

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY Chopin, Kate, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Natchitoches

DATE RECEIVED: 11/20/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001601

NOMINATOR: OTHER

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-28-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

okay to Remove - Demolished in fire

Remove

RECOM./CRITERIA Remove
REVIEWER J. C. Subbitt [Signature] DISCIPLINE _____
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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Kate Chopin House Burns Down

By Margaret Foster | *Online Only* | Oct. 7, 2008

Last week
a fire
destroyed
the



The owner of the Kate Chopin House wants to raise money to commemorate the museum, destroyed by fire on Oct. 1, 2008.

Credit: Jean Carter

northwestern Louisiana house that author Kate Chopin called home.

Built in Cloutierville, La., in 1809, the two-story, Creole-style structure was one of about 3,200 National Historic Landmarks in the country. The Oct. 1 fire is still under investigation.

"It was—and is—like someone had died," says Lanie Friday, longtime resident. "The people that are from here, you could really feel the sadness."

Chopin (1850-1904), who also lived in New Orleans, is best known for her 1899 novel *The Awakening* and her 1894 short story "Story of an Hour."

Last year the National Park Service funded a photographic survey of all the contents of the Kate Chopin house, which has been the property of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches since 1979.

This week a bulldozer knocked down the chimney, the only part of the house that remained.

"It was a very big loss for the Cane River National Heritage Area as well as for the entire Cloutierville community," says Jean Carter, ranger for the 166,000-acre heritage area. "A lot of the artifacts that were in the Kate Chopin House, [also known as] the Bayou Folk Museum, were donated by the community. They lost a lot of their great-grandparents' life story."



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Comments

Submitted by Kris at: October 17, 2008

Kate Chopin was my major research area/obsession in college. My husband and I first visited the house when we visited LA from Ohio to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary, returning two years later to visit again. We'd planned to return in summer of '09, but without the Kate Chopin House, I'm too sad to make the trip.

You are here: Home / Blog / National Landmark "Kate Chopin House" is lost to fire

National Landmark "Kate Chopin House" is lost to fire

OCTOBER 1, 2008

BY JEFFERY GUIN 3 COMMENTS

By Jeff Guin

CLOUTIERVILLE, LA—The Kate Chopin House, named for the [legendary feminist writer](#) who lived there during the 1880s, burned to the ground in an early morning fire today. The structure had been named a National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of Interior in 1993.

According to Vickie Parrish, president of the [Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches](#) (APHN), the structure's loss will be felt far beyond the Cloutierville community.

"Countless people have invested their time and hearts into the restoration of this structure," Parrish said. "So much had been done. But the real tragedy lies in how much more could—and would—have been done to make the Kate Chopin house a preservation showcase for the country. So many people loved it."

The house was in a serious state of disrepair before APHN became steward of the property in 1979. The organization invested in several restoration efforts, including the installation of central air and heat in 1999.



The Creole-style home was built between 1805 and 1809 by Alexis Cloutier using slave labor and exemplifies the building style of that time. [Creole architecture](#) is characterized by its spacious galleries, gallery roofs supported by light wooden colonnettes and a form of construction utilizing a heavy timber frame combined with an infill made of brick.

Officials from the National Park Service's [Cane River Creole National Historical Park](#) were on hand this morning to help salvage the few artifacts that survived the fire. The head archivist from the [Cammie G. Henry archives](#) at Northwestern State University of Louisiana was also assisting in the recovery.

The contents of the Bayou Folk Museum, which was housed in the Kate Chopin House, were also lost. Local resident Doris Roge' says the loss is being especially felt in the Cloutierville community because so many citizens had contributed to the museum.

"A lot of people in the community donated or sold pieces for the museum," she said. "Many pieces belonged to my grandfather. We've all lost a part of our heritage."

Kate Chopin came to Cloutierville with her husband Oscar, a New Orleans businessman who bought the house in 1879 at a sheriff's sale. Kate was pregnant with their sixth child and quickly made enemies in the town.

According to Roge', her grandfather often told stories of Chopin's then-scandalous public smoking and flirtations with men other than her husband.

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Many of Kate Chopin's most important works, including *Bayou Folk* and *The Awakening* are set in Louisiana.

Dr. Lisa Abney is a Chopin scholar and dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. She believes the burning of the Chopin House is a loss to the literary community as well.

"Kate Chopin's work is important both nationally and regionally; Chopin's creative and innovative fiction changed the face of American literature," she said. "The loss of the Kate Chopin House and Bayou Folk Museum is a tremendous loss to fans of Chopin's literature and to preservation. This is, indeed, a tragedy to no longer have this important treasure."

The Kate Chopin House/Bayou Folk Museum is another significant blow to the history of the Cloutierville Community. Several important structures have been lost there over the years including the [Carnahan Store](#), a [National Register for Historic Places](#) structure, which burned in 2004.

What caused the fire at the Kate Chopin House is still under investigation.

Photos from the scene of the fire can be seen [at the NCPTT Flickr stream](#).

View more about the salvage operation in the video below:



FILED UNDER: BLOG TAGGED WITH: APHN, CLOUTIERVILLE, CREOLE, DISASTER, FIRE, KATE CHOPIN, LOUISIANA, NATCHITOCHEs, NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL REGISTER, PRESERVATIONTODAY



About Jeffery Guin

Jeff Guin is a communications practitioner who is experienced in new media, digital humanities and heritage preservation. His personal mission is to help people discover and protect their cultural heritage through the web.

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200-year-old Kate Chopin's house burns down

Posted 10/1/2008 3:52 PM | Comment | Recommend

CLOUTIERVILLE, La. (AP) — Fire has destroyed a historic house and museum that once was the home of author Kate Chopin (SHOH-pan).

Authorities in the central Louisiana town of Cloutierville (KLOO-chee-vil) say three fire districts answered an alarm at 4 a.m. Wednesday but firefighters were unable to save the house known as the Kate Chopin House-Bayou Folk Museum.

Town founder Alexis Cloutier built it between 1805 and 1809.

Chopin wrote two novels, including *The Awakening*, and about a hundred short stories, including a collection titled *Bayou Folk*. They all were published after she left Cloutierville, where she lived in the 1880s.

Mildred LaCaze McCoy opened the house as the museum in 1965 and collected most of the artifacts displayed there.

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Posted 10/1/2008 3:52 PM

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National Landmark 'Kate Chopin House' is lost to fire

BY JEFF GUIN ON OCTOBER 1, 2008 · ADD COMMENT · IN ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING, DISASTERS, NEWS



Kate Chopin House Burns

By Jeff Guin, courtesy of Preservation Today

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TAGGED WITH → Architecture • Architecture & Engineering • Disaster Preparedness & Recovery • Fire • historic buildings • Historic Landmark • Kate Chopin

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November 16, 2015

James Gabbert
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "Eye" Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20005

RE: Delisting of Alex Cloutier (Kate Chopin) House, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Dear Mr. Gabbert:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to delist the above property from the National Register of Historic Places. Originally listed on the Register on 12/21/1974, the above property burned in October of 2008. Per 36 CFR 60, Sec. 60.15 (a)(1), we are requesting that the above property be officially delisted based on the fact that the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been destroyed. To support this claim, we have included several news reports of the fire.

We have notified the property owner and the chief elected official and have included copies of those letters with this submission. No responses were received.

If you have any questions concerning our request, please contact our National Register Coordinator, Jessica Richardson via email at jrichardson@crt.la.gov or by phone at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Boggan".

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

PD:JR/jgr
Enclosure