

## INTRODUCTION

The Historical District of the Barataria Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park encompasses five types of historic resources found within a distinctive environment. Together they constitute a historic cultural landscape representing important historic activities.

The District consists of a portion of the natural levees of Bayous des Familles, Coquilles, Barataria, Villars, Bardeaux, and the shores of Lake Salvador. Together, Bayous des Familles and Barataria once formed a major channel of the Mississippi River (3,300-1,800 B.C.); Bayou Coquille was a minor tributary of this channel. Seasonal flooding built the natural levees. Once the river changed course, levee building to the west enclosed an interlevee basin of fresh water lakes, such as Lake Salvador (Figure 1). Also, with the change in river course began subsidence as the loosely laid levee soils compacted. The western half of Bayou Coquilles, for example, which once emptied into Lake Salvador, sank below the level of the marsh. Flora and fauna within the District varied according to the soil elevation within the distance between the levees and the lake. Hardwood forests dominated by live oak trees covered the drier levees. Cypress swamp grew on the lower and flooded backslopes of the levees. Marshes composed of sedges and grasses formed behind the cypress swamps, and ponds and lakes formed where the marsh vegetation could not form a covering mat. On the shores of the lakes, waves built natural beaches of clam shells. Environmental diversity and fragility characterized the environment of the District, and shaped the human use of the area.

People have altered the natural landscape of the District with five types of historic resources: 1. prehistoric shell piles, 2. colonial roads, ditches, and settlements, 3. nineteenth century sugar plantations, 4. a nineteenth and twentieth century logging canal, and 5. an early twentieth century subdivision and pecan-grove. In addition, use of the area within the last fifty years has left another three types of sites on the landscape: 1. fishing camps, 2. utility and transportation corridors, and 3. park development.

## PREHISTORIC MIDDENS AND MOUNDS

The accompanying Table 1 summarizes the prehistoric archeological resources of the District. Sites are numbered according to the Louisiana State Archaeological Survey, which follows the Smithsonian format. '16' refers to the State of Louisiana, and 'JE' refers to Jefferson Parish. Actual numbers are assigned sequentially by the staff of the Division of Archaeology, Office of Cultural Development. Sites may also have another number designation, in parentheses, which is essentially a field number given by the inventory survey of the University of New Orleans (Beavers 1982). Both numbers are given for ease in cross-referencing. Individual site descriptions can be found in Beavers (1982) for most sites, or in Gagliano et al. (1979). Sites which are listed in Table 1 are located on Figure 2.

There are three basic prehistoric site types located in the District: middens, mounds, and shell beaches. Middens are accumulations of dumped shells, sometimes containing levels of earth from the dumping of other organic materials, creating mixed levels of shell and earth. Artifact densities in middens can range from high to low. Mounds were constructed of earth or shell as burial mounds or substructures to raise houses above flood levels or neighboring structures. Mounds generally have a more even appearance than middens: steeper sides, more angular form, and a less complex internal stratigraphy. Shell beaches are natural deposits of shell along the edges of lakes. They are either the location of prehistoric activities, or the deposit of shell and artifacts which have been redeposited by wave action from another site. Shell beaches are long, narrow, and with low relief; artifacts found with them are wavewashed, with obliterated details.

There are three basic site functions within the District: shellfish collection, habitation, and social center. Shellfish collection sites are shell middens which were the location of brief and limited

activities. They can be identified by their small size, thin and homogeneous cultural level, and low density of artifacts. Because so few artifacts are found on these sites, they are difficult to date. Habitation sites were the location of prehistoric residences. Most habitation sites within the District were occupied throughout the year and will show evidence of a wide variety of activities including food preparation, food storage, a variety of tool uses, and the building of relatively permanent structures. Moderate-sized sites with earth and shell midden and moderate to high densities of artifacts are presumed to be habitation sites. Very large sites with a complex of mounds are recognized as social centers, the hub of social authority. Such centers show evidence of social complexity, such as the display of wealth and ceremonial elaboration.

