story frame Colonial Revival galleried residence. Significant features include its prominent front and side dormers, pronounced modillion cornice, projecting turret without top, and prominent entrance marked by two story pillars inscribing a single story decorated entrance arch with a bulging balcony above.
80. 302 Court Street. c.1900. Contributing element. One story frame single shotgun with Italianate scroll sawn ornamentation and columns.
81. 314 Court Street. c.1910. Contributing element. One story frame double shotgun with unusual ogee-arch-like treatment beneath porch eaves.
82. Plaquemine Street. c.1950. Non-contributing element. One story frame modern residence.
83. 309 Plaquemine Street. Non-contributing element. One story cottage with severe alterations.
84. Plaquemine Street. Non-contributing element. Original one story frame Colonial Revival cottage with a speckled brick and frame floor added underneath.
85. Plaquemine Street, corner Eden Street. c.1850. Contributing element. Two story stuccoed brick Greek Revival house with Creole influence in its second level French doors and

central chimney. Handsome transoms and sidelights surround second level doors. Large rear clapboard addition.

86. Plaquemine Street. Non-contributing element. Two story brick commercial building with alterations which destroy historic integrity.
87. 225 Eden Street. c.1920. Contributing element. One story stuccoed brick commercial building with elaborate cornice.
88. 238 Eden Street. c.1890. Contributing element. Corner section of a three part two story brick party wall commercial structure. Notable features include its molded and paneled brick parapet, stone quoins separating the three segments of the building, stone lintels along second floor windows, the corner entrance, and the original shopfront.
89. 236 Eden Street. c.1890. Contributing element. Middle section of two story brick party wall commercial building described under 93. Identical except for design of shopfront and entrance.
90. 234 Eden Street. c.1890. Contributing element. Third section of two story brick party wall commercial structure described under 93 and 94. Shopfront replaced, canvas awning added and exterior brick painted over. The building retains a very strong historic character despite the shopfront level modifications.
91. 223 Eden Street. c.1890. Contributing element. One story frame Italianate cottage with recently added "gingerbread" porch balustrade.
92. 226 Eden Street. c.1890. Contributing element. Two story brick Italianate commercial building with round arch windows on the second story, segmentally arched windows on the first story and a grand round arched entrance.
93. Eden Street. c.1885. Contributing element. One story frame Italianate cottage with handsome entrance, bracketed eaves and curved capitals resembling spandrels.
94. 212 Eden Street. c.1935. Contributing element. Two story brick French Neo-classical school district headquarters building.
95. 216 Eden Street. c.1938. Contributing element. Low key one story brick commercial structure with eighteenth century French neo-classical styling.
96. 208 and 210 Eden Street. c.1889. Contributing element. Brusle Building. Elaborate two story brick Italianate commercial building with boldly articulated hood molded windows, paneled pilasters ornamented with patera, a rich console cornice and a pediment crowned tablet.
97. 213 Railroad Avenue. c.1930. Contributing element. One story brick Modernistic commercial building with banded corner pilasters, glass block ribbon windows, curving walls lining the entrance, and a parapet with small arched projection at the center.
98. 241 Railroad Avenue. c.1955. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building with glass shopfront.
99. 429 Plaquemine Street. c.1948. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building with large glass shopfront and replaced metal awning.
100. 416 Plaquemine Street. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building.
101. 406 Plaquemine Street. Non-contributing element. One story brick and metal commercial building.
102. Eden Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one story brick commercial structure.
103. Eden Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one story brick commercial structure.

