Maison Blanche

Formerly: Smith-Allain House

Circa 1832

With Federal millwork and Creole influences

Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana

Maison Blanche was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Offered at **$395,000**

Peter W. Patout, Listing Agent
Historic House Specialist
Licensed in Louisiana and Mississippi
cell: (504) 481-4790

Summer 2018
www.PeterPatout.com

Talbot Historic Properties
605 Congress Street, New Orleans, LA 70117
office: (504) 415-9730

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information	4
St. Mary Parish Tax Assessor	5
Description	7
Context Mapping	8
Images of Maison Blanche	11
Floor Plan	44
National Register of Historic Places (1980)	45
Features in the Media	57
Realtor and Broker Biographies	62
Bibliography	64

GENERAL INFORMATION

FACTS

Address: 909 Second Street,
Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana 70538
Built: c. 1832 by John Hartman for his bride, Sarah Knight.
Style: 2.5 story Anglo/French with Federal millwork and Creole influence. Brick and wood siding.
Land: .46 acres
Lot size: Depth: 165'; Width: 122'
Taxes: $? / year
Parcel #: 226470122100
Trees on the property: Live oak, magnolia, orange

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR INFORMATION

Living sq.ft.: 5,115 sqft[1]
Stories: 2.5 stories[2]
First and second floor with formal bedrooms and public areas
Third floor room with walk-in closet and large full bathroom.
Room count: 14
Room types: Breakfast nook; dining room; family room; laundry room; library; master bath; mud room; office; pantry; recreation room; sun room.
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 4 full bathrooms + 1 half bathroom
Fireplaces: Four gas-equipped with original historic antique mantels
Ceilings: 12'6"
Heating: Electric, gas
Roof: Shake shingle
Appliances: Dishwasher, washer & dryer, garbage disposal, microwave, range/oven, refrigerator, trash compactor, washer
Features: Cable ready, deck, disability access, elevator, fenced yard, fireplace, hardwood flooring, garden, lawn, over 55 living, off-street parking, patio, pond, porch RV parking, security system, storage.

VACINITY TO AIRPORTS

Lafayette: Lafayette Regional Airport | 1 hour (45.7 miles)
Baton Rouge: Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (BTR) | 2 hours (109 miles)
New Orleans: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MLS) | 1 hour 30 minutes (93 miles)

[1] Measurements courtesy of owners, as of February 16, 2018.
[2] All information from "Stories" to "Features" below, courtesy of Zillow, January 2, 2018.

ST. MARY PARISH TAX ASSESSOR 2018

Parcel#
2264701221.00

Primary Owner
SCHWITZ FREDERICK J
Mailing Address
909 SECOND ST
FRANKLIN LA 70538

Ward
12-Franklin

Type
REAL PROPERTY

Legal
LOT KRAMER - SECOND ST - HIMEL AND GUIDRY -
SOUTHERN BELL TEL AND TEL
ACQ 96 291445

Physical Address
909 SECOND ST

PARCEL ITEMS

Property Class	Assessed Value	Units	Homestead
LOTS	1,845	1.00	1,845
IMPROVEMENTS	29,367	1.00	5,655
TOTAL	31,212	2.00	7,500

DEEDS

Deed#	Type	Date	Amount	Book	Page
291445	Cash Sale	12/13/2005	300,000	96	
245878		7/18/1994	0	37C	
89660		7/18/1994	0	8R	

OWNERSHIP HISTORY

Homestead?	Name	Primary?	% Own	% Tax	From	To
YES	SCHWITZ FREDERICK J	YES	100	100	12/13/2005	
NO	ALLAIN HENRIETTA R	YES	100	100	7/18/1994	12/13/2005
YES	BOUDREAUX PADDY R	YES	100	100	1/1/1900	7/18/1994

LOCATIONS

Subdivision	Block	Lot	Section	Township	Range	Tract
Ward Twelve Non-subdivision				2	14	9

PARISH

Millage	Mills	Taxpayer Tax	Homestead Tax
Criminal Tax	3.6200	.84	27.15
Assessment Dist.	2.8800	68.29	21.60
St. Mary Public Library Dist.	5.7200	135.63	42.90
St. Mary Public Library Bonds	0.3100	7.35	2.32
Consol. School Dist. #5	11.1700	264.86	83.78
Constitutional School Tax	8.3500	198.00	62.63
Consolidated School Dist. #1 Bonds	10.0000	237.12	75.00
Consolidated School Dist. #3 Maint.	12.0000	284.54	90.00
Consol. Gravity Drainage #1	7.8100	185.19	58.58
W. St. Mary Port Commission	3.7200	88.21	27.90
St Mary Levee District	5.0000	118.56	37.50
Law Enforcement Dist.	10.7100	253.96	80.33
Hospital Service Dist #1	12.9200	306.36	96.90
TOTALS	**94.2100**	**2,233.91**	**706.59**

CITY

Millage	Mills	Taxpayer Tax	Homestead Tax
City of Franklin General	13.8200	431.35	0.00
City of Franklin Special	5.8200	181.66	0.00
TOTALS	**19.6400**	**613.01**	**0.00**

DESCRIPTION

"One of fifty or so antebellum homes in and around Franklin. 909 Second Street was built in 1832. First restored in the 1920's and has been brought to its current fine level of preservation by current owners. On the National Register of Historic Places. Architecturally it's an Anglo/French mixture with Federal millwork details but with Creole influences in floor plan and brick and cypress construction; four particularly noteworthy Federal style mantels; imposing five bay double bay galleried front façade elevator.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THE HOME

Beautifully located among Grand Live Oak and Magnolia trees. This home has much historical significance and is listed on the National Register of Historic Homes with Brass Plaque designation on front of home. David Crocket stayed in this home on his way to the Alamo. It was the first bank West of the Mississippi, was used as General Banks headquarters during the Civil War. Original Cypress boards used throughout this recently fully painted home, Brick lined inner walls with newly white painted original cypress exterior. 12'6" ceiling heights on first and second floor, Four gas equipped fireplaces with original historical antique mantels. Beautiful large fully bricked and fully fenced courtyard with large raised well style brick Koi pond and fountains. Large terrace with lovely gardens. Huge porches with lay down swings. Large Rooms and double parlors. Impressive Classical molding and baseboards with medallions above light fixtures. Original Antique doorbell. Five hundred square foot third floor room with enormous walk-in closet and large full bathroom- currently used as an art studio. Historical Downtown with shops, churches, an library all within walking distance. Louisiana hospitality abounds!! New hospital located within two miles. This beautiful home has been part of many Historic Home Tours and often acclaimed the most beautiful. 14 rooms plus 4.5 baths. Original brick walkway to front door with original brick flooring on the first floor porch. Large private parking area. Two large Naval Orange trees & a large fig, all productive and very tasty! 11 working grand French doors. Wonderful neighbors. Franklin contains many grand antebellum homes and is significant in the history of Louisiana. One hour and thirty minutes from New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Forty-five minutes from Lafayette Airport.[3]"

[3] Information directly from the Zillow listing as of December 18, 2017.

CONTEXT MAPPING

909 Second Street, Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana

Louisiana, Mississippi - 1820. Courtesy of Maps of the Past.. Franklin highlighted in white. Not to scale.

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Historic House Specialist
Licensed in Louisiana and Mississippi
cell: (504) 481-4790

Talbot Historic Properties
605 Congress Street, New Orleans, LA 70117
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Franklin is located southwet of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and southeast of Lafayette. It sits on a curve of the Bayou Teche.

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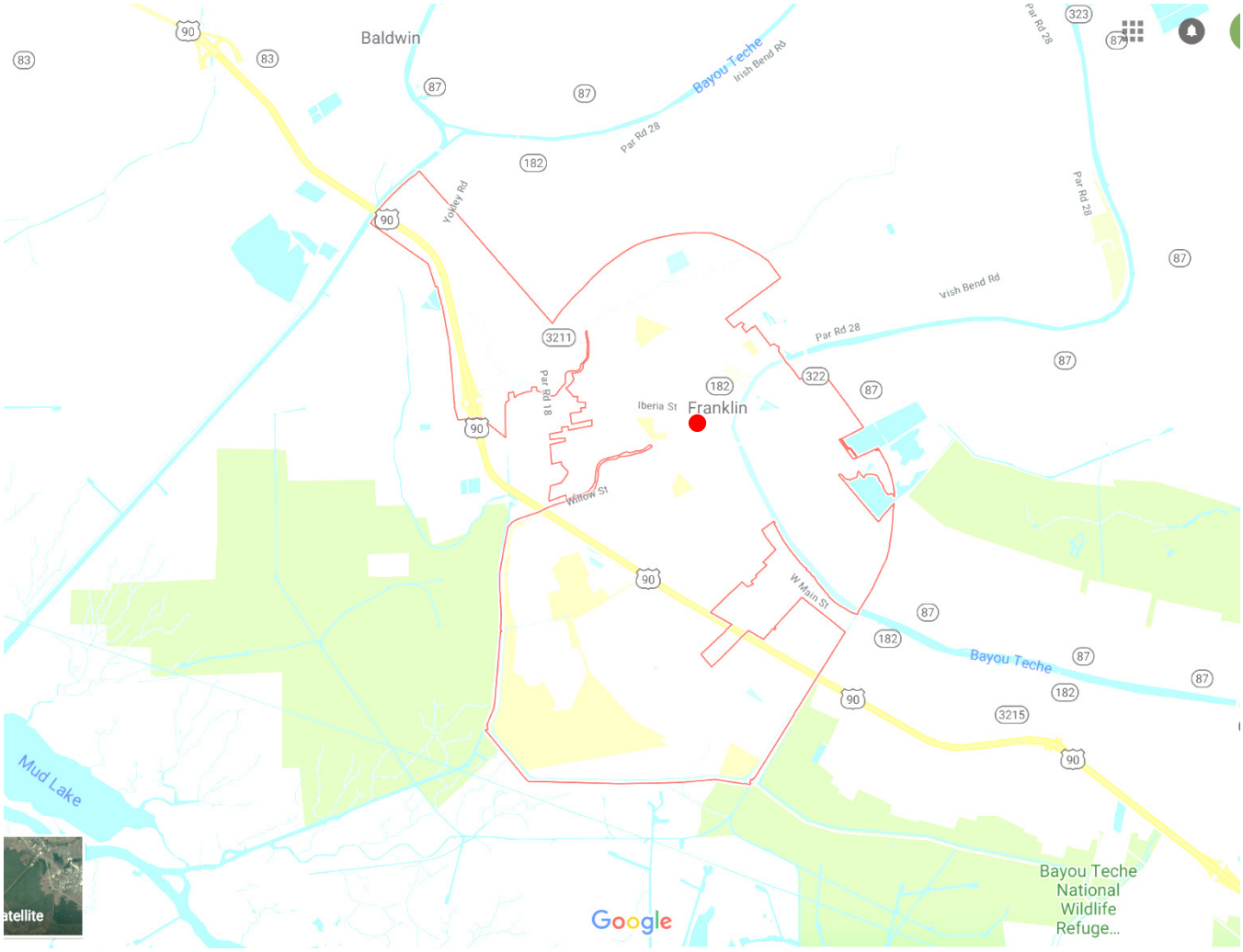

Maison Blanche is located at 909 Second Street, Franklin, LA. Close to downtown.

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IMAGES OF MAISON BLANCHE

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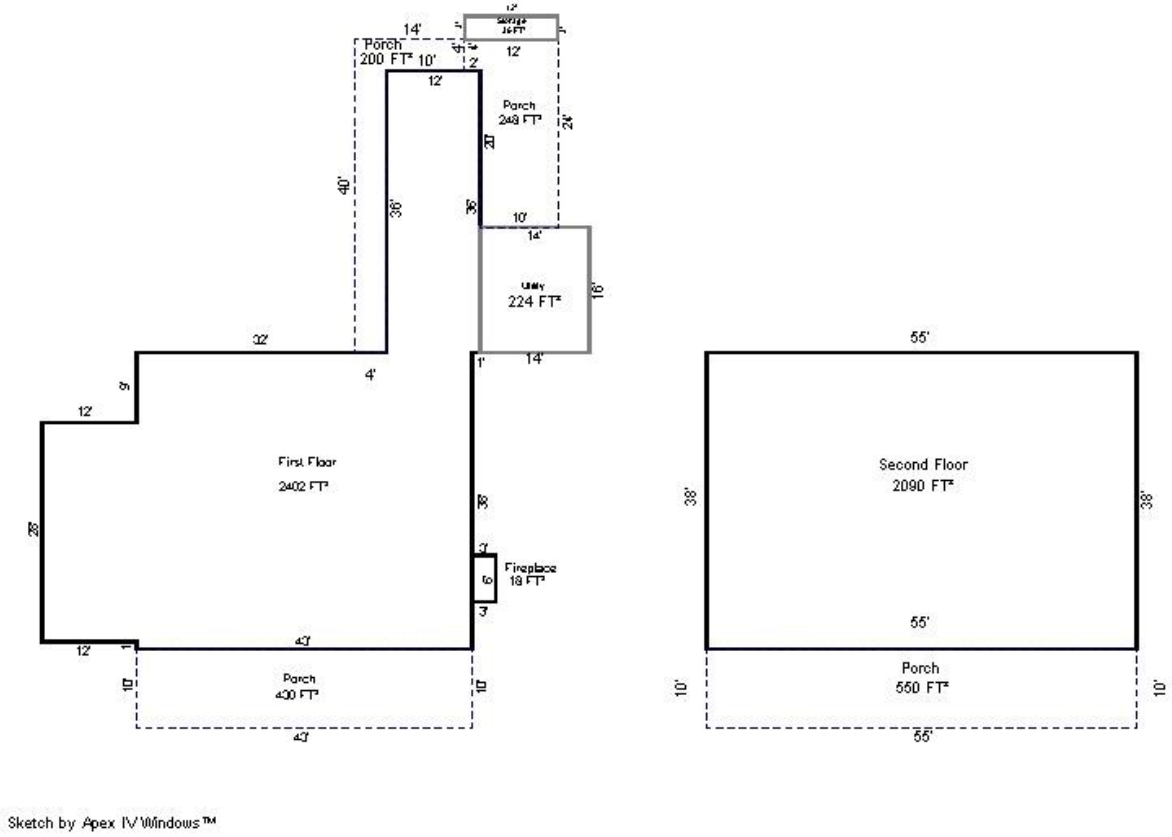
FLOOR PLAN

Floor plan provided by the St. Mary Parish Tax Assessor's Office. Taken 02.21.2018.



