



Name of Property: Kate Chopin House (Withdrawal of Designation)
City, State: Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana
Period of Significance: 1880-1883
NHL Criteria: 2
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
3. Literature
Previous Recognition: 1993 National Historic Landmark
National Historic Context: XIX. Literature
B. Fiction
1. Novel
2. Short Story

NHL Significance:

- From 1880 to 1883 this property was the home of Katherine O’Flaherty Chopin, a nationally significant nineteenth-century novelist and short story writer, who wrote the controversial novel *The Awakening*.
- Chopin utilized the folk culture of the Louisiana bayou country around Cloutierville as background for many of her works.

Integrity:

- On October 1, 2008, an early morning fire destroyed the house. The building was burned

to the ground with most of its contents.

- The only feature to survive the fire, the chimney, was later bulldozed.
- The property no longer retains historic integrity. The Kate Chopin House no longer meets the criteria for designation because the qualities for which it was originally designated have been destroyed.

Owner of Property: Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre.

Origins of Nomination:

- This property was identified within a Women’s History Context prepared by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History in the early 1990s.
- The NPS Southeast Regional Office NHL Program was notified of the fire in 2008 by the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (LA SHPO). No action was taken at that time. Recently, the LA SHPO determined that they would proceed with the removal of the Kate Chopin House from the National Register of Historic Places. The NHL Program decided to proceed with withdrawing the NHL designation also.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Withdrawal of the NHL designation for the Kate Chopin House would demonstrate that the NHL Program continually monitors the condition of National Historic Landmarks, and that the Secretary of the Interior is willing to remove those that no longer meet the program’s criteria.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None are known

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Withdrawal of designation. Dr. Leavitt moved, Dr. Stevens seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of):

Advisory Board Recommendation: