

## Sites Important to the Creole Story

These sites represent important aspects of the Creole story either as individual or as a combined group of resources. However, the planning team found they did not appear to meet all of the criteria for national historic landmark status.

*Badin-Roque House.* The house is a relatively rare example of *poteaux en terre* cottage architecture. It illustrates a form of construction prevalent in the Mississippi Valley during the 18th and early 19th centuries, and provides an excellent opportunity to understand Creole frontier life. This particular structure is associated with the Isle Brevelle colony of Cane River Creoles of color. The house is owned and maintained by the St. Augustine Historical Society, a private nonprofit group. It is listed on the national register for national significance, but has not been designated as a national historic landmark. *Badin-Roque House* requires further research to determine its degree of integrity.

*Cherokee Plantation.* Begun in the 1830s, this plantation is typical of early Louisiana plantations and reflects the frontier lifestyle of French planters. The plantation is listed on the national register for state significance. The plantation house is privately owned and has been restored and refurnished with some period pieces. This plantation, with its fields and structures, is an important part of the cultural landscape. In addition, the main house of the plantation reflects the Creole lifestyles and construction techniques. However, most of the

original outbuildings are gone.

Beau Fort Plantation. The plantation is listed on the national register for local significance. It is privately owned and open for public visitation. The main house exhibits typical Creole features. The field system remains intact; however, the plantation lacks most of its original outbuildings.

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Commemorative Area. The fort was constructed in 1713. It was later moved from an island in the Red River (now Cane River Lake) to the west bank. After 1803 the fort was abandoned and torn down. The Louisiana Office of State Parks in 1971-72 purchased the site of this post. Construction of a replica fort began in 1980 and was completed in 1981. This reconstruction does not qualify for listing on the national register. The fort is an excellent resource for the interpretation of the French-Spanish colonial story, which resulted in the development of Creole culture. However, the fort does not meet NPS criteria for significance because it is a replica.

Based on the above information, the following resources meet or appear to meet the national historic criteria for national significance: Natchitoches Historic District, Melrose Plantation, Los Adaes State Commemorative Area, Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area, Kate Chopin House, Oakland Plantation, and Magnolia Plantation slave quarters and outbuildings.<sup>1</sup>

1. Environmental Impact Report by the National Park Service