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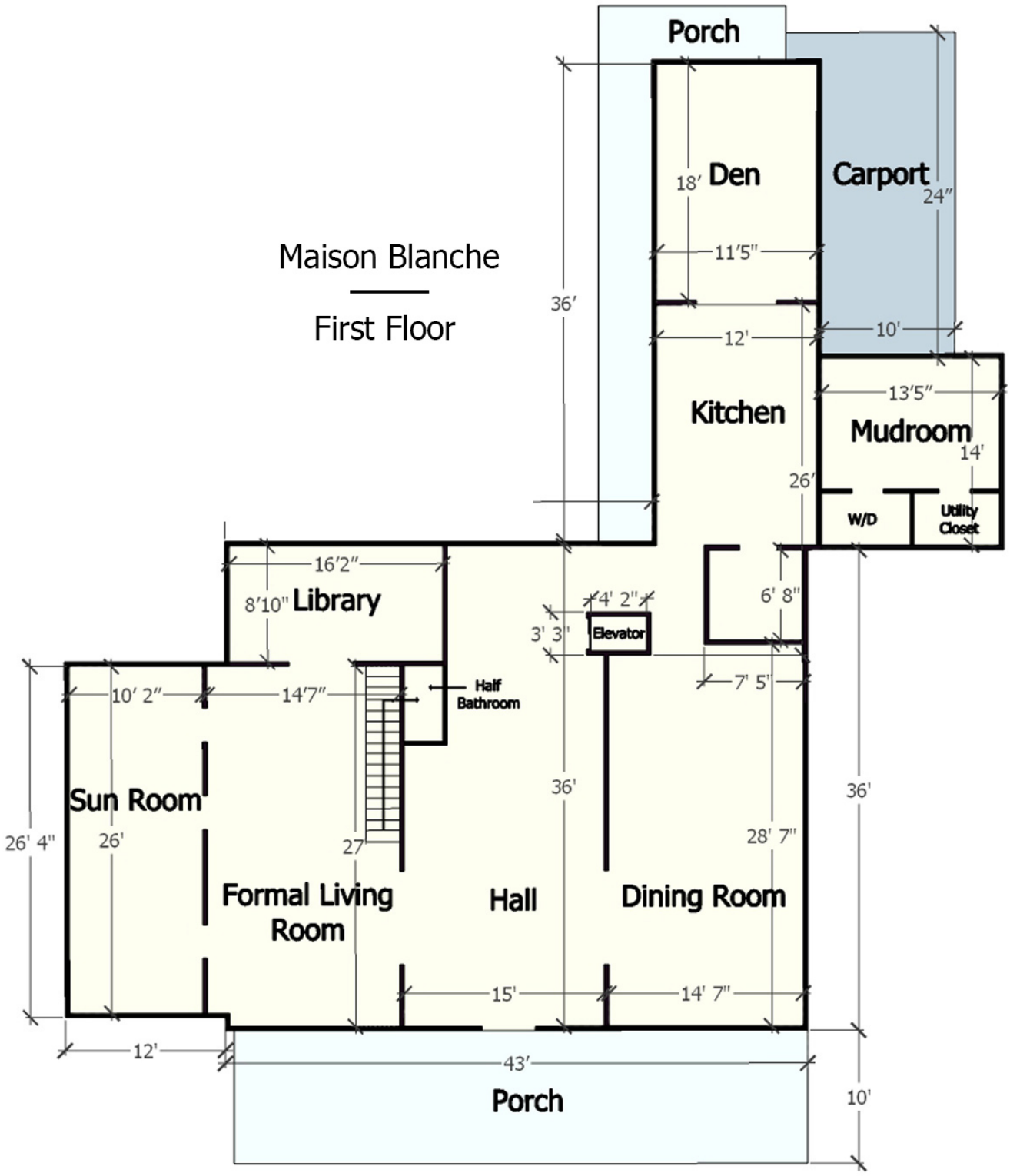

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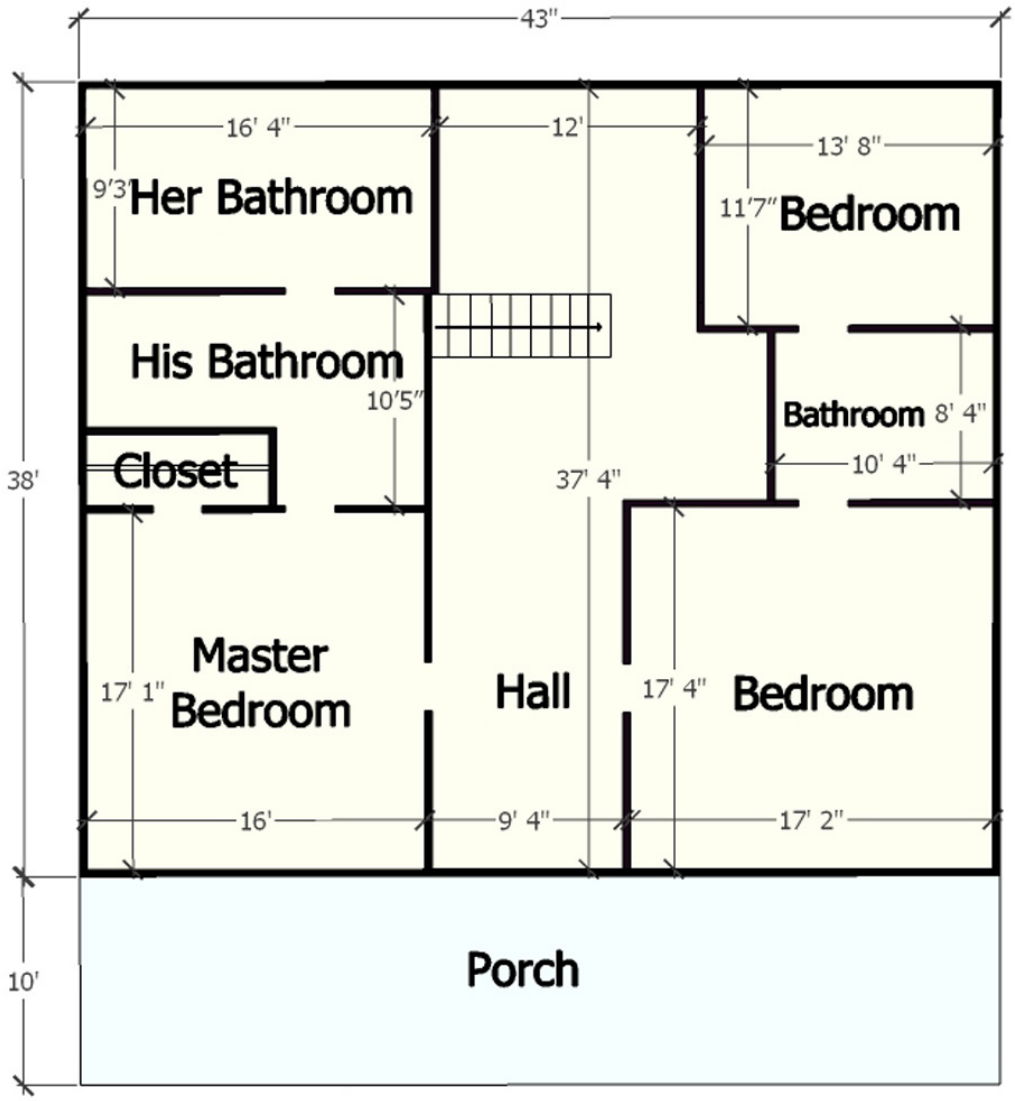

Maison Blanche | Second Floor

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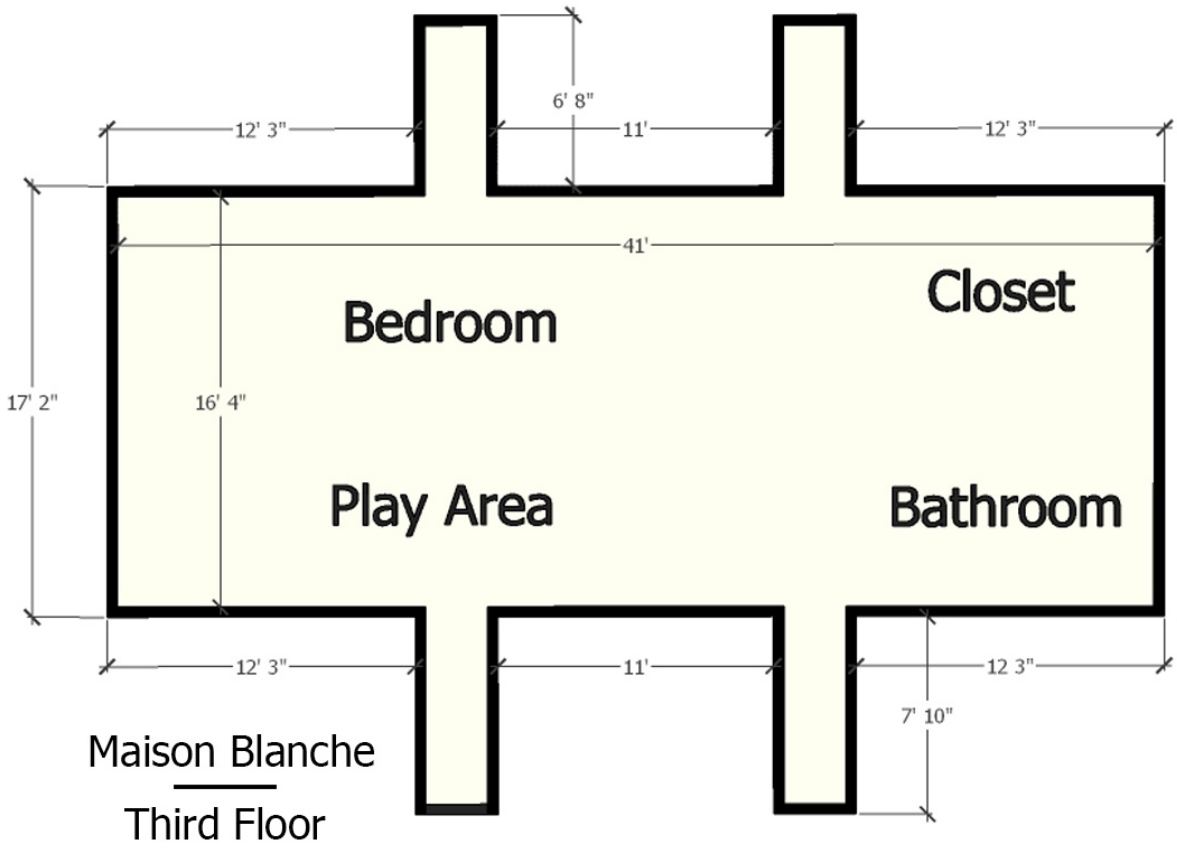

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (1980)

Smith House (added 1980 - - #80004326)[4]
Also known as **Allain House**
909 2nd St., Franklin

Historic Significance:	Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer:	Hartman,John
Architectural Style:	Other, Federal
Area of Significance:	Architecture
Period of Significance:	1825-1849
Owner:	Private
Historic Function:	Commerce/Trade, Domestic
Historic Sub-function:	Financial Institution, Single Dwelling
Current Function:	Domestic
Current Sub-function:	Single Dwelling

*Nomination form and supporting images and documents are available on the following pages.[5]

[4] Information courtesy of the American Dreams, Inc.'s website, nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com.
[5] Information following, including nomination form, images, caption and documents – courtesy of the National Parks Service via the National Archives Catalog.

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received APR 8 1980
date entered JUN 6 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Smith House

and/or common Same Allain House See letter

2. Location

street & number 909 Second Street ___ not for publication

city, town Franklin ___ vicinity of congressional district 3rd - David Treen

state Louisiana code 022 county St. Mary code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Charles de Villeneuve Allain

street & number 909 Second Street

city, town Franklin ___ vicinity of state Louisiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary Parish Courthouse

street & number

city, town Franklin state Louisiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date 1979 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state Louisiana

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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smith house is set in the old residential section of Franklin on a large lot with live oak trees which obscure much of the facade. The house itself is a large two and one-half story, gallery fronted building with a brick lower story and frame upper stories. Though mainly English in derivation, the house has French characteristics as well. English features include the five bay symmetrical articulation, the central hall plan, the Federal style corner block fenestration, the unusually elaborate Adam mantels, the segmental pedimented dormers, the fan lighted upstairs front door, the meager Doric columns on the upper gallery, and the two exterior chimneys.

French features include the use of transomed French doors on the front galleries and the placement of the staircase in the two story rear gallery between pairs of cabinets. The staircase has an unusually complex design with three flights of steps and a differently turned pattern on each of the four newel posts.

Major changes made in the 1920's include the construction of a rear lean-to extension, the addition of closets and bathrooms, the enclosure of the ground floor open hall, and the construction of two brick arches between downstairs rooms.

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	_X_ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1832 **Builder/Architect** John Hartman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Smith house is significant in the area of architecture as a large, early, and important example of the influence of the English architectural tradition in French Louisiana. The design represents a heavily Anglicized Creole house plan with a standard of Federal style woodwork which is seldom surpassed in terms of fullness of detail. The staircase is particularly noteworthy because it represents one of the most complex and elaborate pieces of staircase design and craftsmanship in Louisiana. Most staircases of the period had one or two flights of steps with one or two plain newel posts, but the Smith house staircase has three flights of steps and four completely different newel posts each with its own intricately turned pattern.

The Smith house was built in 1832 by John Hartman as a wedding gift for his bride, Sarah Knight.

The Hartmans, however, did not remain in the house long. In 1837, the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company acquired the house and opened the first bank in St. Mary's Parish in the living room.

In 1848, Dr. James Smith bought the property. The house was occupied by members of the Smith family until 1917. It has remained known as the Smith House due to its long association with this family.

Upon the death of Dr. James Smith's son in 1917, the house was sold to Joseph Birg, who kept it only a short time. In 1918 it was bought by Mr. George Palfrey, who lived there with his family for six years. In 1924 Mr. Paul Kramer acquired the house and completely renovated it. In 1954 the house was sold to its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles de V. Allain.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rilma Kramer, "The Smith House", Attakapas Gazette, March 1970, pp. 3-5.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property approx. .1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	644630	3296820	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are drawn to recognize only the house because the setting has significantly changed since the house was built.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mathe Allain

organization _____ date November 1979

street & number 105 Hillside Drive telephone (318) 232-1600

city or town Lafayette state Louisiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state _X_ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature E. Bernard Lemaire

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/27/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally G Oldham date 6/6/80

Keeper of the National Register

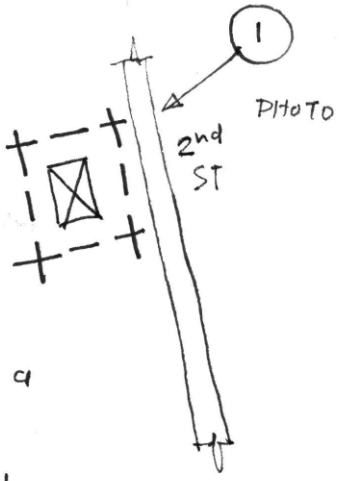
Attest: Beth Grosvenor date 6/3/80

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835

RECEIVED
APR 8 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

SKETCH MAP



Boundaries extend 5 feet from the house on each side forming a rectangle in which the sides run paralell to the facades of the house.

Approx. 1 acre

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Property Smith House

8000436

State La - St Mary Working Number 4-8-80 1102

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

An early and large example of the blending of English and French influences in Louisiana architecture. The staircase is among the most impressive examples of such craftsmanship in the state.

accept
Grosvenor
6/2/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
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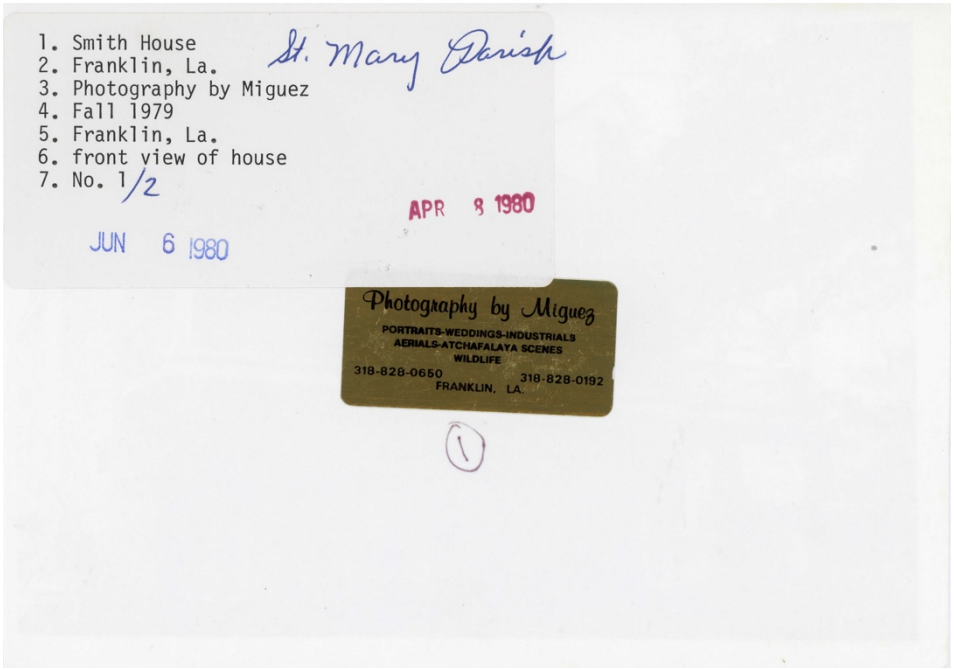
United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



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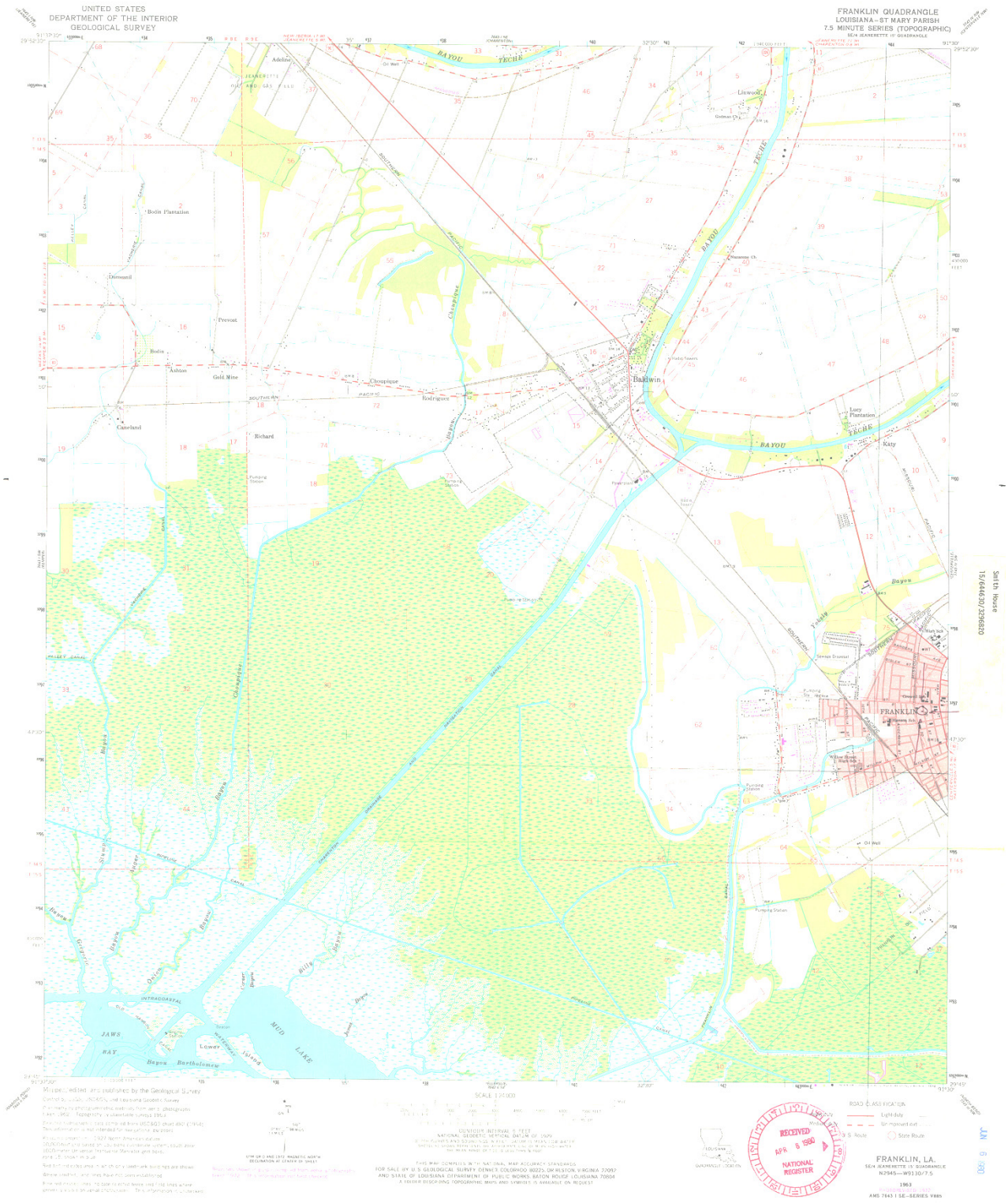