Table 1. List of Prehistoric Sites

| Site Name and/or Number  | Type                      | Function                | Cultural Period                |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bayou Coquille or<br>the Crown Point Site<br>16 JE 37 (UNO 57) | shell mound<br>& midden   | social center           | Marksville-<br>Coles Creek     |
| Bayou Bardeaux<br>16 JE 46 (UNO 54)                            | shell midden              | habitation              | Coles Creek-<br>Early Historic |
| 16 JE 51, (UNO 50)   | shell midden              | habitation              | Baytown,<br>Mississippian      |
| Coquilles II,<br>16 JE 52 (UNO 16 & 11)                        | earth and<br>shell midden | habitation              | ?                              |
| 16 JE 54   | shell midden              | shellfish<br>collection | ?                              |
| Drill Hole I,<br>16 JE 55 (UNO 56)                             | shell midden              | shellfish<br>collection | ?                              |
| Drill Hole II,<br>16 JE 56 (UNO 52)                            | shell midden              | habitation              | Baytown,<br>Mississippian      |
| Des Familles I,<br>16 JE 57 (UNO 44)                           | non-site*<br>dredge spoil |                         |                                |
| Des Familles II,<br>16 JE 58                                   | earth mound               | habitation              | Marksville<br>Mississippian    |
| Isle Bonne,<br>16 JE 60 (UNO 53)                               | shell midden              | social center           | Tchefuncte<br>Mississippian    |
| Milk Snake,<br>16 JE 64  | shell midden              | habitation              | Marksville                     |
| Lost Glasses<br>16 JE 66                                       | non-site*<br>shell dam    |                         |                                |

| Site Name and/or Number                        | Type                            | Function                | Cultural Period                             |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wagner Bridge<br>16 JE 67 (UNO 51)             | non-site*<br>redeposited midden |                         |   |
| 16 JE 70 (UNO 34)                              | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |
| 16 JE 71                                       | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |
| 16 JE 74 (UNO 49)                              | shell midden                    | habitation<br>burial    | Troyville<br>Mississippian                  |
| 16 JE 75 (UNO 48)                              | shell midden<br>earth mound     | habitation              | Troyville-<br>Coles Creek,<br>Mississippian |
| 16 JE 76 (UNO 45 and 46)                       | shell midden<br>earth mound     | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |
| 16 JE 77                                       | shell midden                    | habitation              | Troyville-<br>Coles Creek                   |
| 16 JE 78                                       | shell midden                    | habitation              | Troyville-<br>Coles Creek,<br>Mississippian |
| 16 JE 79 (UNO 21, 22, & 23)                    | shell midden<br>earth mound     | habitation              | Marksville<br>Coles Creek                   |
| Jones Point,<br>16 JE 80 collection            | shell midden                    | shellfish               | Mississippian                               |
| Isle de Puet,<br>16 JE 81                      | earth mound                     | ?                       | Mississippian                               |
| East of Bayou Bardeaux,<br>16 JE 82 collection | shell midden                    | shellfish               | ?   |
| Stuck Boot,<br>16 JE 83                        | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | Mississippian                               |
| Greenies,<br>16 JE 135                         | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |
| 16 JE 152                                      | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |
| 16 JE 157 (UNO 1)                              | shell midden                    | shellfish<br>collection | ?   |

| Site Name and/or Number | Type                         | Function                | Cultural Period              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 16 JE 158 (UNO 14 &2)   | shell midden                 | habitation              | Troyville                    |
| 16 JE 159 (UNO 3)       | shell midden<br>earth midden | habitation              | Coles Creek                  |
| 16 JE 160 (UNO 4)       | shell ridges                 | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 161 (UNO 5)       | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 162 (UNO 6)       | shell midden<br>earth midden | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 163 (UNO 7)       | shell midden<br>earth midden | habitation              | Marksville<br>Early Historic |
| 16 JE 164 (UNO 8)       | shell midden                 | habitation              | ?                            |
| 16 JE 165 (UNO 9)       | shell midden                 | shellfish<br>collection | Coles Creek?                 |
| 16 JE 166 (UNO 10)      | shell midden                 | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 167 (UNO 13)      | shell midden                 | habitation              | Troyville                    |
| 16 JE 168 (UNO 15)      | shell midden                 | habitation              | Troyville                    |
| 16 JE 169 (UNO 17)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 170 (UNO 18)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 171 (UNO 19)      | shell midden                 | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 172 (UNO 20)      | shell midden                 | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 173 (UNO 24)      | shell midden                 | shellfish<br>collection | ?                            |
| 16 JE 174 (UNO 25)      | shell midden                 | habitation              | ?                            |
| 16 JE 175 (UNO 28)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 176 (UNO 29)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 177 (UNO 30)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |
| 16 JE 178 (UNO 31)      | non-site*                    |                         |                              |

| Site Name and/or Number | Type              | Function              | Cultural Period            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 16 JE 179 (UNO 32)      | non-site*         |                       |                            |
| 16 JE 180 (UNO 33)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 181 (UNO 35)      | shell midden dump | shellfish collection  | prehistoric/<br>historic   |
| 16 JE 183 (UNO 38)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 184 (UNO 39)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 185 (UNO 41)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 186 (UNO 42)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 187 (UNO 43)      | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |
| 16 JE 188 (UNO 47)      | shell midden      | habitation            | Mississippian              |
| 16 JE 189 (UNO 55)      | shell midden      | habitation            | Mississippian              |
| 16 JE 190 (UNO 37)      | non-site*         |                       |                            |
| 16 JE 191 (UNO 12)      | shell midden      | habitation            | Troyville                  |
| 16 JE 193 (UNO 40)      | shell midden      | shell fish collection | Troyville<br>Mississippian |
| 16 JE 194 (UNO 27 &26)  | shell midden      | shellfish collection  | ?                          |

\*Non-sites are shell middens, sometimes with redeposited material from near-by sites. After they were included in the States' site inventory, they were re-examined and judged non-cultural by Speaker, et al. (1986:67).

