



Louisiana Historic Resource Inventory

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
Office of Cultural Development
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Resource ID Number:

3 2 - 0 0 0 0 1 -
parish # resource #

☐ Addendum Attached

Location and Geographic Information

Name of Property: Decareaux House Creole Museum

Address: 16056 Highway 16 Parish: Livingston

Locality: ☒ City ☐ Community ☐ Vicinity ☐ Rural

City/Community/Vicinity of: French Settlement

Topographic Quad: French Settlement Quad Size: ☒ 7.5 ☐ 15

UTM: 1 5 - 7 1 1 6 6 2 - 3 3 5 3 9 3 5
zone easting northing range township section

Owner Name: _____

Owner Address: _____ Tax Parcel: _____

Property Information

Type: ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☒ Building ☐ Object

Level of Recognition: ☐ NHL ☒ NR individual ☐ NR district/element ☐ DOE ☐ Local ☐ None

Previously Surveyed: ☒ Yes ☐ No When, Located Where?: _____

Government Preservation Activity: ☐ Section 106 ☒ Grant ☐ Tax Credit ☐ Local Ord. ☐ Other

HABS/HAER: ☐ Yes ☒ No NR eligibility: ☐ Potential individual ☒ Potential district ☐ Ineligible

Condition: ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Ruin

Remark: _____

Integrity: ☐ Unaltered ☒ Altered (Historic) ☐ Altered (Non-Historic)

Remark: See NR nomination.

Threats: ☐ Abandonment ☐ Neglect ☐ Alteration ☐ Development ☐ Government Action ☒ None

Remark: _____

Physical Description

Date of Construction: ☒ Circa 1898
☐ Exact

Moved: ☐ Yes
☐ No When? _____

Function and Use

"P" for Present, "H" for Historic

☒ domestic	☐ social	☐ library	☐ animal facility	☐ fortification
☐ single dwelling	☐ meeting hall	☐ research facility	☐ fishing facility	☐ military facility
☐ secondary structure	☐ clubhouse	☐ religion	☐ horticultural facility	☐ coast guard facility
☐ servant quarter	☐ civic	☐ religious facility	☐ irrigation facility	☐ battle site
☐ multiple dwelling	☐ government	☐ church school	☐ industry	☐ landscape
☐ hotel	☐ capitol	☐ recreation/culture	☐ manufacturing	☐ park
☐ institutional housing	☐ city hall	☐ theater	☐ extractive facility	☐ plaza
☐ camp	☐ correctional facility	☐ auditorium	☐ waterworks	☐ garden
☐ commerce/trade	☐ fire station	☐ museum	☐ communication facility	☐ transportation
☐ business	☐ government office	☐ sports facility	☐ processing site	☐ rail-related
☐ professional	☐ custom house	☐ outdoor recreation	☐ energy production	☐ air-related
☐ organizational	☐ post office	☐ fair	☐ health care	☐ water-related
☐ financial institution	☐ public works	☐ monument/marker	☐ hospital	☐ road-related
☐ specialty store	☐ courthouse	☐ work of art	☐ clinic	☐ pedestrian-related
☐ department store	☐ education	☐ agriculture/subsistence	☐ sanitarium	☐ unknown
☐ restaurant	☐ school	☐ processing	☐ medical office	☐ vacant
☐ warehouse	☐ college	☐ storage	☐ resort	☐ other _____
			☐ defense	
			☐ arms storage	