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE LOUISIANA

Date Entered JUN 6 1980

Name	Location
Macedonia Baptist Church	Holden vicinity Livingston Parish
Wakefield	Wakefield West Feliciana Parish
Smith House	Franklin St. Mary Parish
Grevemberg House	Franklin St. Mary Parish
Mintmere	New Iberia Iberia Parish

Also Notified

Honorable Russell B. Long
Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
Honorable W. Henson Moore
Honorable W. J. (Billy) Tauzin

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. E. Bernard Carrier
Assistant Secretary
Office of Program Development
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

NR 6/18/80 Byers/mjd

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

DAVID C. TREEN
Governor

ROBERT B. DeBLIEUX
Assistant Secretary

MRS. LAWRENCE H. FOX
Secretary

November 9, 1981

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Smith House, St. Mary Parish

Dear Ms. Shull:

The above referenced National Register form was submitted to you with no listed common name. In accordance with the owners' wishes, I hereby request that you add "Allain House" to Item 1 of your copy of the form.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/JF/bc

c: Mrs. Charles Allain

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P. O. Box 44247 Baton Rouge, La. 70804 504 342-6682

FEATURES IN THE MEDIA

March 6, 1977 – The Times-Picayune – "Antebellum Home Tour Set in Franklin Area"

Section One—Page Twenty-Six • Sunday Morning, March 6, 1977 The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, La.

Antebellum Home Tour Set Today in Franklin Area

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

FRANKLIN, La. — A return to what might have been an early springtime day before the Civil War will be held in Franklin and surrounding Bayou Teche plantations Sunday. From 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., families in antebellum costumes will greet visitors on front galleries and escort them through the rooms of some of south Louisiana's oldest homes.

The annual tour is sponsored by St. Mary Chapter, Louisiana Landmarks, centered in Franklin. Included will be Grevemberg House, Oaklawn Manor, Cypress House, Allain House, St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Frances Plantation.

A special exhibit of fine antique china will be on display at Grevemberg House in Franklin City Park. The home, built in 1851, is a restoration by the sponsoring group. It will also serve as information center for maps and brochures, although it does not have to be the starting point for the tour.

The Wilson McKerall Family home, at 300 Main St. was built at the turn of the last century by Wilson McKerall, one time mayor. His grandson, McKerall O'Neill, also a former mayor, has renovated the Victorian style house. Built entirely of cypress from Louisiana swamplands, it is currently known as "Cypress House."

Allain House at 909 Second St. is believed to be one of the oldest homes remaining in Franklin. Presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allain, it was built in 1832 by John Hartman for his bride, Sarah Knight. This house holds the distinction of being one of the earliest banks in St. Mary Parish, the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company having acquired it for a branch institution in 1837. The three-storied dwelling is in an excellent state of preservation. Brick walls form the first level, which has a front gallery supported by four square brick columns covered by vines growing for over a century. The second and third stories are cypress, topped by a gabled roof and dormer windows.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 865 First St., will receive visitors in the afternoon only. The congregation of this church has the distinction of being the fourth oldest Episcopal congregation in Louisiana, with the first services having started in 1830. The original building, consecrated in 1856 by the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk, was destroyed by fire in 1870. Reconstruction began almost immediately and the present church was completed in 1872.

Oaklawn Manor, about four miles north of Franklin, was built in 1837 by Alexander Porter, Louisiana statesman. The brick plantation mansion, facing Bayou Teche, features massive Doric columns in a garden setting of oaks in a bend of the waterway. Originally restored in 1927 by Capt. Clyde Barbour, there were years of preservation by his daughter, Mrs. Thomas J. Holmes and her husband. A second restoration was completed in 1964 by Mr. and Mrs. George Thomson, the present owners.

Frances Plantation is an antique and gift shop on U.S. 90 two miles east of Franklin near the village of Garden City. One of the older houses of the area, it was constructed about 1816 by Louis deMaret and now owned by Mrs. Edward Sutter, a deMaret family descendant. The two-story brick and cypress house is built on spacious grounds fringed with oak trees extending from the highway to Bayou Teche.

No Thaw in Federal Relief Aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many persons who needed federal help because of this winter's bitter weather in the Northeast and Midwest didn't get it, the Senate Small Business Committee was told this week.

Senators, small businessmen and a representative of hard-hit Buffalo, N.Y., urged the committee to approve legislation that would make federal grants and loans easier to get in future disasters.

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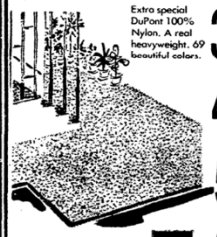

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OUT OF TOWNERS

February 9, 1979 – The Times-Picayune – "Advertising Reporter"

Advertising Reporter

BY HARRIETT DAVIS CORTEZ

FRANKLIN AREA LANDMARKS TOUR

The St. Mary Chapter of the Louisiana Landmarks Society will sponsor their annual tour of historic homes in Franklin, La. on Sunday, Mar. 4.

For the first time in 16 years, the public will be able to see the second floor and Henry Clay room of Oaklawn Manor, now under new ownership. The tour will also include Gates House, built on Main Street in Franklin around 1851. The quaint lampposts on this boulevard were the subject of a National Geographic photo story, last year.

Other homes to be shown are Allain House, 909 Second St., which was built in 1832 and seized by Union Por forces during the Civil War; Alice Plantation, across Bayou Teche, near Jeanerette and Frances Plantation. Grevemberg House museum will be the tour headquarters and St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be open.

Admission for the complete tour is $6 in advance and $7 at the door.

Brochures and tickets may be obtained by writing Mrs. Frank Kramer, P.O. Box 221, Franklin, La.,70538.

• • •

PETIT BALLET AUDITIONS SATURDAY

traditional rectangle.

The king-size round bed measures 80 inches in diameter and comes with a red velvet headboard and spread. He's asking $350 for the complete set and will accept offers.

For information, call 949-4631.

• • •

KIDDIE LIT SALE AT THE BOOKSTORE, LTD.

The Bookstore, Ltd., 5419 Magazine St., will have a large selection of their hardcover children's books on sale, Saturday through Wednesday.

Just in time for Valentines Day, you can pick up picture books, joke books, fairytales, animal stories and fiction for ages two through early teens.

• • •

CUB SCOUTS PARADE IN METAIRIE

The Cub Scouts of Pack 117, Chitimatcha District, invite the public to view their annual Mardi Gras parade this Saturday.

The parade leaves Cleary Playground at 10 a.m. and ends at St. Christopher School on Derbigny Street. The parade theme is "The Holidays".

• • •

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February 18, 1979 – The Times-Picayune – "Antebellum Home Tour Set March 4"

Antebellum Home Tour Set March 4

A springtime tour of antebellum homes centered around Franklin, La., will be held on March 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The tour is sponsored by the St. Mary Chapter, Louisiana Landmarks Society, and takes its visitors on a journey to seven historical places. Included on the tour is the Gates House, Oaklawn Manor, Allain House, Alice Plantation, Grevemberg House, St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Frances Plantation.

The Grevemberg House museum in Franklin City Park will serve as headquarters for the tour. The 128-year-old home is a restoration project of the Landmarks Society.

Brochures and other information may be obtained by writing Mrs. Frank Kramer, chairman, P.O. Box 221, Franklin, La. 70538. Tickets by donation are $6 in advance and $7 the day of the tour, and may be obtained at any of the homes.

Some of the highlights of the Oaklawn home will be viewed for the first time in a number of years. A guest room in Oaklawn Manor where Henry Clay visited will be on display. Oaklawn was recently sold and its owners intend to expand the opportunities for visitors to share its elegance and beauty.

The unusual raised cottage known as the Gates House, is another pleasant visit included on the tour. Located on 205 Main St., it was built shortly after 1851 and restored by the owner's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Robert E. Brumby and the late Mr. Brumby.

One of the oldest homes believed to be remaining in Franklin is the Allain House at 909 Second St. Presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allain, the three-story brick and cypress dwelling was constructed in 1832 by John Hartman. It has an interesting history in the Civil War.

Built about 1799, the Alice Plantation on Highway 87 across Bayou Teche from Jeanerette, is the oldest house on tour. Built about 1790 by Agricole Fuselier on a site in Baldwin, it was purchased by Randolph Roane Jr. 18 years ago and moved by barge to Alice Plantation.

The gift and antique shop at Frances Plantation will be open for the tour along with St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

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SAVE $20 . . . Motorized Miter Box
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February 17, 1985 – The Times-Picayune – "Trip tips"

Expert lensman to lead safari in East Africa

By VINCENT RANDAZZO
Travel editor

Carl and Ann Purcell will lead a camera safari to East Africa from Sept. 1-17. Special vehicles with open roofs will give participants a clear view of lions, elephants, giraffes, zebra and other wild animals. Highlights will include a stay at the Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Treetops, Amboseli at Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mombasa and the Governor's Camp in the Masai Mara. An option is a balloon flight over the Masai Mara. Purcell's Travel Photography column appears each month in the travel news section of this newspaper. Cost of the safari, including air by British Airways from New York, is $3,550 per person. For information, write to the Purcells, 5913 Skyline Heights Court, Alexandria, VA 22311, or call Travel Pointe toll free at (800) 368-3005.

■

Houston opera: A trip to Houston on April 26 to view La Traviata by the Houston Grand Opera with Audrey and Kerry Redmann on April 27 will be escorted by Rene and Morell Crane, announces Dixie Travel of New Orleans, One Shell Square. The return is April 28. Price is $325 per person, double, with single supplement of $85. Price includes round-trip air, Houston Oaks accommodations, opera ticket and party after the opera. For information, phone Dixie or Betsy at 525-0097.

Belize excursion: A trip to Belize, formerly British Honduras, will be led by Robert A. Thomas, director of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center, on Feb. 25. Return will be March 6. The trip will include visits to a Mayan temple, pine savannahs, rain forests, mangrove swamps and an extensive barrier reef. Belize has more than 500 species of birds, 250 species of orchids, beach, rivers and many colored frogs. Cost from New Orleans is $1,295. For information, phone 241-9606.

■

Ski packages: Low rates are being offered on ski trips departing April 1 through Third Century Tours in cooperation with Eastern Airlines to Steamboat or Vail. Eight-day packages costing from $567 per person, double, including air fare, are available from New Orleans to Steamboat. Singles, triples and quads are available also. The price to Vail is from $663, double. For information, call Third Century Tours toll-free at (800) 327-7087.

■

Antebellum tour: A tour of antebellum homes in the Franklin-Bayou Teche area is scheduled for March 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open will be Darby House, Allain House and Calumet Plantation. Grevemberg House will serve as headquarters. Also open will be Frances Plantation and St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Admission is $7, or $6 if purchased in advance. For group rates and information, write Louisiana Landmarks Society, St. Mary Chapter, 211 Sanders, Franklin, La. 70538, phone (318) 828-1395.

■

Tour lengthened: Globus-Gateway has lengthened its all-Italy tour to 13 days, including trans-Atlantic flights, to incorporate two nights at the resort of Stresa on Lake Maggiore. An excursion to the Swiss Ticino area, Locarno and Lugano is included. The itinerary covers Rome, Florence, Pisa, Genoa, Milan, Verona, Padua, Venice, Ravenna, San Marino, Assisi, Montecassino, Sorrento, Capri and Pompeii. Departures are weekly from April 1 through Oct. 28. Land costs of $588 to $638 cover accommodations in two-bedded rooms, continental breakfast daily and nine dinners. For information, contact Globus-Gateway at 69-15 Austin St. Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375.

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PRESENTS

February 24, 2009 – Franklin Banner-Tribune – "Guidry & Little reign over Krewe of Sucrose"

[. . .
Duke Frederick Schwitz

Duke Frederick Schwitz is a resident of **Franklin** and is married to the former Kay Scott Green of Charleston, South Carolina. Fred and Kay have five adult off-spring between them and 10 grandchildren. They have restored the **Allain House** on Second Street and have lived in the **Franklin** community for three years. Fred has active memberships with St. Mary's Episcopal Church, St. Mary Landmark Society, Young-Sanders Center, the 18th Louisiana Reenacting unit, Fairfield University in Connecticut,

Georgetown University in D.C., Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, and is retired from years of providing orthodontic services and education. His hobbies include trying to keep in shape, decorating with antiques and historical reading.
. . .]

April 23, 2010 – Franklin Banner-Tribune – "Landmarks set for spring fundraiser"
"St. Mary Landmarks will host its spring fundraiser at Grevemberg House Museum on Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

The late Dr. Mildred S. Christian will be honored with the Historic Preservation Award. Previous recipients include George B. Thomson, Margie Luke, Louise Darnall, Glenna and Tom Kramer and Didi Battle.

Beverages, brunch and a silent auction will be accompanied by the music of Linda Kidd. The live auction will be accompanied by the antics of raconteur Tom Kramer and auctioneer David Naquin.

Fabulous auction items include a one night stay with golf package at Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, spectacular "Hibiscus Minaudiere" by Vivian Alexander, cocktails and dinner for 10 at the antebellum Allain House, chauffeur-driven limousine for 12 to Fred's of Mamou, a 72-inch strand of freshwater pearls from Valobra Jewelry & Antiques, Cajun Caviar & Champagne Celebration and a 1996 St. Mary Landmarks Tour of Homes afghan. Many other must-haves will be offered at all price points.

Table sponsors are Dr. and Mrs. Brent Allain, Argus Spa, Franklin Foundation Hospital, Hanagriff 's Machine Shop, Dr. Alan M. Hoberman, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kramer, Clara L. O'Niell, Sheriff David Naquin, The Prevost House and David Stiel Agency.