Two sites within the District are social centers: 16 JE 37, the Bayou Coquilles site, and 16 JE 60, the Isle Bonne site. Another site, 16 JE 47, Chenier Grandes Coquilles, may have been a social center. The Bayou Coquilles site, 16 JE 37, is located at the confluence of Bayous des Familles and Coquille. It consists of a large midden, one mound, and the remains of possibly three additional shell mounds, the remnants of which exist under old oak trees. These mounds and midden were mined in this century for road construction, but there are still extensive undisturbed deposits in the remaining midden and mound. Excavations at the Bayou Coquilles site, while incompletely documented, indicate occupation from the Tchefoncté through the Plaquemines periods. A systematic survey of the levee ridges of Bayous des Familles and Coquilles found small

habitation sites at 600 feet intervals up and down Bayou des Familles and smaller shellfish collection sites to the west on Bayou Coquilles (Beaver 1982). The number and density of these sites, probably contemporaneous with the Bayou Coquilles Site, are unique. It is quite possible that such a settlement existed near the Isle Bonne and related mound sites, and that its remains have been destroyed by dredging of the waterways on Bayou Barataria.

Chenier Grandes Coquilles, 16 JE 46, may have been a social center, but it is impossible to tell on present information. Modern shell dredging has removed over one hundred feet of the shoreline. The site appears today to be a natural shell beach; artifacts in the shell are wave-washed and may have been deposited from an eroded site elsewhere on Lake Salvador. Long-time residents of the area have said that the shoreline once had the appearance of a three to four foot high mound. This could have been either a mound or a midden, since dredged, eroded, and reshaped as a beach (Holmes 1986: Appendix C).

The Isle Bonne site is located at the northwest corner of the confluence of Bayous Villars and Barataria and consists of an extensive shell midden and two shell mounds. There were once three or four mounds on this site, two of which may have been removed by the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway (which cut through the point of land upon which the site is found and made the location into an island), the borrowing of shell for road building, or erosion (Gagliano et al. 1979:4-45, A-72). Test excavation have been done on the existing mounds, but have not been documented. Surface collections indicate that the site was occupied as early as the Tchefuncte period, 500 B.C. to as late as the Plaquemines period, A.D. 1700. The mounds probably date to the later occupation of the site. The Isle Bonne site is associated with two other sites outside of the District with large middens and mounds. The Fleming (16 JE 36) and Bayou Villars (16 JE 68) sites are located across Bayous Barataria and Villars, respectively. The occurrence of these three sites in close proximity is unusual, suggesting a high degree of centralized control.

Indigenous occupation of the District left large and small landmarks in the form of earth and shell middens and mounds, significant landscape features on a relatively flat topography. These became resources for later settlers. The sites have been mined for shell (16 JE 37, 46, and 60), used as favored building sites (16 JE 46 and 60), and sometimes even used as cemetery locations (16 JE 56).

## COLONIAL SETTLEMENT

Very little can be seen on the present landscape which can be clearly identified as colonial, or A.D. 1726-1803. This is because the later historic use of the area obscured the earlier historic features, just as it also impacted the prehistoric middens and mounds. The clearest structures to persist from this period is a road. There is some archeological evidence of colonial habitations, but more work must be done to document this.

The first colonial road to be built in the vicinity was the road to Barataria, which followed the natural levee of Bayou des Familles on the east side from the Mississippi River across from New Orleans to the confluence of Bayous des Familles and Barataria. In the District, this road not only followed the levee ridge, it also followed the boundary of the first French land grants, which later became a boundary of the Spanish settlement of Canary Islanders (Figure 3). The road was built to carry carriages, so that it was probably paved with shell at this early time. In the mid nineteenth century the road was improved to a width of 25 feet, with ditches three feet wide and two feet deep on both sides, and a cleared swath 25 feet on both sides of the ditches (Swanson 1988: 245). Today the road runs for about 1 mile along the eastern boundary of the District. It is shell paved, about 1 and one half feet higher than the surrounding woods, bordered on both sides by ditches about 1 foot deep. Portions of the road are now used as a trail.

Several habitation sites of the Canary Islander settlers, A.D. 1779- 1796, have been located in the District through archival reconstruction and ground-checks. Precise location descriptions,

however, for these sites are not available. The original settlement probably consisted of scattered houses built in a Creole Cottage style of bousillage-entre-poteaux (mud and moss between poles) or brique-entre-poteaux (brick between posts). Current evidence for the presence of these houses consists of low middens of colonial period artifacts and building materials (Swanson 1988:94-137). One of these sites, 16 JE 163, was also recorded and identified as colonial by the University of New Orleans (Beavers 1982)(Figure 3).

## NINETEENTH CENTURY SUGAR PLANTATION FIELD SYSTEMS

Sugar was the region's major industry in the nineteenth century. Two sugar plantations were established within the district: Christmas and Kinta. Within the District can be found the Christmas Plantation road and ditch system, railroad bed, and waterwheel site. Together they constitute a relatively complete and intact plantation field system. The sites of the Christmas and Kinta Plantation centers, consisting of sugar house, owner's house, worker's houses, barns, and various other structures, are located in the District, but archeological evidence for these structures has not been adequately evaluated. Portions of the Kinta Plantation field system are within the district (Figure 3).

Christmas Plantation was established in 1866 and was operated as a sugar or rice plantation into the early twentieth century. There was a wooden sugar mill from 1869 to 1885, when it burned. This mill was located somewhere on the east bank of Bayou des Familles, near the shell road. The shell road was the main plantation road which ran through the property at right angles to Bayou des Familles. The road crossed the bayou on a wooden float bridge. The owner resided on the plantation; the location of his house may have been on either side of the bayou. Several houses and barns survived on the west bank of Bayou des Familles next to the shell road until 1910, but these are now gone (Swanson 1988:222, see also Beavers 1982, sites 35 and 36 (16 JE 181 and 182)).

The Christmas Plantation field system is largely intact. A system of ditches, levees, roads, and furrows exists on both sides of Bayou Barataria. Approximately every 100 to 150 feet a low ditch from 1 to 3 feet deep and 3 to 5 feet wide runs perpendicular to Bayou des Familles. Occasional large secondary ditches, cut deeper (3 to 6 feet deep) and about as wide, also run perpendicular to the bayou. Parallel to these ditches was a series of furrows in which the cane was planted. These are visible today as faint swales, spaced about 2 to 3 feet apart. All the ditches and furrows drain into the main ditch behind the main levee facing the bayou. This is from 3 to 6 feet deep and from 5 to 10 feet across. Completely surrounding the fields is a system of levees. As the main ditches were built, borrow from the ditches was used to build a levee. The levee was often also used as a raised roadbed. Ditches and furrows facilitated the drainage of the fields after heavy rains. Levees were used to keep floodwater out of the fields. On the east side of Bayou des Familles the levees and main ditches on both the bayou and backswamp are clearly evident. Drainage was toward the bayou, or front levee. The main levee on the bayou edge is interrupted in several places to allow the ditches to drain into the levee; in times of high bayou water these could have been filled to prevent flooding. The interruptions in the front levee may postdate the use of a waterwheel or pump to drain water from the main ditch into the bayou. The foundation for a waterwheel or pump has been located on the outfall of a large secondary into the main ditch, behind the front levee. On the west side of the bayou the system of ditches is cut by the current highway, but the ditches ringing the fields are complete. On this side of the bayou drainage is toward the backswamp, or toward the back levee (Holmes 1986:83-84).

Kinta Plantation was established in 1865 as a sugar plantation, and was operated into the last decade of the nineteenth century. The sugar mill, overseer's and owner's houses, laborer's cabins, and other plantation structures were located at the confluence of Kinta canal and Bayou Barataria. Portions of the field system, however, can still be found north of highway 301. This consists of the back levee and ditch running perpendicular to Kinta Canal, and Kinta Canal itself.

Kenta Canal served as a main ditch, running perpendicular to the bayou. At the time it was used to drain the Kinta Plantation, it may not have been cut through to Bayou Baratavia. Later use of this canal as a logging canal probably changed its appearance (and its spelling)(Holmes 1986:80-81).

The ditch and levee systems were originally designed and built to drain fields planted in sugarcane. In the mid 1880's many of the sugar plantations in the Baratavia area were briefly converted to rice production. The same levee and ditch systems were used to flood the fields (Holmes 1986:94). The field systems persist as a major landscape feature. The fields themselves are obscured by the heavy secondary overgrowth, but the ditches and levees remain visible and heavily used. The levees and roads provide dry land access which are today utilized as roads and trails. The flooded ditches provide small boat access.