104. Plaquemine Street. c.1930. Contributing element. One story stucco over concrete block commercial building with unusual sculpted parapet.
105. Plaquemine Street. c.1930. Contributing element. One story stuccoed brick commercial building. Awning and shopfront changed.
106. 413 Plaquemine Street. c.1895. Contributing element. Two story brick Italianate commercial building with denticular cornice, segmental arch second story windows, and original cast-iron shopfront. Awning missing.
107. 305 Railroad Avenue. Non-contributing element. Badly altered historic two story commercial building.
108. Railroad Avenue. Non-contributing element. Gas station.
109. 406 Court Street. c.1905. Contributing element. One story frame Colonial Revival cottage with handsome pedimented and arched entrance and large side addition.
110. 411 Court Street. c.1895. Contributing element. One story frame Queen Anne cottage with Eastlake spandrels in gable peak, two projecting cutaway bays with brackets. Porch has turret-like projection.
111. Railroad Avenue. 1906. Contributing element. Three story brick Beaux Arts courthouse building with rusticated base and projecting portico with coupled columns. The original greatly enlarged cupola has been lost.
112. 600 Court Street. c.1870. Contributing element. One story frame Greek Revival/Italianate cottage with five bay gallery, jib doors and two pedimented dormers.
113. 512 Court Street. c.1900. Contributing element. One story brick Gothic Revival church with belfry displaying miniature towers at each of its four corners.
114. 510 Court Street. c.1875. Contributing element. One story frame Greek Revival cottage with five bay porch, transom and sidelights.
115. 508 Court Street. c.1925. Contributing element. One story brick bungalow with central porch entrance.
116. Court Street. c.1935. Contributing element. Two story brick commercial building with curved concrete awning in streamlined manner.
117. 502 Court Street. c.1850. Contributing element. One story frame five bay Greek Revival cottage with two large pedimented dormers and two front doors.
118. 320 and 324 Railroad Avenue. c.1895. Contributing element. Two story brick Italianate commercial building with hooded windows and unusual ornamental pressed metal parapet. Awning and shopfront replaced.
119. Railroad Avenue. c.1920. Contributing element. Plain one story frame commercial building with gable front.
120. Railroad Avenue. c.1955. Non-contributing element. One story modern brick commercial building.
121. Railroad Avenue. c.1960. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building.
122. Railroad Avenue. Non-contributing element. Historic one story commercial building with serious alterations.
123. Railroad Avenue. Non-contributing element. Historic one story frame commercial building with severe alterations.
124. Railroad Avenue. c.1960. Non-contributing element. One story brick commercial building.



125. Railroad Avenue. Non-contributing element. Historic one-story commercial building with severe alterations.
126. Railroad Avenue. Hirsch Building. c.1925. Contributing element. Two story brick commercial building with patterned brick facade, transom over shopfront and original awning.
127. Railroad Avenue. c.1955. Non-contributing element. One story modern brick commercial building.
128. 210 Railroad Avenue. c.1895. Contributing element. One story stuccoed brick commercial building with transom over shopfront and tall false front parapet.
129. Railroad Avenue. c.1905. Contributing element. One story brick commercial building.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Plaquemine Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is easily the finest historic commercial and residential district in Iberville Parish. It achieves this distinction chiefly because of the range of styles represented and the quality of certain buildings.

The Iberville Parish survey has identified some 854 fifty year or older structures, the vast majority of which date from the early twentieth century. A significant number of these are in the parish's thirteen villages and towns. Iberville is an old parish, having been founded in 1805. However, little of its early patrimony remains, particularly in the towns. In fact, most of the parish's town centers do not contain a cohesive grouping of 50+ year old buildings at all, regardless of quality. It is against this background that the architectural significance of the Plaquemine Historic District emerges. It is the only town center which possesses what the casual observer would note as an overall historic flavor. Indeed, with 129 properties, there is an intrusion rate of only 28 percent.

Beyond this, the area contains a fine collection of buildings which represent relatively early styles for Iberville Parish. For example, compared to the number that must have existed at one time, there are very few Greek Revival buildings remaining in the parish. Nine of these are in the Plaquemine Historic District. If one combines the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate and the fully Italianate styles, the district contains 18 examples. And this is in a parish which contains little of the Italianate taste. Moreover, there are some examples of later styles not usually found in the parish. For example, the district contains two eighteenth century French Neoclassical style buildings, an Italian Renaissance style school, and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, a tour de force in the Italian Romanesque and Early Christian styles.

But this church is only one of a goodly number of superior quality architectural examples in the district. For example, the old City Hall has a four column pedimented portico, which makes it fairly unusual among Louisiana Greek Revival buildings, most of which lack this feature. And in addition to being fairly elaborately styled, three of the district's Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residences have turret shaped gallery projections, a feature which normally distinguishes only the finest examples. Finally, the Brusle Building (#96), with its pediment crowned tablet, rich console cornice, patera enlivened paneled pilasters, and boldly articulated hood molded windows, is certainly the finest commercial Italianate building in the parish.

