

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Chatchie Plantation House is a frame, story and a half, fully raised house which is located in the flat sugarcane fields along Bayou Lafourche approximately three miles east of the town of Thibodaux. The original house, which was built in 1847, burned near the end of the Civil War. The present house was built on or near the original foundation c.1868. The original kitchen was unharmed by the fire and is now connected to the main house. Despite several changes, tike house retains its architectural integrity,

Chatchie Plantation House has a largely Anglo-American plan with a central hall flanked by double rooms. The only French touches are the pair of cabinets, which at one time flanked the rear gallery, and the pair of French doors which connect the front gallery with the two front rooms. One of the cabinets still exists, although the rear gallery has been enclosed. The other cabinet has been incorporated into the rear kitchen wing.

The story and half house is raised a full story above the ground. The ground level is partially enclosed. The main gallery has six solid Doric posts with balustrades, double molded capitals, a full entablature, and an unusually heavy cornice. The unusually large attic story encompasses four rooms and a central hall. Chimneys are set between the front and rear rooms and rest upon arch supports. All the present mantels are in the main story. These Renaissance Revival style mantels are all marbled. Two are slate and two are cast-iron. The front gallery facade and the walls of the central hall below the chair rail have an unusual treatment. These areas are covered with cypress boards which are cut and beveled to resemble rusticated stone. Windows are 6 over 6. Most of the doors have transoms with rounded ends.

Though it is older than the house, the kitchen wing has been modernized on the interior. The exterior, however, still conveys an historic appearance.

The present main staircase in the hall is modern, as are the ceiling medallions and crown moldings.

Architectural Integrity:

Chatchie is significant because of its identity as a raised plantation house and because of certain features which make it a superior example of that type. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the aforementioned identity remains intact as well as the described features which contribute to Chatchie's architectural superiority.

Specific dates	1847 Kitchen c.1868 House
Builder/Architect	c.1868 House-F. Justin Gaude

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

Chatchie Plantation House is architecturally significant on the state level because it is a large and unusually fine example of a raised plantation house within the context of Louisiana.

Its architectural superiority can be seen in the following:

- (1) It is raised a full story.

- (2) The house is extremely large. The garret story alone has as much space as some plantation houses in the state.
- (3) Its Renaissance Revival rusticated board treatment is very unusual in a Louisiana plantation house of the period. This type of work is customarily found only in pretentious urban residences.
- (4) Relatively few Louisiana plantation houses of the period have marbled mantels such as those at Chatchie. Most have plainer wooden mantels.

#### Major Bibliographical References

Title Search, Lafourche Parish Courthouse.