## LOGGING CANAL

With the decline of the sugar plantations, the cypress logging industry moved into the swamps. Kenta Canal was widened, deepened, and extended during the 1880's to accommodate pullboats and log rafts from lumbering operations on the west side of Bayou des Familles. Approximately 9 miles long, 15 to 20 feet wide, and 5 to 3 feet deep, the canal follows the edge of the cypress swamp. In addition, short dead-end canals were built from Kenta canal into the swamp. Logging operations would have been set up at the end of the dead-end canal. A pullboat would be stationed at the head of the dead-end canal. Cut cypress trees were attached to the pullboat by chains. A steam engine on the pullboat would pull logs to the canal, where they were tied together in rafts and pulled to the sawmill. These pullboats left a multitude of radiating scars in the swamp, some of which are still visible in the District (Holmes 1986:107-109). The logging industry dramatically changed the swamp, removing all the large cypress trees. Kenta Canal was probably used as a logging canal up until World War I, when the industry ran out of large trees. In the 1950's an oil pipeline canal was dug from the southwest, tying into the curve of Kenta Canal. A natural gas wellhead also cuts the canal within the District.

## PECAN GROVE SUBDIVISION

In 1910 the Christmas Plantation on the east side of Bayou des Familles was subdivided into streets and house sites. While the streets were laid out and in one case even paved with shell, no residential development ever happened. Some of the lots were planted in a pecan grove. Third Street, the major street of the subdivision, is about 3,000 feet long, and 50 feet wide (Figure 3).

## HUNTING AND FISHING CAMPS

While the wealthy were developing the plantations, the local inhabitants of the Baratavia region were developing an economy that was based on harvesting a variety of local resources. The 'little man' and his family supported themselves by hunting alligators, deer, and ducks, trapping muskrat and mink, catching catfish, gathering moss, and farming small plots. In order to pursue this varied round of activities, the locals built seasonally occupied camps near the resource they were using.

Camps have been located within the District at Chenier Grandes Coquilles, Kenta Canal, and the Christmas Plantation Road. Only the camps at Chenier Grandes Coquilles are still extant (Figure 3). There were five camps, but one has collapsed. The other four are still occupied on occasion. Although these individual structures are probably no more than 30 years old, there have been camps on the beach for at least 50. There were also camps on the shell mound east of the beach (16 JE 56), and burials from both the residents of this and the Chenier Grandes Coquilles camps are located on this mound. Because of its favorable location, Chenier Grandes Coquilles has probably used as a camp location since the nineteenth century. The old outlet of Bayou Coquilles is located on the south end of the shell beach. The beach is an elevation along the shore of the lake.



Live oaks grow on the beach. The raised elevation, direct access to the lake and indirect access to the marsh through Bayou Coquilles, and the shade and protection of the large live oaks, were all natural advantages of the site.

Each camp has a pier for docking boats. The houses are built on piers over the shell beach from salvaged materials. The walls are wood frame, with a roof of corrugated metal or wood and tar paper. A screened porch cover the length of the front. Interiors are laid out in three or four rooms with no hallway. Electricity is rare; indoor plumbing is rarer. Residents have deliberately invested little in camp houses because they are in danger of being swept away by hurricanes and storm tides.

#### INTRUSIONS AND INTEGRITY

There are remarkably few intrusions on the cultural landscape. Although the District has not been deserted since the decline of the plantations and the lumber industry, its use has been largely limited to small-scale, traditional pursuits such as hunting, fishing, and market gardening.

As a utility corridor, the State Highway 45 right-of-way has been the major cause of intrusions. Telephone and power lines, water lines, and a small pumping station are all found along the road. Another powerline crosses the southern end of the District. In recent years the National Park Service has caused the greatest changes to the historical landscape in the construction of a parking lot for the Coquilles trailhead, Visitor's Center, and Environmental Education Center (Figure 1). These have been built in or next to very sensitive areas: the Coquilles parking lot beside the Bayou Coquilles midden, the Visitor's Center against the back levee of the west field of the Christmas Plantation, and the Environmental Education Center in the east Christmas Plantation field and next to the former plantation center. However, the development of the Park has been done with due consideration for avoiding impacts to the historic resources.

Significant dates  
Architect/Builder  
Criterion A & D

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

The history of land use in the Historical District of the Barataria Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, is characterized by both continuity and change. During prehistory, the inhabitants established a broad-based economy and a settlement pattern of permanent villages and seasonal camps. The early historic inhabitants of the area continued this pattern, adding to it capitalized large-scale agriculture. When the plantations failed, the lumbering industry took over. After the decline of the lumber industry, most economic changes in the region have missed the District, which continues to reflect the prehistoric and historic rural landscape. The District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under criterion A because it is associated with major economic episodes of the Mississippi Delta, and under criterion D because it contains sites and cultural features which may yield important information.

The people and the land have left their mark on one another. The old course of the Mississippi River down Bayous des Familles and Barataria built natural levees where people built permanent homes and farmed. Behind the levees, in the swamp, marsh and lake, people camped,

hunted, trapped, fished, and cut wood. As defined, the District encompasses mostly levee and some swamp and lake shore sites. This is because the marsh is relatively fragile and human activity there has been brief and left no structures. Despite the exclusion of the marsh from the District, it is important to note that both prehistoric and historic land use belonged to a settlement and economic system which utilized the full range of environments and their resources.

