

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Willow Springs

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 20728 Samuels RoadCity or town: Baton Rouge State: LA County: East Baton RougeNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B x C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Carrie Broussard, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date****Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FOUR SQUARE/ Colonial Revival/ Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, brick

Foundation: brick piers

Walls: wood weatherboard

Roof: slate tile and asphalt sheets

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Willow Springs is a two-story, wood-frame, single-family dwelling located just west of Zachary, and southeast of historic Port Hudson in a rural, moderately wooded area. The lot was originally the site of Willow Springs Plantation, but the current building on the lot is a reconstruction built in 1910. As such, the 1910 residence displays time-appropriate features associated with the colonial style as well as the craftsman style that was just beginning to gain traction in the state. The house retains some elements from the original plantation that would have been on the site including the large double gallery that protrudes on both sides of the building, significant setback on the lot, and the square footprint. Craftsman details include square tapered columns, nine-over-one windows, multi-lite doors, and exposed rafter tails. The house sits on brick piers and is entirely clad in wood siding with a slate roof. Exterior elevations are not quite perfectly symmetrical but are visually balanced. Construction is cypress with horsehair plaster walls, and at the interior the first floor has edge-grained heart pine flooring while the second floor has ordinary pine flooring, both original. The property was in the Woodside family for generations, including Captain Edward Lacy Woodside, Sr. who constructed the 1910. Over the past century Willow Springs has suffered minimal alterations, from the front steps being replaced sometime after 1922 to more significant alterations in 1976. Later alterations included the replacement of seven windows in the breakfast area with vintage windows from the same period, a partial

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remodel of the kitchen which was also kept to the period, the addition of the second floor veranda and two sets of French doors, bathroom alterations, ceiling fan replacement, repairing and replacement of wood as needed, and a full repaint of the exterior and interior.

Narrative Description



Fig. 1. Map of Surrounding Area in Relation to Major Cities (left) and Site Plan (right)

Location & Setting

Willow Springs Plantation sits in a rural area just southeast of the historic Port Hudson district. It sits back about 200 feet from Highway 61 in a moderately wooded area that is predominantly filled with live oaks. The immediate lot is about 750 feet wide and 650 deep, however the property is 2.98 acres. Despite its moderate setback, the dwelling is clearly visible from the highway with no trees directly in front of it. Also on the lot is a small building and two small structures, however these are not included in the nomination as they are either non-historic or have been moved. The plantation got its namesake from the natural springs that line the property. A spring of fresh water emanates from under two trees at the rear of the property and then forms a small brook that wraps around the property, moving south. At the south end there is a large pond and a brick well, lined with concrete and sunk within the soil at ground level. The well remains today, filled with water but uncovered and mucky. The lot also has earthworks that were significant in the Civil War, as confederate soldiers would have hidden out in this area to have access to the fresh water provided by the spring.

Building

Willow Springs is a wood frame building that sits on brick piers, a common housing typology in Louisiana. Masonry piers are commonly square; however, Willow Springs creates an almost illusion by implementing square piers at the corners, and narrow piers at other sides.

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Facade (West Elevation)

The building faces west, directly at the highway and its main facade is visually dominated by the deep double gallery that extends a bay's width on either side from the house. On the left, the second-floor gallery is extended to make a porte cochere, and on the right both floor galleries are extended for balance and to account for the screened in porch that sits behind. This porch is supported by brick piers that have wooden lattice between. All piers are exposed brick except for the two that sit away from the building under the porte cochere. Aligned with each of the six piers are pillars that visually divide the facade into five bays. These pillars are tapered and square with recessed paneling. At the central bay, the original wooden front steps to the porch are missing and have been replaced by small wooden ones with no railing. There are similar side-facing steps under the porte cochere. At the porch there is a main entry ten-lite door with ten-lite sidelites and multi-lite transoms above each. On the left of this there is a pair of nine-over-one windows, and on the right, there is a grouping of three nine-over-one windows. The wooden front porch has a wood paneled ceiling as well. The second floor has a raised, paired casement window at the center with ten-lite French doors on either side. The second-floor gallery partially wraps the side of the building above the screened in porch. The floor of the second-floor gallery is wood and slopes slightly away from the structure, and the ceiling also has wood paneling. Willow Springs has a hipped roof, double pitched at the front porch. All roof eaves at Willow Springs have exposed rafter tails. Visible from the front of the house are the chimney stacks on either side of the building's main hipped roof. At the center of the roof is a round roof vent. A screen door sits along the porch, at the center of its western elevation.

South Elevation

To the right, at the south elevation, the porch, main house, and rear kitchen are all visible. Behind the screened porch there are two sets of French doors. Directly above, the second floor has a nine-over-one window. Just right of the porch are two nine-over-one windows on the first floor, and a grouping of four casement windows on the second. Recessed behind the main structure, at the far right of this elevation, the kitchen is visible. Here there is a six-lite window left of a paired nine-over-one window.

East Elevation

Occupying nearly the entire first floor of the rear elevation is the protruding kitchen. This wall is entirely symmetrical with glass doors on either side above small concrete steps. 7 six-over-six windows, all grouped, span the entire width between these two doors. The second floor has another grouping of four casement windows on the left end, right next to the other grouping. At the center and lower there is a group of three casement windows with awning screens. At the right there is a single casement window and then a single nine-over-one window.

North Elevation

The final elevation has vegetation lining its base and disguising the red brick piers. It has a small bay protruding from the first floor, right side. This bay is rectangular, narrow, and lined with a grouping of four casement windows. It has a small lean-to roof. To the left there are two nine-over-one windows. On the second floor there are four more, all evenly spaced. On the left end, at the rear kitchen, there is a pair of two nine-over-one windows. On the right end the second-floor gallery and porte cochere protrude.

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Interior

The interior layout of Willow Springs is a traditional foursquare, especially on the second floor as the first floor is somewhat irregular towards the rear and kitchen areas. The main entry of the building does not open immediately into the central hall, but rather into the living room which extends into this space. The dining room sits just left. Past the living room is the hall with a U-shaped staircase. A bedroom sits to the right, with the pantry, part of the kitchen, and a secondary enclosed stairs to the left. The kitchen is at the rear. The second floor follows a similar layout with four bedrooms, one at each corner, and a restroom at the front end, opposite the stairs.