#### Major Bibliographical References

Iberville Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Inventory of district by National Register staff member, Louisiana SHPO.

Riffel, Judy, ed. Iberville Parish History. Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiana, Baton Rouge, 1985.

### **Plaquemine Historic District (Boundary Increase)**

The purpose of this addendum is to expand the boundaries of Iberville Parish's Plaquemine Historic District to include two historic dependencies -- a carriage house/stable and a blacksmith shop -- associated with one of the district's architectural landmarks. The latter is a large c. 1895 Queen Anne Revival/Eastlake residence located at what is now 57725 Court Street (identified as #72, 207 Court Street in the original inventory). (See original nomination on file with the National Park Service for a photo of #72.) The district, whose nomination form was prepared by the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation's National Register staff, was listed on October 30, 1989. The original nomination did not include dependencies in the resource count, as is typical and as permitted in National Register guidelines. The boundary is being expanded to include the 57725 Court Street dependencies at this time because the dependencies are important and their owners wish to use the federal tax credit program to assist in their restoration. Division staff members will inventory the district for additional historic dependencies at a later date and submit additional documentation, as warranted, to the National Park Service.

Because nineteenth and early twentieth century town residences such as the Queen Anne Revival house identified in the inventory as number 72 would have been accompanied by one or more dependencies during the historic period, Plaquemine must have once had numerous examples. However, these structures were often not well built and were also subject to demolition or replacement as times changed and they were no longer needed. As a result, the carriage/house stable and blacksmith shop surviving behind the Court Street residence are extremely rare examples of a once common building type.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Plaquemine covering the years 1896, 1900 and 1906 confirm the two dependencies' early dates. In addition, property deeds confirm that the Queen Anne house originally was accompanied by enough land to allow placement of its dependencies at some distance from the residence. Ownership of the house and dependencies was separated when previous owners sold the land where the dependencies were located. Eventually, two houses were constructed on part of the transferred area, facing Court Street, just beyond 72B (see map). The current owners of 57725 Court Street have recently purchased the land upon which the dependencies are located, once again uniting the residence and its dependencies under single ownership. These transfers have resulted in an irregular boundary on the property's north side. This irregularity is reflected in the proposed new district boundary, which follows the property lines.

As presently listed, the Plaquemine Historic District contains a total of 129 resources, of which 93 are contributing and 36 are non-contributing elements. The addition of the two dependencies will raise the contributing element count to 95. To avoid very irregular boundary lines, two non-contributing dependencies to 57725 Court Street will also be included (see map). This will raise the number of non-contributing elements to 38 and the total number of resources to 133. The percentage of non-contributing elements within the district will rise from 28 to 29 percent.

#### Inventory of Added Buildings

- 72A. Carriage House/Stable (contributing element). Unstyled, rectangular, two-story frame building, built between 1900 and 1906, with storage space for carriages and stables for horses on its lower level. The smaller upper story, not quite half the size of the level below, contains living space for servants. An umbrella-like metal roof extends well beyond the first story walls on two sides to provide protection from the elements. The second story roof also exhibits a notable overhang. The carriage

house/stable retains all its original openings, most importantly, those on the ground story.

- 72B. Blacksmith Shop (contributing element). Rectangular, one-story frame building (in place by 1896) with dirt floor. It is sheathed on three sides by vertical planks. The fourth side is open, allowing the thick posts and brackets supporting the structure's metal roof to be easily seen.
- 72C. Garage (non-contributing element). One-story frame structure, composed of vertical board walls and a metal roof, which appears to be less than fifty years old. It is not shown on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1950.
- 72D. Chicken Coop (non-contributing element). Small, square, frame structure with vertical board and lattice walls and metal roof. It does not appear to be fifty years old and also is not shown on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1950.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Property deeds; copies in National Register file.

1896, 1900, 1906 and 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Plaquemine, Louisiana.

Site visit by National Register staff.

#### Part 10: Geographical Information

The boundary increase involves less than an acre; so there is no change to the USGS map or UTMs.

The boundary increase is shown as a solid line on the attached district map.