Prehistoric man was in the District from as early as the Tchefoncté (700-100 B.C.) to as late as the Plaquemines period (A.D. 1100-1600), and the archeological sites represent the complete span of occupation in the lower Mississippi Valley and Delta. Sites in the District represent a continuous local cultural development which has been poorly defined in the Delta. Known Marksville (100 B.C.-A.D. 300) sites in the Delta are extremely rare, perhaps because they are overlaid by later occupations. Consequently, the ceremonial and social parallels between the Delta Marksville and lower Mississippi Valley Marksville are unknown. Recent revisionist interpretation of the Delta Tchefoncté, an even earlier period, has pointed out that culture histories written on the basis of Lower Mississippi Valley data tend to downplay the importance of the Delta as an original and vital culture area. New work and similar reinterpretations of the Marksville period sites in the District, may be just as enlightening. These Marksville sites may be especially suitable for regional interpretations because of the presence of a large social center at 16 JE 37, with contemporaneous smaller sites near by at 16 JE 58, 16 JE 64, and 16 JE 79. While the upper levels of the midden at 16 JE 37 have been mined for shell for road building, the remaining levels have been tested and found to contain in situ deposits. Moreover, the large mound is almost complete, and the remnant mounds under the trees may also contain in situ deposits. The other three sites are relatively undisturbed.

The variety of prehistoric site types found in the District and their well preserved faunal remains may allow us to expand our knowledge of settlement patterns and economy. The special use sites may have been seasonally occupied hunting or gathering camps; the social centers were probably occupied year-round. Test excavations at the Bayou Coquilles site indicate a wide variety of faunal resources from all the delta environments were used. A few corn cobs have been found on the Isle Bonne site, evidence of agriculture in the Delta. The preservation potential for floral and faunal remains is very good. Economic data from the range of site types may allow us to determine site function, season of use, and length and intensity of use. Another matter of current debate in the Delta concerns the relative importance of intensive hunting/gathering as opposed to agriculture. The sites in the District can add substantial data to this question. The study of prehistoric economy leads naturally to questions of social complexity and organization. The Bayou Coquilles Site, 16 JE 37, with its cluster of associated smaller sites on both Bayous Coquilles and des Familles, and the Isle Bonne Site, 16 JE 60, which is associated with two equally large sites outside of the District, present unprecedented opportunities to learn more about intersite relationships. While the Isle Bonne Site has also been impacted by dredging and/or shell mining, there are still large intact middens on this site. The smaller sites along the Bayous are largely undisturbed.

The landscape features of the Colonial period, A.D. 1726-1803, have been largely obscured by later use of the District. One feature, however, stands out by virtue of its long and continuous use. The royal road from the right bank of the Mississippi to the confluence of Bayous des Familles and Barataria was probably built as early as the mid eighteenth century, and used from that time on until the construction of the public road on the other side of Bayou des Familles in the 1920's or 30's. While local memory is vague on the location of much more recent historic features within the District, the Old Barataria Road and its colonial antecedents is well remembered. The portion of the road within the District boundaries is one of the best preserved. Roads were important not only because they were an important access route, but also because they followed property boundaries and field systems. The first roads were built by the first holders of royal land grants, the boundaries of which shaped landholding and land use within the District throughout history. The royal road, or Old Barataria Road, is one of the few remaining fragments from the time when colonial men made their first, and enduring, mark on the landscape.

Other remains from the colonial period are less substantial. The Canary Islanders were brought to the New Orleans at the end of the eighteenth century by a Spanish government which was concerned to establish loyal Spanish speaking settlements in strategic locations within a French speaking colony. The settlement at Barataria was short-lived and unsuccessful, lasting little more than a decade, from 1779 through 1796. Until recent research which placed the settlement within the District, its location was unknown and presumed to be on the Bayou Barataria, outside of the Park and District boundaries. Preliminary field checks have identified some of the possible sites of the Canary Islander houses. Until the archeological potential of these sites has been assessed it is difficult to judge their significance. Yet just the presence of identifiable remains is important, because it places the history created by the documents in a geographic context which gives greater meaning to the whole. And while the settlement was not successful, it left its mark on the District in terms of a few families who remained, and the later development of the land as plantations.

