

**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Withdrawal Report**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT****Kate Chopin House**

**Designated:** April 19, 1993

**Location:** Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

**Owner:** Vickie Parrish, President  
Board of Directors  
Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches  
P.O. Box 2248  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

**SHPO Contact:** Phil Boggan, Acting SHPO  
Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism  
P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**Significance of the Landmark:**

This Louisiana raised Creole cottage, constructed between 1805 and 1809 by Alexis Cloutier, was the home of Katherine O'Flaherty Chopin from 1880 to 1883. A nationally significant novelist and short story writer, Chopin utilized the folk culture of the Louisiana bayou country around Cloutierville as background for many of her works. Her controversial novel *The Awakening* was chastised by reviewers because of its subject matter and sensual prose. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the house served fittingly as the Bayou Folk Museum.

**Condition of Landmark:**

On October 1, 2008, an early morning fire destroyed the Kate Chopin House. The building was burned to the ground and the chimney, the only part that survived the fire, was later bulldozed. (See attached articles and photos.)

**Recommendation:**

The property no longer retains its historical integrity. Therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn. The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office requested the property's be removed from the National Register of Historic Places and they also concur with the decision to withdraw the NHL designation. (See attached letter.)

**Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:**

The Kate Chopin House has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated, have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].

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**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**  
Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
Front view of burned house

Photo by National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Creative Commons  
2008

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**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**

Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

House ruins with chimney remaining

Photo by National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Creative Commons

2008

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**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**

Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

Left side facade

Photo by National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Creative Commons

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**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**

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Interior view of burned house

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**KATE CHOPIN HOUSE**

Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

Left side and burned porch roof

Photo by National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Creative Commons

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Salvaged items along with NHL plaque

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