Form and Dimensions

☐ single pen	☐ central-hall	☐ hall-parlor I-house	☐ skyscraper	☐ H	☐ L
☐ shotgun	☐ gable-ell	☒ Creole house	☐ commercial row bldg.	☐ U	☐ cruciform
☐ double-shotgun	☐ bungalow	☐ central hall, 2 pile house	☐ freestanding commercial	☐ T	☐ T
☐ camelback	☐ pyramidal cottage	☐ Queen Anne house	☐ single-crib barn	☒ symmetrical	☐ vertical
☐ double pen	☐ Queen Anne cottage	☐ four square	☐ transverse-crib barn	☐ asymmetrical	☐ horizontal
☐ hall-parlor	☐ central-hall, 2 pile cottage	☐ minimal tradition cottage	☐ other		
☐ saddlebag	☐ bluffland cottage	☐ split level			
☐ creole cottage	☐ central-hall I-house	☐ ranch	Height: ☒ 1 ☐ 1.5 ☐ 2 ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5-10 ☐ 10-20 ☐ 20+		
☐ dog trot	☐ double-pen I-house	☐ row house	Width: ☐ 1 ☐ 1.5 ☒ 2 ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3 ☐ 3+		
		☐ warehouse	Depth: ☐ 1 ☐ 1.5 ☐ 2 ☐ 2.5 ☒ 3 ☐ 3+		
		☐ depot			

Style

☐ High Style ☐ Elements of... ☒ No Style

☐ Creole/ French Colonial	☐ Exotic Revival	☐ Eastlake/Stick	☐ Colonial Revival	☐ Prairie	☐ International
☐ Federal	☐ Victorian Gothic	☐ Shingle Style	☐ Classical Revival	☐ Commercial Style	☐ Other _____
☐ Greek Revival	☐ Italianate	☐ Romanesque	☐ Tudor Revival	☐ Chicago	
☐ Gothic Revival	☐ Second Empire	☐ Renaissance	☐ Late Gothic Revival	☐ Skyscraper	
☐ Italian Villa	☐ Queen Anne	☐ Beau Arts	☐ Mission	☐ Craftsman	
			☐ Italian Renaissance	☐ Moderne	
			☐ French Renaissance	☐ Art Deco	

Foundation

☐ sill on ground	☐ concrete block pier	☐ continuous stone	☐ unknown	☐ w/stone infill
☐ wooden pier	☐ concrete pylon pier	☐ continuous concrete block		☐ w/ brick infill
☐ post in ground	☒ brick pier	☐ continuous brick		☐ w/ concrete block infill

Construction

☐ log (note notch)	☐ balloon frame	☐ load bearing concrete block	☐ w/ bousillage infill
☐ hewn log	☐ unknown wood frame	☐ reinforced concrete	☐ w/ brick infill
☐ post in ground	☒ french timber frame	☐ load bearing brick	☐ w/ stone infill
☐ post on sill	☐ eastern brace frame	☐ load bearing stone	
		☐ steel frame/curtain wall	
		☐ unknown construction	

Exterior Materials

☐ vertical board	☐ stone (note dressing)	☐ terra cotta	☐ asphalt
☐ board and batten	☐ concrete block	☐ glazed brick/tile/block	☐ reconstituted wood siding
☐ log (note dressing)	☐ decorative concrete block	☐ sheet metal	☐ permastone
☒ clapboard/weatherboard	☐ poured concrete wall	☐ enamelled steel	☐ other (see narrative)
☐ drop/novelty siding	☐ stucco	☐ asbestos	☐ unknown
☒ flush horizontal board	☐ brick (note bond)	☐ glass block	
		☐ aluminum/vinyl siding	

Roof

☐ parapet gable	☐ gambrel	☐ pyramidal	☐ conical	☐ unknown	☐ low pitch
☐ stepped gable	☐ hip	☐ mansard	☐ flat		☐ moderate pitch
☒ front gable	☐ double pitch hip	☐ complex	☐ shed		☒ steep pitch
☐ side gable	☐ gable on hip	☐ round	☐ other (see narrative)		☐ w/ parapet wall

Roof Materials

☐ asphalt shingle	☐ built up
☐ wood shingle	☐ other
☐ slate	☐ unknown
☒ asbestos	
☐ metal	
☐ ceramic/terra cotta tile	

Chimney(s)

☒ ridge center	☐ lateral exterior
☐ ridge off-center	☐ removed
☐ slope center	☐ other
☐ slope off center	☐ unknown