Development of the plantations in the District was delayed because the land was bought and held undeveloped by John McDonogh. He invested a large fortune in questionable land, which he held for future value. One reason why he bought land in the District was that title was confused by multiple overlapping land grants, a confusion created in part by the abandonment of the Canary Islander settlement. McDonogh was an infamous character in New Orleans society shortly before his death in 1850, because he openly opposed slavery on moral grounds and set an example to his neighbors by manumitting his slaves according to seemingly selfish capitalistic grounds. He argued that slaves working for their own manumission were better workers than slaves kept in bondage. He was an active member of the African Colonization Society, which sponsored repatriation of manumitted slaves to Liberia. He was also the close friend of Andrew Durnford, a planter and free person of color. While it seems paradoxical to argue that McDonogh's holding of the District contributed to the significance of the District because he did nothing with it, but is what McDonogh did with his land. McDonogh bequeathed his land to the Cities of New Orleans and Baltimore. It was sold in 1860 to fund free public education in both cities. Thus, the District played an important role in an important episode of the history of two cities, and was associated with a striking character of history.

After the McDonogh estate was settled, the Christmas and Kinta Plantations were established. The surviving field systems are a rare, little known, and representative portion of the plantation. While historians have studied the society and material culture of the planter elites, the agricultural practices of the plantations- the underpinnings of the delta economy- are poorly understood. Further work on documenting the actual layout and construction of the fields would provide valuable data on this. Also, we know little about the actual economic viability of the plantations. The sugar plantations in the District and surrounding area failed relatively early, in the 1880's, and switched briefly to rice production. Why did this happen here, and not elsewhere? Studies on the actual working of the fields in this area might shed some light on this.

When the plantations failed, the cypress lumber industry moved into the District, and intensive lumbering of the Barataria Region lasted until 1912. Kenta Canal, originally a drainage canal for the plantation, was widened, deepened, and lengthened to accommodate logging machinery and logs. The cutting of the timber left major changes on the landscape, not only by the loss of trees, but also by the building of canals and the radial scarring of the swamp from the pulling of logs. The industry had an impact on the local communities: providing employment, bringing in an ethnically diverse labor pool, and leaving a rich lore of wild and colorful camp life. Kenta Canal as it is found within the District is relatively undisturbed from its appearance when it was used to float men and machinery to the swamps, and logs to the sawmills.

The shift of economic venture from the levee ridges to the backslopes of the swamps left the plantation fields unused. Speculative land-holding companies bought the old plantations and subdivided them in the first decades of the twentieth century into small residential lots. Residential streets were laid out and paved with shell. The residential development of the Christmas Plantation

was never successful, but one street remains from the subdivision, Third Street. This street represents the failure of the local economy to revitalize use of the levees. They were left to be covered by thick secondary forests, which obscured the fields and shell middens until even local knowledge of these features became vague.

One property type found within the District is not significant because it is less than 50 years old, but can be considered compatible with the historic context. These are the fishing camps found on Chenier Grandes Coquilles. The use of seasonal camps in the District probably dates to prehistory, when the indigenous inhabitants left numerous shellfish gathering piles in places where they may have camped for short periods. This pattern has persisted through the colonial period, nineteenth century, and up until today. Inhabitants of the local communities located on the main levees build seasonal hunting and fishing camps on stilts or moored houseboats on bayous, favoring the shores of Lake Salvador and particularly shell beaches such as Chenier Grandes Coquilles. Camps are not built as permanent structures because they are exposed to hurricanes and flood tides. Therefore, they do not usually last the fifty years necessary to make them eligible for consideration as significant structures. They are, however, examples of a pattern which has persisted from prehistory.

The Historic District of the Barataria Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park encompasses historic resources ranging from shell middens and mounds to historic roads and field systems. Table 2 lists the contributing (significant), compatible, and intrusive structures found within the District. While the types of properties are diverse, they are tied together by a common environment and participation in similar economic and settlement patterns. These sites represent several important historic episodes, namely, the initial establishment of Delta economy and society in prehistory, the settlement of the region by large colonial land grant holders, the crown-sponsored settlement of the area by Canary Islanders, the landholding of John McDonogh, sugar plantations, cypress logging, and residential subdivision. These sites also contain information important to questions concerning prehistory and history, namely, the development of the Delta Marksville, the relationships between social centers and satellite sites, the hunting/gathering and agricultural economy of the prehistoric inhabitants, possibly the settlement pattern and material culture of the Canary Island settlement, and the working of cane field systems.

Table 2. List of Contributing Elements

| <b>Site Type</b>                   |              |                  |         |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|
| Site Name and/or Number            | Contributing | Non-Contributing | Photo # |
| <b>PREHISTORIC SHELL PILES</b>     |              |                  |         |
| Bayou Coquille, 16 JE 37 (UN0 57)  | x            |                  | 1-3     |
| Bayou Bardeaux, 16 JE 46 (UNO 54)  | x            |                  | 4-5     |
| 16 JE 51 (UN0 50)                  | x            |                  |         |
| Coquilles II, 16 JE 52 (UNO 16&11) | x            |                  |         |
| 16 JE 54                           | x            |                  |         |
| Drill Hole I, 16 JE 55 (UN0 56)    | x            |                  |         |
| Drill Hole II, 16 JE 56 (UN0 52)   | x            |                  |         |
| Des Familles I, 16 JE 57 (UNO 44)  |              | x                |         |
| Des Familles II, 16 JE 58          | x            |                  |         |
| <b>Site Type</b>                   |              |                  |         |
| Site Name and/or Number            | Contributing | Non-Contributing | Photo # |
| Isle Bonne, 16 JE 60 (UN0 53)      | x            |                  | 6-7     |
| Milk Snake, 16 JE 64               | x            |                  |         |
| Lost Glasses, 16 JE 66             |              | x                |         |

|                                  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Wagner Bridge, 16 JE 67 (UNO 51) |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 70 (UNO 34)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 71                         | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 74 (UNO 493)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 75 (UNO 48)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 76 (UNO 45, & 46)          | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 77                         | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 78                         | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 79 (UNO 21, 22 & 23)       | x |   |   |
| Jones Point, 16 JE 80            | x |   |   |
| Isle de Puet, 16 JE 81           | x |   |   |
| East of Bayou Bardeaux, 16 JE 83 | x |   |   |
| Stuck Boot, 16 JE 83             | x |   |   |
| Greenies, 16 JE 135              | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 152                        | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 157 (UNO 1)                | x |   | 8 |
| 16 JE 158 (UNO 14& 2)            | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 159 (UNO 3)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 160 (UNO 4)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 161 (UNO 5)                |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 162 (UNO 6)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 163 (UNO 7)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 164 (UNO 8)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 165 (UNO 9)                | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 166 (UNO 10)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 167 (UNO 13)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 168 (UNO 15)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 169 (UNO 17)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 170 (UNO 18)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 171 (UNO 19)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 172 (UNO 20)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 173 (UNO 24)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 174 (UNO 25)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 175 (UNO 28)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 176 (UNO 29)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 177 (UNO 30)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 178 (UNO 31)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 179 (UNO 32)               |   | x |   |
| 16 JE 180 (UNO 33)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 181 (UNO 35)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 183 (UNO 38)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 184 (UNO 39)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 185 (UNO 41)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 186 (UNO 42)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 187 (UNO 43)               | x |   |   |
| 16 JE 188 (UNO 47)               | x |   |   |

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| <b>Site Type</b>        |              |                  |         |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|
| Site Name and/or Number | Contributing | Non-Contributing | Photo # |
| 16 JE 189 (UNO 55)      | x            |                  | 9       |
| 16 JE 190 (UNO 37)      |              | x                |         |
| 16 JE 191 (UNO 12)      | x            |                  |         |

|   |   |       |
|---|---|-------|
| 16 JE 193 (UNO 40)  | x |       |
| 16 JE 194 (UNO 27& 26)  | x |       |
| <b>COLONIAL SETTLEMENT</b>  |   |       |
| Chemin de Barataria/Camino Real                                     | x | 10    |
| Isleno Settlement (UNO 7)   | x | 11    |
| <b>NINETEENTH CENTURY SUGAR PLANTATIONS</b>                         |   |       |
| Christmas Plantation Field System                                   | x | 12-15 |
| Christmas Plantation Roads  | x |       |
| Christmas Plantation Water Wheel Site                               | x |       |
| Christmas Plantation Railroad Bed                                   | x |       |
| Christmas Plantation Center (16 JE 181 x<br>and 182 (UNO 35 and 36) | x |       |
| Kinta Plantation Field System                                       | x | 16    |
| Kinta Plantation Center   | x |       |
| <b>LOGGING CANAL</b>  |   |       |
| Kenta Canal   | x | 17    |
| <b>PECAN GROVE SUBDIVISION</b>                                      |   |       |
| Third Street  | x | 18    |
| <b>HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING CAMPS</b>                          |   |       |
| Chenier Grand Coquilles 1   | x | 19    |
| Chenier Grand Coquilles 2   | x | 20    |
| Chenier Grand Coquilles 3   | x | 21    |
| Chenier Grand Coquilles 4   | x | 22    |
| <b>MODERN DEVELOPMENT</b>   |   |       |
| Highway Corridor  | x | 23    |
| Powerline   | x |       |
| Coquilles Parking Lot   | x | 24    |
| Visitor Center  | x | 25    |
| Pecan Grove Nature Center   | x |       |

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

John McDonogh should not be listed as a significant person because his historical significance is not justified and because the nomination does not claim criterion B. Also, the historical period of significance is listed as A.D. 1726-1910 without clear justification. This period should be listed as A.D. c.1750-1912. The 1750 date corresponds to the point when construction on the Old Barataria Road began, while 1912 marks the end of intensive logging activity in the area. These changes were approved by National Park Service Federal Preservation Officer Ed Bearss.

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