Interior finishes at Willow Springs are high style. This includes baseboards, chair rails, crown moulding, and encased beams. Through the main entry, the living room is separated from the dining hall on its left and the central hall just behind by large fifteen-lite double doors. On the left there are pocket doors, and behind there are standard out-swing doors. Both the dining and living rooms have high ceilings with decorative encased beams that run back into the building. They also have painted brick fireplaces which have simple brick ornamentation. At the central hall the stairs sit on the left with painted risers, box newel post, and balusters, but exposed wood treads and handrails. This wood is slightly darker than that of the floor. To the right of the central hall is one small bedroom with a fireplace that sits behind the one in the living room. This one however has a wooden mantel. There is a closet at the back and opposite of the ensuite is a small door that leads to the under-the-stairs storage. A second small door reveals the structure under the stairs which has original plaster and lath walls. This storage area connects back to the central hall. At the end of the hall are smaller eight-lite double doors that open out into the kitchen. It is possible that the kitchen was a later addition as some of the features in this portion are unoriginal. This includes vinyl tile floors in the kitchen and a more modern grouping of windows along the rear wall. At the far left end, behind the dining room is a small butler's pantry and the functional part of the kitchen. The butler's pantry is divided by a wall of painted wood lattice with a door at the center. Both sides have built-in painted cabinets. This has also faced some renovations with a small section of midcentury cabinets. Across from these cabinets are the service stairs. These are narrow and enclosed wood stairs. The treads are once again exposed wood while the risers are painted white. They connect to the landing of the main stair along the back wall. Past this landing and the last portion of the main stairs there is the central hall of the second floor. This area directly connects all four bedrooms to the central bathroom but is unornamented. Each bedroom at the side has its own fireplace with wood mantels that match the pillars on the front of the house. Contemporary decorative iron plates have been added in front of each fire box. The pair of bedrooms at the north side of the house directly connect to each other through a doorway on either side of the fireplace. These doorways are about a foot deep with built-in shelves within each forming small hidden storage. The doors are hinged on opposite sides so when closed, each bedroom has its own small storage closet. Across the central hall, the southern pair of bedrooms are slightly different. The front bedroom has built out closets with accordion doors at the center wall behind the bathroom and an additional small closet build-out just right of the fireplace. The rear south bedroom has no closets but does have a sink in its central corner and its exterior walls are almost entirely casement windows. The full bath on the second floor has square and octagonal tile and a large ceramic tub.

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Integrity

Willow Springs has faced little alterations to its historic fabric since its original construction. Various small structures on the surrounding site have been added and removed but they have had no adverse effects on the historic integrity of the main building. Early in the 20th century a historic building was moved onto the site, and the other structures on the site have been added, moved, renovated, and removed in turn. The dwelling's low-pitched roof, exposed rafter ends, window configurations, porte-cochere, porches, weatherboard siding, tapered and square wood columns, and brick piers with lattice skirting are all original features that contribute to the building's integrity as a mixed Foursquare Colonial revival and Craftsman style building. The large double gallery that wraps around the building and its original foursquare floorplan contribute to the structure's historic integrity as a rural Louisiana building lending to its plantation style feeling. These features convey the structure's strong sense of design, material, workmanship, and feeling integrities. The building even retains strong location and setting integrity as not only has it never been moved, but the site has remained largely similar since its original construction. It still resides in a moderately wooded area well set back from the sole nearby road. As it retains numerous and significant historic features Willow Springs retains its historic integrity.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Woodside, Edward Lacy Sr.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

At 20728 Samuels Road, Willow Springs is a structure that exemplifies a unique blend of form and style. As a 20th-century dwelling that sits on a historic plantation site, it has a form that was standard for early and mid-19th century plantations, simplified through the influence of the foursquare form. Houses of four rooms, one at each corner, with a center hall and stairs were common around the turn of the century. While this is a newer building form, it is conducive to those of early plantation dwellings, which often followed a strict order. Additionally, at the time Willow Springs was built, this style was still extremely new to the south, and few houses are seen in this style early, especially in rural areas making its use at Willow Springs unique, especially as it has been spruced with features that are unique to French Colonial building. Willow Springs was built during a nostalgic period when many architectural revival styles emerged as designers looked to local history as inspiration. Local building and French Creole

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influence is seen in the use of cypress construction, bousillage, poteaux sur sole, deep porches, cypress weatherboards, columns, visual symmetry, transoms, and shutters. Additionally, Willow Springs was built in 1910 and has many features that reflect the Arts and Crafts influence that was popular at this time. These include its window and door type, column style, exposed rafters, and a slightly irregular floorplan that are characteristic of craftsman houses. Plantation and French Creole houses were designed to be visually significant, with clear hierarchy in relation to the surrounding site. These structures communicated power and wealth. Craftsman dwellings were typically built for common families; they were cozy structures that were accessible. The only chronological overlap with the French Creole and craftsman design of the building is its foursquare type. This residence was advanced for its time, even featuring a water pump that brought fresh water from the surrounding natural springs. Willow Springs is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion C for its Architecture with a period of significance of 1910, its date of construction.

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Willow Springs Plantation is a site nestled in a moderately wooded rural area between Zachary to its east and Port Hudson to its west. Most plantation sites in the state have seen significant development in their immediate vicinity, leaving little historical setting for the area. This property, on the other hand, maintains its setting and location. Accessed immediately off from Samuels Road, also known as Blues Highway or Highway 61, Willow Springs sits with little else around it. Of note is the Louisiana National Cemetery a few minutes south down Samuels Rd, and the Historic Port Hudson area to the property's northwest.¹ The closest city is Zachary, a small city of 19.4k, which has its borders about 5000 feet east from the homestead.

Originally settled as a farming community, Zachary was incorporated as a Louisiana city in 1889 following the establishment of a train depot in the area.² For some time around incorporation, the town was regarded as somewhat unruly, but within the next 40 years it developed into an area known instead as virtuous and wholesome.³ Recently Zachary has been designated "Louisiana's Richest" and of the top best towns for families by USA TODAY and Family Circle magazines, respectively. Despite the city's moderate age, few buildings contribute to its Downtown Historic District because of a fire in 1903 that destroyed nearly every business in the area.⁴ What remains are eight structures that suggest what early to mid-20th century life would have been like in downtown Zachary. The National Register has four listings in this town including a small district, the Port Hudson Cemetery, the Railroad Depot, and a plantation. Within the National Register historic district, the "Virginia Street Historic District," are only six structures: five dwellings and a gazebo. These range from 1895-1905 construction dates and from Italianate and Queen Anne Revival to Eastlake in style.⁵ While the listed plantation is near Willow Springs, it is an original 1855 Greek Revival-Italianate building that differs significantly in form as it is a low and L-shaped.⁶

This area in Louisiana is most known for Port Hudson, a site that became significant towards the end of the Civil War as it was one of the last Confederate strongholds in the country. The Mississippi River was widely recognized as of the most crucial determinants throughout the war due to its usability in supply transport. The Confederacy consequently developed forts at both Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, Louisiana. Historic Port Hudson is about 11.7 square miles or 7,500 acres, stretching about 1.5 miles east from the Mississippi, and about 4.5 miles north, partially following the path of Thompson Creek. The site retains numerous earthworks. The Battle occurred in May of 1863 when the Louisiana Native Guards of Free Colored soldiers, a Union troop, attacked. For 48 days Port Hudson experienced a three-part assault until ultimately surrendering on July 9th, five days after the Confederates were defeated at Vicksburg.⁷

¹ Google. 2016. "Google Earth." Google.

² C.J. Futch. 2015. "Archivist Retraces Zachary's History from Original Train Depot, Revolution, Resurrection from Fire." The Advocate. April 8, 2015.

³ "City History | City of Zachary." 2025. Cityofzachary.org. 2025.

⁴ C.J. Futch. 2015.

⁵ Fricker, Jonathan . 2011. "Virginia Street Historic District." National Register of Historic Places, October, 13.

⁶ Division of Historic Preservation National Register Staff. 1988. "Fairhaven Plantation House." National Register of Historic Places, February, 5.

⁷ "The Siege of Port Hudson: 'Forty Days and Nights in the Wilderness of Death' (Teaching with Historic Places) (U.S. National Park Service)." n.d.

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This land was listed in the National Register in 1974 for its historical and architectural significance, specifically in terms of military and Afro-American history.⁸

Willow Springs sits just southeast of Port Hudson, however little documentation is available on the site's connection to the 1863 battles. One 1865 Navy Colt 45 was found in the 1930s on the property as well as confederate earthworks that have since been documented by state archaeologists. Future archaeological surveys are to be done on the lot, but this nomination centers the building's architectural significance as a unique structure, especially in local context.

This site's history is further complicated because unlike most of the state, the subject property was not included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 due to its location north of the Mississippi River. This area remained a part of the Republic of West Florida until the West Florida Revolt in 1810.⁹ As such, it is one of the few plantations in the area not sited on an English or Spanish land grant. The lot was sold to Joseph Nichols and Conrad McRae in 1836 as part of a 950-acre purchase at \$1.25/acre.¹⁰ Little else has been found about the property at this time and the lot changed ownership twice before being sold to the Woodside family. The Woodside's owned the land for over a century, and in 1910, Edward Woodside Jr. would come to build the current house.

Form

The American Foursquare

In the northern and central United States early building practices manifest as, "direct links to building practices of the European medieval past," through influence of European colonization.¹¹ Most of these dwellings are simple in form, plan, and detail. They are often masonry or heavy wood and were built around a central hearth to warm the entire house through winter. As the country developed, these houses grew more complex with many styles and types emerging.

The late 1890s through the 1920s saw the popularization of the foursquare as an accessible option for the average American family. This housing type is characterized by its simple, multiroom plan and is sometimes linked to the "rectilinear" style as named by architectural historians Wilbert Hasbrouck and Paul Sprague.¹² Foursquare houses have cube-like massing under a hipped roof and eight square rooms evenly split between two floors. Rooms are typically directly connected to one another without hallways, except for when a central hallway was added to support the stairwell. This subtype is known as a "center-hall". Additional exceptions to the defined form include small rear additions and occasional first floor rooms being combined. As this is a housing type based on efficiency and practicality, these exceptions followed the needs of the residents. Consolidated spaces typically occurred on the first floor as this area included the

⁸ Greenlee, Marcia M. 1974. "Port Hudson Battlefield." National Register of Historic Places, May, 6.

⁹ Hyde, Samuel C. 2023. "West Florida Revolt." 64 Parishes. June 20, 2023.

¹⁰ "East Baton Rouge Assessor." 2020. Geoportalmaps.com. 2020.

¹¹ "PHMC Traditional/Vernacular Mode 1638 - 1950." PHMC > Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide. Accessed June 23, 2025. <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/>

¹² Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four Square House in the United States." The University of Chicago, April 1986.

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semi-public rooms of the home, including the living room, dining room, and kitchen. Private areas, namely the bedrooms, were relegated to the second-floor.

Due to their simplicity, and accessibility through later mass production, foursquare houses grew increasingly popular throughout the states, particularly for middle class families. While this housing typology was seen throughout the United States, it is less common in the deep south due to the extreme climate. The houses' centralized and square form is not as efficient in circulating hot air out of a house as southern vernacular building practices proved to be.

Building in Rural Louisiana

Louisiana was settled by French colonists in the late 17th century who adapted traditional French building practices to the local climate and available materials.¹³ Colonists originally began by building what was familiar to them, heavy timber structures that were designed to keep residents warm in rural France. These houses or 'maisons' also saw influence from local Native Americans who infilled wall gaps in their dwellings with what the French would call 'bousillage,' a mixture of mud and retted Spanish moss. Despite some local influences, initial structures were insufficient to withstand Louisiana's seasonal flooding and hurricanes, as well as regular heat and rain. Later attempts were raised above the ground with 'poteaux sur sole' (post on sills), increasing ventilation and separating the wood frame from the moist earth. Porches were soon added around the structures following colonists' experiences building in the Caribbeans.¹⁴ This addition would further shelter the building from rain and sun while creating a comfortable space for residents outside. Weather boards of horizontal cypress lap siding were added to the exterior of buildings to protect the bousillage walls from inclement weather. Roofs were typically hipped and progressed from a low to steep pitch over time. Some houses were also elevated an entire floor above a raised basement that would be used for storage. The resulting structure became known as a 'Creole Cottage,' and it is unique and as a Louisiana product of European ancestry, truly Creole.¹⁵

Elevated buildings, porches, and weatherboard siding are of the most common techniques to mitigate the effects of the local climate, but they are not the only ones. In addition to using wide porches to shade buildings many Louisiana houses are surrounded by large trees.¹⁶ On most buildings fenestration was additionally protected by operable wood shutters. These evolved from being a solid wood to adjustable-louvered as early builders came to understand the importance of ventilation, a technique used throughout Louisiana buildings. Surrounding trees were sometimes placed to create an alley towards the house that would funnel cool air through the structure. The buildings themselves were also laid out to facilitate this movement of air, often with narrow floor plans. These buildings have high ceilings with transoms at interior and exterior doorways to ventilate hot air out. Additionally, wood shingle roofs were often used so that hot air could vent directly out of the top of the buildings. Residents would ensure the house might stay cool by opening fenestration at night and closing it during the day.