Windows

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ fixed divided | ☐ bay | ☐ sliding | ☐ 1 / 1 | ☐ 9 / 9 | ☐ 4 / 1 | ☐ 9 / 6 | ☐ stained |
| ☒ single-hung | ☐ oriel | ☐ replacement | ☐ 2 / 2 | ☐ 12 / 12 | ☐ 6 / 1 | ☐ multi- | ☐ diamond |
| ☐ batten | ☐ Palladian | ☐ unknown | ☐ 4 / 4 | ☐ 2 / 1 | ☐ 9 / 1 | ☐ — | ☐ unknown |
| ☐ fixed single | ☐ casement | ☐ other | ☒ 6 / 6 | ☐ 3 / 1 | ☐ 12 / 1 | ☐ — | ☐ other |

Doors/Surrounds

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ batten | ☐ flush | ☐ fanlight | ☐ screened | ☐ Federal | ☐ other |
| ☐ french | ☐ glazed | ☐ sidelights | ☐ replacement | ☐ Greek Revival | |
| <u>3.00</u> number | ☐ panel | ☐ partially glazed | ☐ transom | ☒ unknown | ☐ Queen Anne |

Porch

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ gallery | ☐ porte-cochere | ☒ integrated | ☐ enclosed |
| ☐ portico | ☒ full width | ☐ wrap | ☐ unknown |
| ☐ stoop | ☐ balcony | ☐ partial width | ☐ other |
| ☐ verandah | ☐ loggia | ☐ attached | ☐ screened |

Secondary

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☒ gallery | ☐ porte-cochere | ☐ integrated | ☐ enclosed |
| ☐ portico | ☐ full width | ☐ wrap | ☐ unknown |
| ☐ stoop | ☐ balcony | ☐ partial width | ☐ other |
| ☐ verandah | ☐ loggia | ☐ attached | ☐ screened |

Additions and Alterations**date** (mm/dd/yyyy) **description****impact**☐ I ☐ M ☐ S☐ I ☐ M ☐ S☐ I ☐ M ☐ S☐ I ☐ M ☐ S☐ I ☐ M ☐ S**Context**

- ☐ Plantation Agriculture (1750-1945)
- ☐ Creole Architecture (1750 - 1900)
- ☐ Upland South Culture (1820 -1945)
- ☐ New Orleans as Seaport (1718 -1945)
- ☐ Transportation Systems (1812 -1845)
- ☐ Historic Lumber Industry (1880-1920)
- ☐ Rice Boom (1880-1945)
- ☐ Oil and Gas Industry (1903-1945)
- ☐ Anglo-American Architecture (1800-1945)

Significance

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ agriculture | ☐ religion |
| ☒ architecture | ☐ science |
| ☐ archeology | ☐ social history |
| ☐ art | ☐ transportation |
| ☐ commerce | |
| ☐ communications | |
| ☐ community planning and development | |
| ☐ conservation | |
| ☐ economics | |
| ☐ education | |
| ☐ engineering | |
| ☐ entertainment/recreation | |
| ☐ ethnic heritage | |
| ☐ exploration/settlement | |
| ☐ health/medicine | |
| ☐ industry | |
| ☐ invention | |
| ☐ landscape architecture | |
| ☐ law | |
| ☐ literature | |
| ☐ maritime history | |
| ☐ military | |
| ☐ performing arts | |
| ☐ philosophy | |
| ☐ politics/government | |



Narrative

2014 Livingston Parish Historic Resources Inventory, conducted by Laura Ewen Blokker, Southeast Preservation for the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation with funding from a National Park Service Survey and Planning Grant. Photos taken August 21, 2014.

History

Built by Harris and Alexander Lambert for Mr. and Mrs. Decareaux, daughter and sister to the former.

Outbuildings have been moved to the property from other sites.

Sources

NR nomination

Melissa Gardner Anderson, "Vielles Maisons de la Campagne" Revised Edition. French Settlement Historical Society, 2002.

