THE RAISED CREOLE PLANTATION HOUSE

STANDARDS: The material in this unit may be used to address the following Social Studies Standards:

G-1C-E4  H-1A-E3  H-1A-M4
G-1D-E1  H-1D-M6  H-1B-H1

DEFINITION/PURPOSE: Served as the big house on very prosperous rural Creole plantations

LOCATION: Southeast and south-central Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish

TYPES: Main living spaced (called premier etage) raised 6 to 8 feet on brick piers; area below living space open. (Attic present but not used)

Two (or almost two) stories high; area beneath main living space (called premier etage) enclosed and used for storage -- called raised (above ground) basement. (Attic present but not used.)
FLOOR PLAN: Gallery: Full front gallery, usually on both levels, or Gallery completely encircling house, usually on both levels

Exterior staircase rises to main floor
Hallways: Early examples have no hallways
Central halls added after Americans arrive

Rooms: Front at least two rooms wide room share common central chimney
Width of more than two rooms possible
May have rear range three or more rooms wide
Cabinet/loggia range in place of rear gallery

ROOF TYPES: Hipped
**WALLS:**

*Bousillage* - A mixture of Spanish moss, mud and sometimes animal hair which was placed between wooden timbers to create the walls of Creole houses.
briquette entre poteaux (brick between posts)

sometimes both used

**DOORS:** French doors

**DECORATIVE FEATURES:**
- Exposed beam ceiling on gallery and/or interior
- Chamfered gallery columns sometimes present
- Wraparound fireplace mantel
ORIGIN: Origins may be traced to Canada, the West Indies, Italy and medieval France

EXAMPLES: Parlange, Pointe Coupee Parish
Stephanie, St. Martin Parish
John Lewis House, St. Landry Parish
Glendale, St. John the Baptist Parish
Labatut, Point Coupee Parish
Destrehan, St. Charles Parish
Ormond, St. Charles Parish
Homeplace, St. Charles Parish
Darby, St. Mary Parish