Table sponsorships are still available at $565 and include eight brunch reservations. Reserved tables for eight are available for $440. Individual reservations are $55 each.

For further information contact Craig Landry at 828-2092.

Please make paid reservations by April 23. Rain location is the Forest Restaurant."

August 16, 2010 – Franklin-Banner Tribune – "Landmarks auction"

"During the live auction for St. Mary Landmarks recently, one of the two top bidders was the family of Dr. Brent Allain for one of the items. That item was cocktails and an elegant four-course dinner at the antebellum Allain House in Franklin, with music by Clay Boudreaux. The house at 909 Second St.

was built in 1832 by John Hartman for his bride, and according to records, later housed the first bank in south Louisiana outside of New Orleans. Subsequently it was owned by the James Smith family for 70 years, and was occupied by Union forces during the Civil War, by which time it was known as the Smith House. Charles and Henrietta Allain moved in from a small house in Charenton in 1951 when Brent Allain was five. The other siblings, Mark (now deceased), Lex, and Anne grew up there from birth. The house is now owned by Fred and Kay Schwitz. From back left are Win Chadwick, Brent Allain, Peggy Salisbury, Lex Allain, Suzie Allain and in front, Loraine Allain, Denise Allain, Judith Allain, Anne Allain Chadwick and family friend Charles Salisbury."

October 5, 2011 – The Daily Review (Morgan City) – "The Wheel House"

"PAINT THE GYM Community participation requested for Morgan City Junior High School volleyball team's Paint the Gym Pink fundraiser Thursday, Oct. 6, 4 p.m., at MCJHS gym. Proceeds benefit Miles Perret Cancer Services.

GARAGE SALE Hosted by Children's World Academy, 800 Brashear Ave., Morgan City, Saturday, Oct. 8, 7 a.m. to noon.

HAIR EXTENSIONS In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Maison Jardin with LaSpalon offering "Hot Pink Hair Extensions" Monday, Oct. 10, 1:30-5:30 p.m., at Maison Jardin, 516 Roderick St., Morgan City.

Cost:$10. All donations provided to Morgan City High School's Paint the Pit Pink that will be donated to their charity of choice.

PARISH ANNIVERSARY St. Mary Parish and the City of **Franklin**'s 200th anniversary celebration includes "Sweet Remembrances Cemetery Tour" Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in **Franklin**. Cost:$15, includes cemetery tour with booklet, admission to Grevemberg House that is "dressed in mourning" and chance for $200. Tickets at Shadowland, 906 Main St., **Franklin**, Oct.

15, 9:30 a.m. Celebration includes **Franklin** area Tour of Homes Sunday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Cost:$25, advance; $30, at door. Includes **Allain House**, Bocage on the Teche, Gates House, Grevemberg, Shadowland, Trowbridge House and Oaklawn Manor.

For ticket info visit www.grevemberghouse.com.

FALL FOOD DRIVE Sponsored by Maison Jardin, 516 Roderick St., Morgan City, during October. Drop off nonperishable food items. Items will be donated to St. Mary Outreach in time for Thanksgiving."

August 30, 2013 – The Daily Review (Morgan City, LA) – "Franklin-area walk, drive tour is free"

"Do you like historic homes? If you answered "yes" then a visit to the **Franklin** area is in order.

Main Street, with its boulevard of cast iron street lamps, and the surrounding area offers lovers of historic homes a visual wonder.

A self-guided walking and driving tour of 34 properties is highlighted in one of the Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau's pamphlets.

It features homes in the Anglo-Saxon style and numerous examples of well-preserved Greek Revival architecture.

This tour is oriented from east to west, starting with the Driving Tour - East continuing with a Walking Tour in downtown **Franklin** and ending with the Driving Tour - West.

All houses in the tour are private residences unless otherwise noted. This is mostly a view-from-afar tour.

Home descriptions are by Dr. Thomas F. Kramer, member and past president of the St. Mary Chapter of the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

[. . .]

Allain House, 909 Second St., **Franklin** - This landmark colonial home built in 1832 by John Hartman housed the first bank in south Louisiana outside New Orleans from 1837-47. Subsequently owned by the Dr. James Smith family for 70 years, it was occupied by Union forces during the Civil War. Restored in the 1920s by Paul Kramer, it was the home of the Charles Allain family for 40 years. Davy Crockett is reputed to have stayed here on his way to the Alamo. **Allain House** is presently the home of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Schwitz."

REALTOR & BROKER BIOGRAPHIES

Peter W. Patout

Realtor & Historic Properties Specialist
Talbot Historic Properties
Licensed in Louisiana & Mississippi

Peter W. Patout is a native of south Louisiana and grew up among the sugar cane fields of the Bayou Teche country. He is a historic property specialist, and is a proud long term resident and property owner in the French Quarter of New Orleans, in addition to owning a historic family home in Patoutville, Louisiana. A consummate ambassador for Louisiana, Peter's family have been land and plantation owners for twelve generations in Louisiana and Mississippi. Peter studied architecture for two years and received a business degree from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He also studied Louisiana Architectural History at Tulane University in New Orleans. The founder and owner of Peter Patout Antiques & Appraisals in New Orleans since 1984, his areas of expertise are Louisiana furniture, fine art, and decorative arts. For about 20 years, Peter has attended the Natchez Antiques Forum and the Historic New Orleans Collection's Forum. Blending his passions for art and architecture, Peter is a founding member and active on the board of the New Orleans Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. As a real estate agent with Talbot Historic Properties, he provides his clients with his expertise and enhances their experience in finding the most beautiful and significant historic homes available.

Current and past listings

Dunleith Historic Inn, Natchez, Mississippi. c. 1856 Greek Revival Plantation.

Historic Governor Jacques Dupré Plantation House, Jarreau, Pointe Coupée Parish, Louisiana. c. 1790 Creole Plantation.

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605 Congress Street, New Orleans, LA 70117
office: (504) 415-9730

Tracy Talbot

Broker Realtor
Talbot Historic Properties
Licensed in Louisiana & Mississippi

Tracy Talbot is from the Bayou Lafourche area not far from Madewood Plantation. Her parents owned the land where Woodlawn Plantation home once stood. While attending Louisiana State University she obtained her Louisiana Real Estate License. Once completing her business degree at LSU Tracy moved west to Colorado. There she worked for a commercial real estate company and opened its residential division. She held a Colorado license at this time. Tracy relocated to San Francisco and got involved in the art business. When returning home to Louisiana she was able to combine art and architecture in her real estate business. "Architecture is art", she always says. She started Talbot Historic Properties in 2001 in the French Quarter, but has extended her market as far as Albania Plantation in St. Mary Parish and Lakeside Plantation in Point Coupee Parish. Tracy's passion is to combine smart business with historic preservation.

Current and past listings

Albania Plantation House in Jeanerette, Louisiana. Constructed c. 1840 for Charles Alexandre Grevemberg.

Lakeside Plantation in Batchelor, Pointe Coupée Parish, Louisiana. Constructed in the 1860s for Charles Stewart.

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The information in this booklet, while not guaranteed, is submitted by sources believed to be reliable.
May 8, 2018

Compiled with help by:
Kelly L. Calhoun, MPS, LREC
Marguerite Roberts, MPS
Mary Catherine Minvielle, LREC