Outbuildings

1 - single crib barn
2 - double crib barn
3 - transverse-crib barn

4 - storage/misc. shed
5 - smoke house
6 - spring/well house

7 - corn crib
8 - coop
9 - quarters

10 - garconier
11 - pigeonnier
12 - kitchen

13 - office
14 - machine shed
15 - garage

16 - privy
17 - stable
18 - other

#1
type: 16

date: e / c

comment:

#2
type: 5

date: e / c

comment:

#3
type: 18

date: e / c

comment:

slaughter house

#4
type: 4

date: e / c

comment:

#5
type: 4

date: e / c

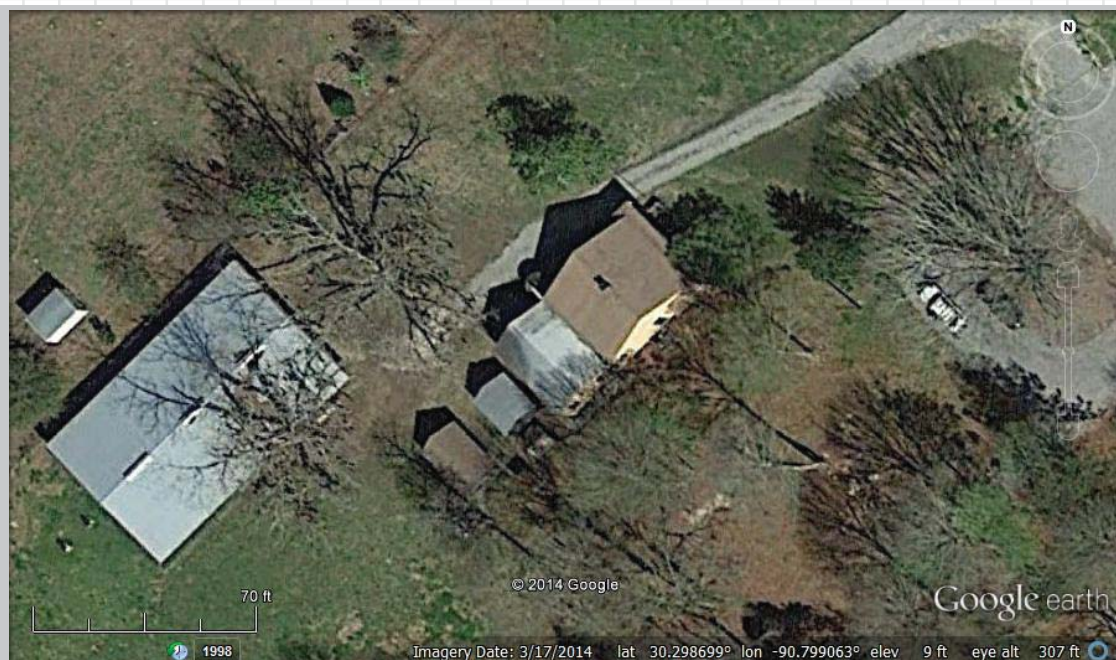
comment:

#6
type:

date: e / c

comment:

Site Plan



STANDING STRUCTURES SURVEY

Site Number 1

32-00001

I. PARISH Livingston

MUNICIPALITY French Settlement

USGS QUAD French Settlement (7½')
Denham Springs (15')

Township 9S Range 4E Section

TYPE OF PROPERTY Museum

NAME (common) Creole Museum

NAME (historic)

ADDRESS French Settlement, Louisiana

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

II. 1. Condition Good

2. Style Creole

3. Floor Plan

4. Structural Material Cypress

(PHOTOGRAPH)

III. Physical description of property and historic significance

The Creole Museum is sponsored by the French Settlement Historical Society. It began five years ago as an endeavor to preserve the Creole heritage of French Settlement. The museum contains items bought, donated, and loaned. Included in the museum's holdings are furniture, utensils, bottles, tools, and memorabilia.

The Acadian-style house is constructed of rough, hewn cypress logs with lead-glass window panes. It sits on the original foundation. Four rooms make-up the floor plan.

The Creole Museum is owned by the town, and leased to the French Settlement Historical Society. It is located behind the Municipal Building on Route 16.