¹³ "The Climatic Adaptation of French Colonial Architecture into the Louisiana Raised Cottage." n.d.

¹⁴ Desmond, J. Michael. 2014. "The Architecture of Louisiana." In *The Louisiana Field Guide: Understanding Life in the Pelican State*, edited by Ryan Orgera, Raynie Harlan, and Wayne Parent. LSU Press.

¹⁵ "The Climatic Adaptation..." n.d.

¹⁶ "The Climatic Adaptation..." n.d.

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The Plantation as a Vernacular Form

The Historic American Buildings Survey's book on Louisiana buildings from 1720-1940 clarifies that a plantation is, "more than a house," and defines it as, "an extensive agricultural establishment for the production of a cash crop, however extensive the landholding and however humble the house."¹⁷ Plantations were multi-part industries that functioned primarily by slave labor. In Louisiana they were primarily for farming the cash crops sugarcane, cotton, and indigo. As such, they were mostly built after the development of sugarcane refineries in 1795 until the Reconstruction Era in the mid-to-late 19th century. These buildings varied in size, height, and interior layout in accordance with a specific property's needs, and they varied in style in accordance with the period of construction. Despite these significant variations, there are some form elements that are implemented in nearly all plantation houses. These include full-width deep covered porches, elevation of the main floor with a central entry and stairs, and visual exterior symmetry. The porches and elevation are standard to many Louisiana structures, however visual symmetry is a feature only consistently used on buildings that function to communicate a social hierarchy and order. This symmetry in conjunction with the building being raised conveys the hierarchy by physically elevating those of importance above others. The symmetry and consistent use of columns is a display of traditional Greek building principles that would often communicate the superiority of the owner. A grand central stair at the front of a Plantation house often creates a feeling of confrontation and authority. Slave lodging on plantations would typically be small and minimal, raised slightly to avoid basic flooding, and include a deep full-width front porch as well. Entry was frequently from stairs at the sides of the porch. Significant differences in ornamentation and material quality would also contribute to the communication of social hierarchy within the space. Additionally common through Plantations is their proximity to bodies of water as this was necessary to have fertile soil and access to trade. As they developed throughout the 19th-century these buildings grew increasingly complex with wealthier plantations developing grand shows of wealth in addition to meeting local and practical function.

Style - A Nostalgic Era

In the early 20th century there was a dramatic shift from "gaudy" and "chaotic" Victorian architecture to more modest and "sensible" residential architecture through academic revival styles such as the Colonial revival and through the Arts and Crafts Movement.¹⁸

Colonial Revival

Colonial architecture was popular, particularly in the northeast United States from 1600 through 1820, however the style saw a resurgence in 1880 as a revival. The Colonial Revival style remained popular through the 1940s due to this new collective interest in America's own history.¹⁹ Virginia McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* notes that Colonial Revival buildings are generally distinct from their original counterparts due to their widespread locations

¹⁷ Poesch, Jessie J, and Barbara Sorelle Bacot. 1997. *Louisiana Buildings, 1720-1940*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

¹⁸ Hanchett, Thomas W.

¹⁹ "Colonial Revival Style 1880s - 1940s." National Parks Service.

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and the presence of machine-made materials as this new style occurred after the era of industrialization.²⁰ The National Park Service notes that this also meant Colonial Revival buildings tend to be, “larger and more robust-looking,” and were never intended to be copies.²¹ Architects instead used historic stylistic elements such as pronounced symmetry, gabled windows, prominent front porches, pilasters and columns, front doors with fan and side lights and Palladian windows to communicate patriotism and civic pride. The style’s versatility meant it could be modified for many building types, and elements were commonly applied to foursquares.

French Colonial Revival

The Colonial revival style had many subtypes depending on era and region, as following its historic precedent, including but not limited to Post-Medieval English, Dutch Colonial, French Colonial, Spanish Colonial, and Georgian. Of particular relevance is the French Colonial style, that directly followed original Creole building practices.²² “French Colonial” is a broader term that includes buildings throughout much of southeastern North America, particularly at principal waterways while “creole” is typically limited to architecture built by creole people in south Louisiana.²³ While both Creole and French Colonial buildings faded out in the mid-1800s, they saw a resurgence in the early 1900s following this influence of ‘revival’ building practices. Characteristic features including symmetrical and abundant but narrow fenestration, hipped roofs, shutters, and, in rural areas, large porches, were included as key building elements during this time. French Colonial Revival houses were either one-story or two-story with a raised basement. These raised basements were typically visually distinct from the main floor as they were masonry instead of wood and would have been exclusively used for support and service spaces. Similarities to its broader type, Colonial Revival, include pronounced exterior symmetry, use of columns, and use of front entries with fan and side lights.

These houses are exclusively found in the southeastern United States and when this style is used, it is typically used with careful regard for the style’s rules and types. Rural and urban subtypes have varying roof and porch types. Urban houses typically had side gabled roofs with no porch as opposed to hipped roofs with integral porches. Additionally, raised basements were only seen in rural areas as these were more likely to be in floodplains. Due to this style’s regard for its history, it is very rare to find a French Colonial Revival house that was two story or rural and with a porte-cochère.

Craftsman

Due to America’s varied landscape and the Arts and Crafts Movement’s tenant of respecting natural world, early Arts and Crafts designs varied significantly by location until the bungalow subtype became popular in 1905 due to its accessibility to middle class families.²⁴ These houses were simple in design with revealed structural elements, a technique called ‘structural authenticity,’ serving as the only form of decoration. By eliminating fake ornaments and instead

²⁰ Mcalester, Virginia. 2017. *A Field Guide to American Houses : The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

²¹ “Colonial Revival...” NPS.

²² Mcalester, Virginia. 2017.

²³ Mcalester, Virginia. 2017.

²⁴ Wentworth, Bruce. 2013. “American Bungalow.” *Ask the Architect*. November 28, 2013.

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using the house's innate structure as its ornament, designers of this time hoped to return to a time before the machine age and move 'back-to-nature'.

Craftsman elements that were consistent throughout the country include low multi-pitched gabled roofs, irregular rooflines, porches, and exposed structural elements such as rafter ends.²⁵ Craftsman houses are also typically wood frame structures, often on masonry foundations. Of the most distinctive elements to the style are its columns and fenestration patterns. Columns and piers often extended through to the ground level, unbroken by the porch floor. These were typically square and tapered, but materiality and detail vary significantly. Lite patterns are often irregular in this style, either two-over-two, multi-lite-over-one or multi lite windows that are not laid out on as simple of a grid. Floorplans of craftsman houses are typically low, sprawling, and irregular, with rooms or sections of the houses protruding seemingly at random. This contributes to the irregular roof pattern. Roofs also commonly have dormers. The interiors often have finer details than the exterior and typically interior finishes would have been entirely handcrafted. The result is a relatively simple house that exudes structural character, thereby highlighting the influence of the craftsmen.

Louisiana is not particularly known for its craftsman residences, however they exist throughout the state in no small quantity, and Louisiana has been credited as one of the influences behind the style's usage of porches.²⁶ The wood frame, stone foundation, extensive porches, and presence of columns made the style appealing to Louisiana builders as these were already common in local houses, as seen in the description of early Louisiana architecture. In fact, these resulting residences have been described as a 'refinement of the Creole Cottage plan.'²⁷ To adapt the existing architectural language to the local climate, floor plans were simplified so that air could flow more easily through the building, thereby increasing ventilation. Additionally, masonry foundations were made out of whatever was readily available in the area, meaning stone is a rarity. These local buildings also saw the addition of screens to porches and the replacement of window shutters with insect screens. Louisiana Craftsman dwellings are similar to other Arts and Crafts structures throughout the country, but they bear distinct regional influence due to immediate climate conditions and historical influences.

Willow Springs as a Unique Building

Houses have been designed as shows of wealth and power throughout the modern era, however the form and layout associated with plantations was unique to the Antebellum period. This form was designed to meet very specific needs within the southern climate and was abandoned after the mid-to-late 19th century following emancipation. As such, this type was explicitly not included in the period of architectural revivals and is therefore unique in its use at Willow Springs.

Willow Springs is a residence that displays a unique blend of an Antebellum period form with a modern style. Its overall form is unique to what is typically associated with plantations but has been simplified down due to influence from the modern foursquare form. The residence's French

²⁵ Mcalester, Virginia. 2017.

²⁶ Fricker, Jonathan, Donna Fricker, and Patricia L Duncan. 1998. Louisiana Architecture. University of Louisiana.

²⁷ Vogt, Lloyd. 2020. New Orleans Houses. Pelican Publishing.

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Colonial features reflect the site's history as the location of Willow Springs Plantation, while modern, craftsman features reflect the actual period of construction.

Foursquares are scarce in Louisiana due to their climatic inefficiencies, but they share some elements with the layouts of plantations. These include their symmetrical layout and directly connected rooms with no hallways. The layout of Willow Springs is very similar to a foursquare as it has one room at each corner with a stairwell at the rear center and two stacked floors, however it has been elongated to increase cross ventilation. The house is entirely symmetrical with exceptions only at the first floor where the pantry and service stair mirrors the first-floor bedroom. The service stairs represent a significant contingency between the Creole style and foursquare type.

Large French Colonial houses inherently signify wealth, and the addition of a service stair implies that the owners may have hired staff, as eased by the time period of construction and the power of the family. Foursquare houses meanwhile were designed for the middle class and for a later time period. Plantation architecture was consciously implemented to increase emphasis on the hierarchy of the owner's residence on plantation sites. The Colonial style was used on early properties and reflected the original colonizers and influence that brought these practices over, evoking a sense of generational control, and working to further ingrain the social hierarchy on a site as those who inhabited the primary residences. Willow Springs has French Creole features that both remind of this time, and practically work to further increase ventilation throughout the dwelling. These features include the deep porches with a portion screened in to protect from bugs, the porte-cochère, use of local cypress and bousillage, raising the entire building on piers, cypress weatherboard siding, hipped roof, operable wood shutters, high ceilings with transoms, and tree siting. As previously stated, French Creole buildings are exclusively either single-story or single story with a raised basement. The subject property, on the other hand, is a true two-story building, following a traditional foursquare plan.

The structure has brick piers with lattice skirting between, tapered and square wood columns, wood frame and weatherboard siding, large porches which are partially screened in, porte-cochere, fireplaces, casual hall-less floorplan, window type and placement, exposed rafters, simplicity, and low-pitched roof of a craftsman house. Additionally, the house has a stacked wrap-around porch. While Craftsman houses are known for having a porch, they rarely wrap around the building, and they are almost always masonry construction if they do. While Willow Springs does sit on brick piers, these piers directly support the building's wood porch and not the wood columns above. Craftsman columns typically connect directly to their masonry bases and these bases typically extend well above the porch level. The placement and grouping of windows are typical of a Craftsman, however their type is not. Most of the fenestrations on Willow Springs have traditionally shaped windowpanes whereas Craftsman windows are often irregular. At the interior, detailed wood features are newly seen in large rooms, all directly connected to each other, effectively maximizing views and ventilation through the building. The simple but well-crafted and fine railing of the main stair is common to Arts and Crafts houses, however its placement in a foursquare is not. Additionally, from the interior, the vast number of connections to the exterior is apparent. Every wall seems to be fitted with either multipane windows or doors so that if opened, the division between the interior and exterior of the house would be blurred.

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This supports the Arts and Crafts Back-to-Nature philosophy, however multiple French doors opening to a wide wood porch is typical of plantation structures.

While this odd amalgamation of style and form does create a harmonious building, it is difficult to discern the exact period and style that it may have been constructed in. To some extent, the direct combination of Arts and Crafts principles with the traditional Louisiana form is reminiscent of the original Creole Cottage. The Craftsman simplicity, with the plantation double gallery and symmetry, becomes indicative of the early 1800s building practices that preceded the structure. From a broad scale down to the finer details of the building, Willow Springs has merged a directly contradictory form and style in a way that has not been done elsewhere in rural Louisiana.