IV. Recorded by

Date

For

V. Sources consulted "Creole Museum Houses
French Settlement Artifacts" by

Terence Trainer, Morning Advocate

9-27-81

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

Creole museum houses French Settlement artifacts



Acadian style museum house has numerous artifacts

By **TERENCE TRAINER**

FRENCH SETTLEMENT — "History is bunk," declared Henry Ford, founder of the automobile dynasty.

The history Henry Ford meant was the activities of Washington politicians, the decisions of Supreme Court justices, battles, skirmishes and international diplomacy. Ford believed that real history consisted of the individual acts of the large multitude who never get into the international limelight.

The residents of the bayou community of French Settlement agree with Henry Ford and have carried their convictions into a concrete realization by founding and supporting a museum, unique in Livingston Parish, of local Creole history.

Five years ago, the French Settlement Historical Society was founded, and, like Henry Ford preserving the laboratory and artifacts of his idol, Thomas Edison, they are trying to preserve in its original setting as much of the distinctive Creole history and background as they can. With the support of the town aldermen and mayor and the local community, they have done an astonishing amount of work.

The museum, a four-room Acadian style house built of rough-hewn cypress and lead-glass window panes, still on its original foundation behind the French Settlement municipal building on Louisiana Highway 16, was bought by the town and leased to the historical society to use as a museum. In the five years since, people have donated or loaned to the society a house full of furniture, utensils,

bottles, tools and memorabilia.

One room contains the small altar of St. Joseph from the original French Settlement Catholic Church, before its renovation, and one of the original church pews, so small that it seems made for children. Mercy A. Lobell, one of the members of the historical society, assures visitors that the pew was meant for adults because they have a picture of the inside of the church depicting the location of the pew.

"We also have a framed sketch of the mail boat, the 'Minnie B.' which reminds people of the time when even the Pony express made its rounds by way of the Amite River," she explains.

"Of course we have other nice things," she continues, "and the 1924 radio in a mahogany cabinet is a good example." This sits prominently on one of the display tables, and the note beside it reads: "Olivia Lambert Lobell's godfather gave it to her in 1928 before electricity arrived in the community."

"The coffee pot of hand-hammered copper with a brass handle," she says, "is a reminder of French Settlement's historical connection to New Orleans and to the pirate, Jean Lafitte."

Mercy Lobell believes that the coffee pot belonged to the two daughters of Vincent Scivique, a friend of Jean Lafitte and one of the early settlers of Livingston Parish.

In the 1850s, the two daughters owned the Orleans Theatre Coffee House, a place in the French Quarter frequented by New

Orleans opera lovers before and after the performances. Mrs. Lobell is currently conducting research to verify that the coffee pot was used in the coffee house and to gather details of the lives of these Scivique descendants.

Original documents line the walls of the museum — maps, travelling papers (the forerunners of passports), and the patent certificate of 1822, signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes on Aug. 20, 1880, recording the original Louis Loubill land claim in French Settlement. According to this important document, the property was located in St. Helena (now Livingston) Parish, and Loubill was on the Cosby and Skipswith lists' of actual settlers of 1819 for this parish. Greensburg District is given as the location where this 640 acres was surveyed, and the present-day location is in French Settlement.

"The most intriguing document, however, is an invitation to the 3rd annual entertainment in French Settlement," adds Lucille Denham, another society member. This engraved invitation, dated 1888, from the Livingston Lodge of the Knights of Honor (a non-sectarian charitable and beneficent society), offered a 'programme' in French Settlement of fireworks, dancing, music by '1st class brass and string bands,' parades, meals and overnight lodgings. The back of the invitation states that the bearer, for \$2.50, can take a trip aboard the steamer, Louise, from 'the west end of New Orleans

(See ★ MUSEUM, Page 2-D)

Morning Advocate

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★ Museum

(Continued from Page 1-D)

to French Settlement and back.'

All of that type of tourist activity is past in the quiet village of French Settlement. The only reminder of it lies in this small museum, open to the public on the second Sunday only in each month.

"We're very proud of what we have accomplished," says Mercy Lobell. "Someday, our museum may be a major tourist attraction for this part of the state."

With the continuation of present efforts, this may very well come to pass.

Long sleeves. . . pretty necklines