Comparative Analysis

To consider Willow Springs in local architectural context a nearby French Colonial Plantation and a nearby Craftsman Foursquare house will be examined.

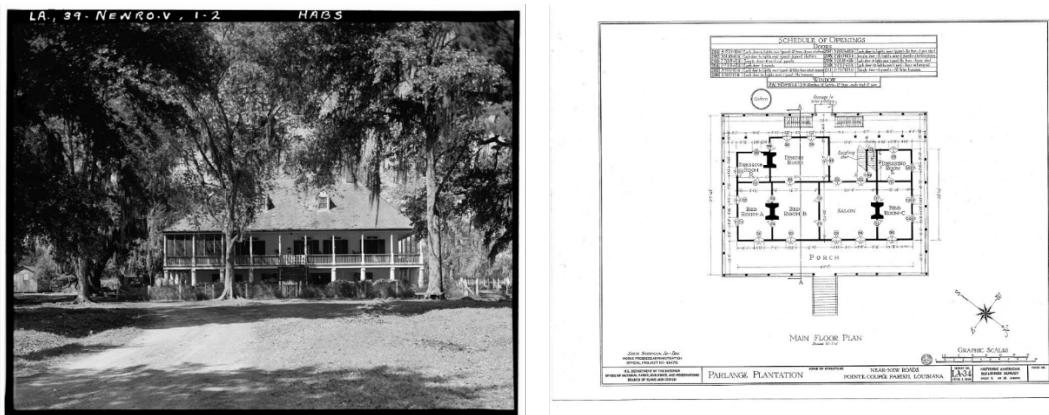


Fig. 5 & 6. Front and Main Floor Floor Plan of Parlange Plantation House, courtesy of HABS

Approximately 16 miles West from Willow Springs is Parlange Plantation, a French Colonial plantation house that was listed in 1970 for its architectural significance. This building was listed in the National Register because it was believed to, “exemplify the style of the semitropic Louisiana river country house.”²⁸ This building is significantly more similar to Willow Springs in that it has a simple rectangular plan, multiple chimneys, a wrap-around porch, two floors, a hipped roof, and shuttered fenestration. This, however, is a traditional raised-basement Colonial house meaning the entire first floor is brick and only intended to serve as service quarters. The main floor of this residence is similar to both floors of Willow Springs. Even so, Parlange has round columns, a significantly more steeply-pitched hipped roof, and two dormers. The traditional house varies significantly from Willow Springs in every way that Willow Springs varies from the Creole and Colonial styles.

²⁸ Patricia Heintzelman. 1975. “Parlange Plantation House.” National Register of Historic Places. <https://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/VSNRHP/PublicForms/ViewProperty/647?>

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Fig. 7. Front of Jennings House, courtesy of Century Homes America

About 90 miles southwest of Willow Springs is a c.1900 traditional foursquare. This house in Jennings, Louisiana retains most of its historic layout as well as its square massing and front porch.²⁹ Similar to Willow Springs, the house is symmetrical and has a hipped roof. However, Willow Springs has galleries on both floors with little visual distinction, and these galleries even extend off of the residence to form a porte cochere. The roof of the Jennings dwelling is also at a significantly steeper pitch and none of the windows presently have shutters. Also, the windows on this house are large and square, and all singular, as opposed to the rectangular and grouped windows seen at Willow Springs.

While these examples are offered as similar comparisons, there are no known examples of this combination of styles and form at this time. A deeper survey would be necessary to fully understand the rarity of this house type and style combination. These comparisons highlight Willow Spring's unique character as a building with contradicting form and style.

²⁹ "12 Oldest Standing Homes in Louisiana - Century Homes America." Crazy Luxury Homes, May 11, 2025. <https://centuryhomesamerica.com/12-oldest-standing-homes-in-louisiana/>.

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May 11, 2025. <https://centuryhomesamerica.com/12-oldest-standing-homes-in-louisiana/>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 17-076882

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 30.659333

Longitude: -91.253375

2. Latitude:

Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The house is situated on a 3 acre parcel of land in rural Zachary, Louisiana and is bounded by HWY 61 (Blues Hwy) to the West, and on the North, South, and East by wooded areas.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The chosen boundary reflects the historic footprint of the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amelia Blackmon/Student Intern
organization: Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 2413 Terrace Ave.
city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code: 70806
e-mail: ameliablackmon24@gmail.com
telephone: (225)892-0571
date: 6/30/2025

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Willow Springs

City or Vicinity: Zachary

County: East Baton Rouge Parish State: LA

Photographer: Amelia Blackmon

Date Photographed: 01/24/2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23: View of Willow Springs from Street, camera facing east
- 2 of 23: Willow Springs front elevation, camera facing east
- 3 of 23: Willow Springs right elevation, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 23: Willow Springs rear elevation, camera facing west
- 5 of 23: Willow Springs left elevation, camera facing south
- 6 of 23: Willow Springs porte cochere, camera facing southwest

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- 7 of 23: Willow Springs windows on left elevation, camera facing southeast
- 8 of 23: Willow Springs living room, camera facing north
- 9 of 23: Willow Springs dining room, camera facing east
- 10 of 23: Willow Springs pantry, camera facing southeast
- 11 of 23: Willow Springs kitchen, camera facing northwest
- 12 of 23: Willow Springs kitchen and sunroom, camera facing southeast
- 13 of 23: Willow Springs main stair, camera facing east
- 14 of 23: Willow Springs plaster and lath under stairs, camera facing northwest
- 15 of 23: Willow Springs stairwell, camera facing west
- 16 of 23: Willow Springs second floor landing, camera facing east
- 17 of 23: Willow Springs bedroom 1, camera facing southwest
- 18 of 23: Willow Springs bedroom 2, camera facing east
- 19 of 23: Willow Springs bedroom 3, camera facing northeast
- 20 of 23: Willow Springs bedroom 4, camera facing west
- 21 of 23: Willow Springs second floor bathroom, camera facing east
- 22 of 23: Willow Springs second floor gallery, camera facing northwest
- 23 of 23: Willow Springs second floor gallery, camera facing east

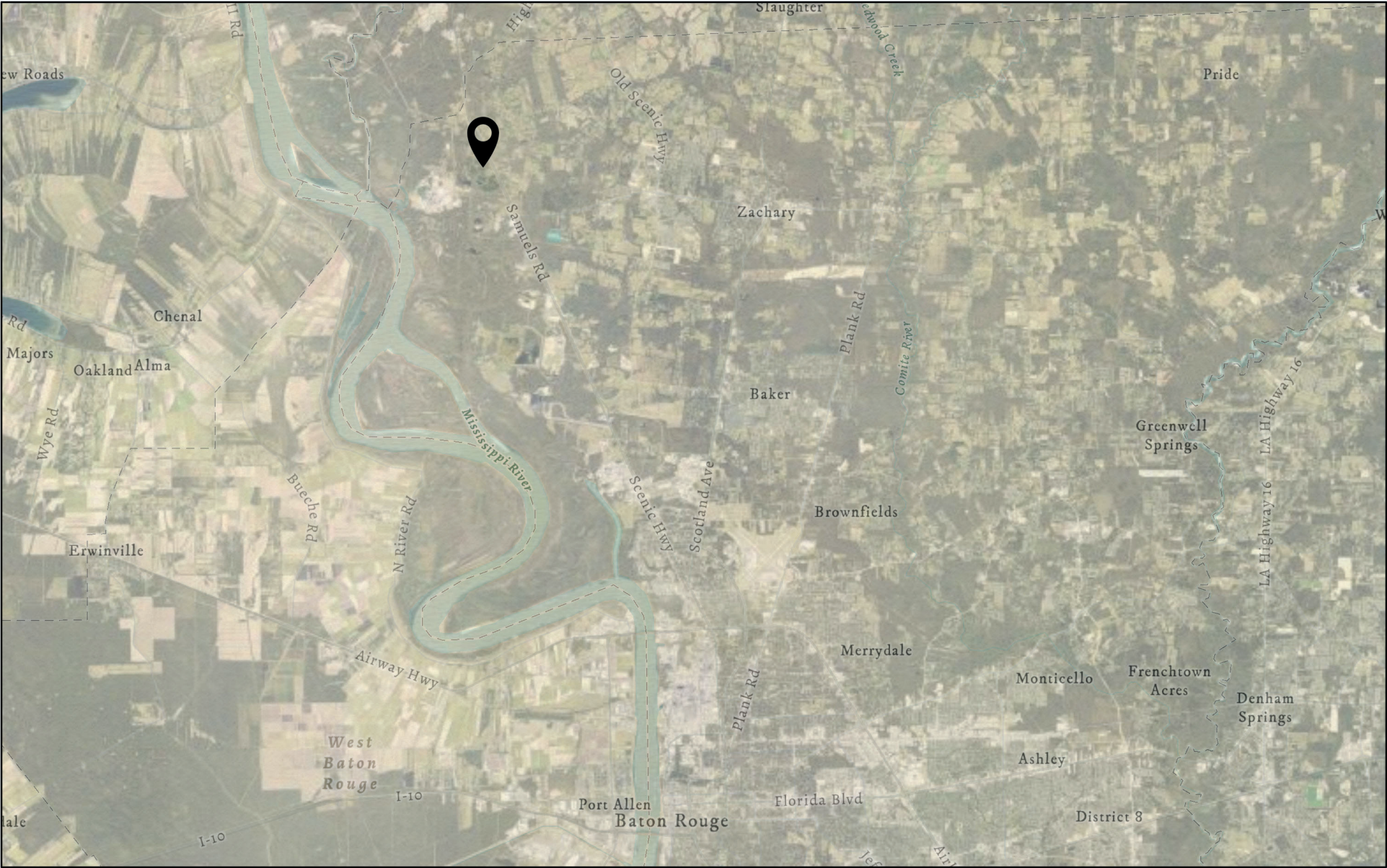
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

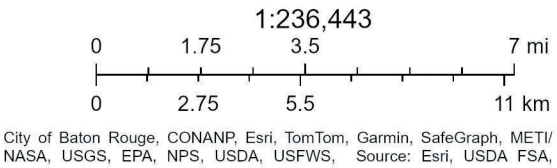
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Broad Site Context for Willow Springs



1/10/2025

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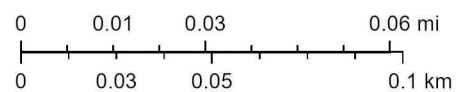
Local Site Context for Willow Springs



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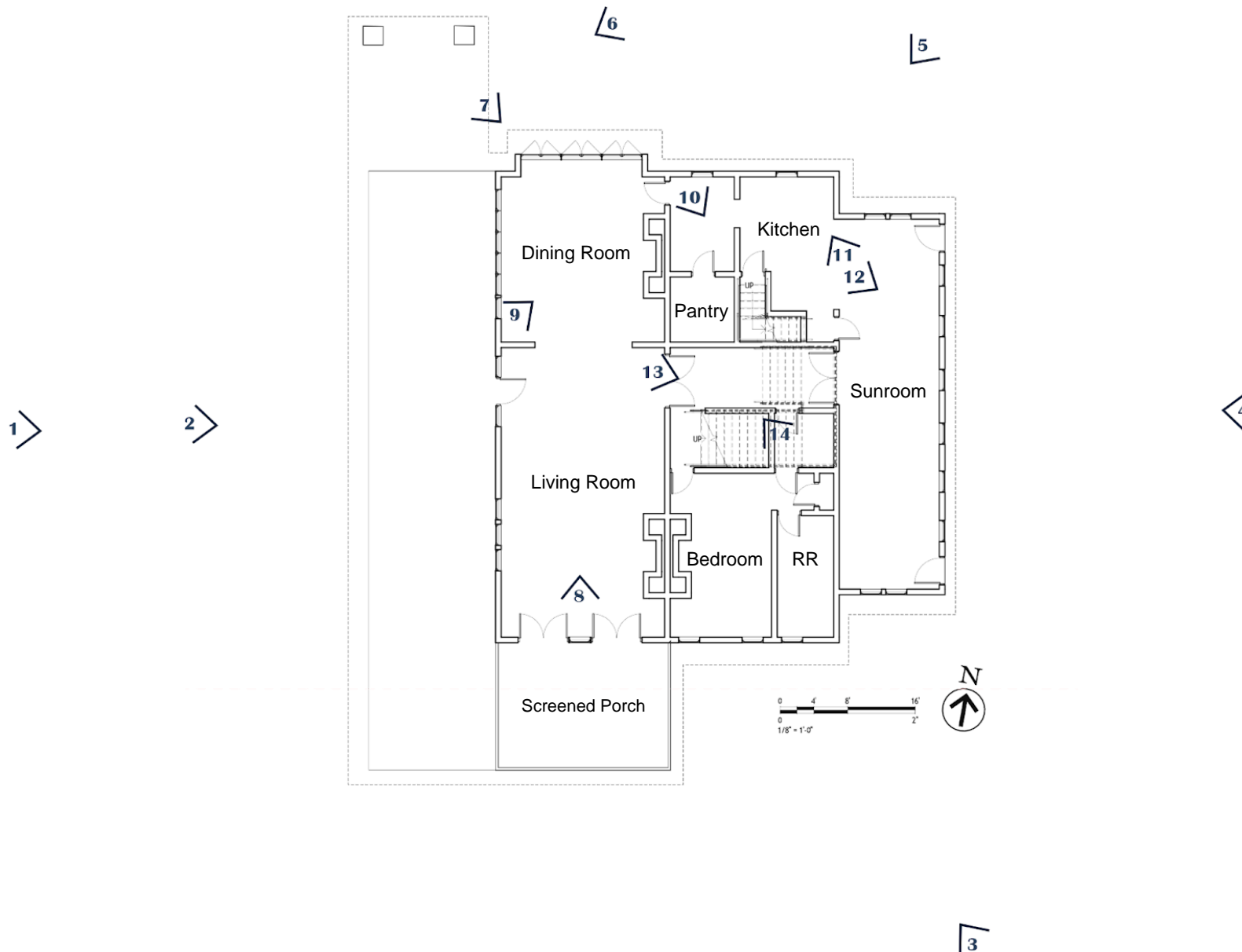
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Source: Esri, USDA FSA, Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Baton Rouge, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Sources: Esri, USGS

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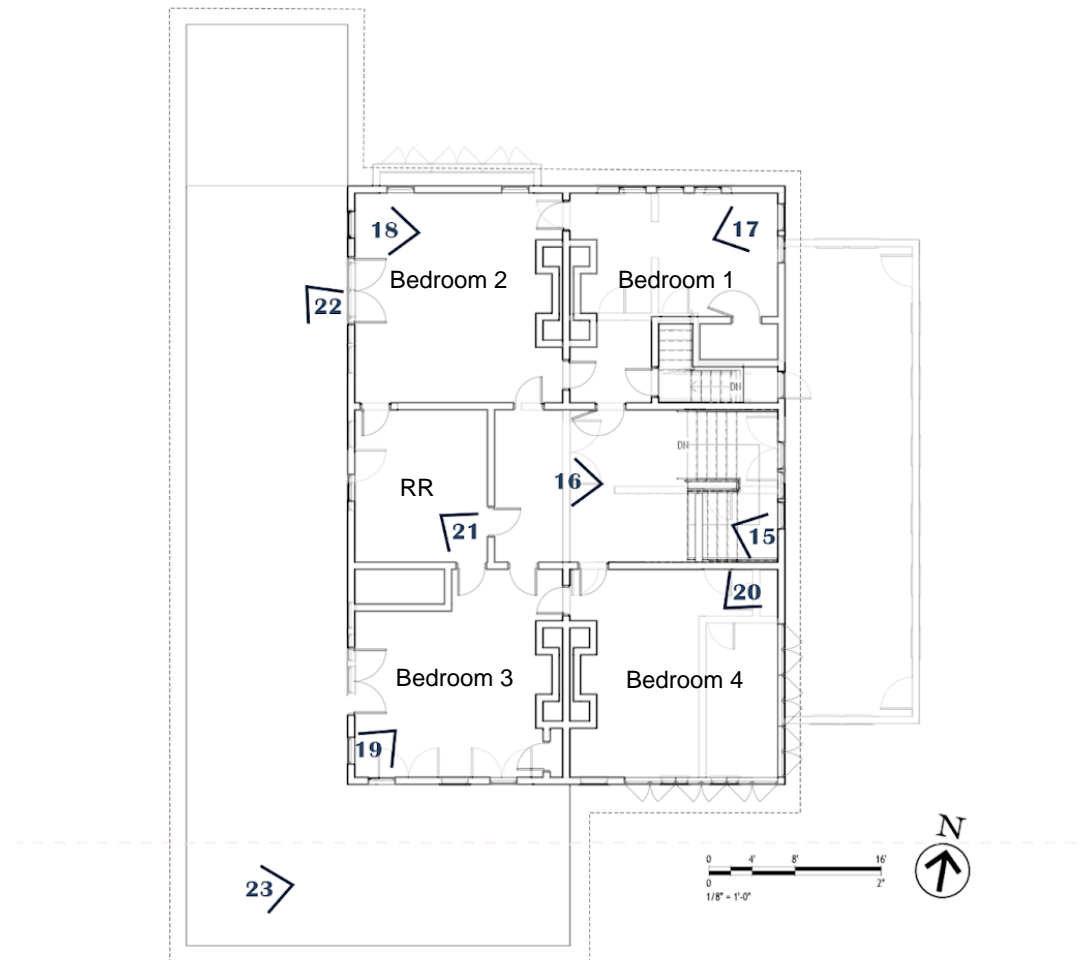
Photo Key
March 18, 2025



First Floor

Willow Springs
20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photo Key
March 18, 2025



Second Floor

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



1. View of West Facade from Street

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



2. West Elevation

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



3. South Elevation

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



4. East Elevation

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



5. North Elevation

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



6. Porte Cochere at Northwest Corner

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



7. Protruding Windows at North Elevation

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



8. Living room

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



9. Dining Room

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



10. Pantry

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



11. Kitchen

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



12. Kitchen and Sunroom

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



13. Stairs in Central hall



14. Plaster and Lath visible under stairs

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

March 18, 2025



15. Stairwell

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

Photos

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16. 2nd Floor Landing

Willow Springs

20728 Samuels Road, Zachary, LA

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17. Bedroom 1

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18. Bedroom 2

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19. Bedroom 3

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20. Bedroom 4

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21. Bathroom

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22. 2nd Floor Gallery

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23. 2nd Floor Gallery