

"Old French Fort"
(de la Pointe - Krebs House)
Pascagoula, Mississippi

HABS No. MISS-18

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3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Mississippi

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT - ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Emmett E. Hull, District Officer
Old Merchants Bank Bldg., Jackson, Miss.

ADDENDUM TO:

Old French Fort (De La Pointe-Krebs House)
(Old Spanish Fort)

Pascagoula
Jackson County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-18

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

"OLD FRENCH FORT"

(de la Pointe-Krebs House, also called "Old Spanish Fort")

Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi.

Physical Data

Present owner: Jackson County Board of Trustees.

Present occupant and use: Clubhouse for local American Legion Post.

Description (present condition)

Wall construction: 1. Oldest part; cypress and cedar frame filled in with oyster shell concrete; 2. West room; wood frame filled in with clay and moss (bousillage).

Size and form: Rectangular, 37'-5" x 62'-5".

Number stories: One and attic.

Porches: One story porch on three sides - north, south and west.

Exterior openings, windows: Modern, double-hung windows first floor, shutter pintle marks, no remaining shutters.

Exterior openings, doors: Old wood batten door west wall, all others recent.

Cornice: Exposed rafters projecting about 2'-0" beyond porch plate.

Roofing: Trussed, gable, broken pitch south side. Wood shingles (not original).

Chimneys: 2, brick, stuccoed above roof.

Interior

Floors: First floor, wood floor about 18" above original oyster shell concrete floor; attic, random width wood floor T&G, flush joints.

Doors: Old wood batten door in former partition, middle room; double batten door between middle room and east room, first floor.

Trim: Originally no trim. Modern doors and windows have modern block trim.

Mantels: One simple wood mantel (Greek period), 3 French Louisiana type mantels, plastered, wood shelf.

Stairways: One recent outside stair to attic.

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Plasterwork: Plaster made of ground oyster shells, applied to exterior as well as interior walls, first floor.

Additions and alterations: Difficult to ascertain which sections are original and which are later. All wood floors first floor are new. Porches not original. See restoration sheet for conjectural developments in plan.

Outbuildings: None. Interesting de la Pointe-Krebs burial ground east of house.

Historical Data

Year of erection: 1721 (?)

Built for (first owner): Sieur Joseph de la Pointe.

Architect or designer: Not ascertained.

Built by: Not ascertained.

Original intended use: Probably a house.

Notable events and occupants: Sieur Joseph de la Pointe was an Admiral in Bienville's fleet maintained on Chatahoula Lake (now called Krebs Lake) to protect Duchess de Chaumont's royal concessions at Pascagoula. In 1721 he was commissioned by French to build a fort. During Spanish domination, the building was used as a fort, home of de Grinarest, Lieutenant Spanish army, who afterward married the granddaughter of de la Pointe. A few years later Baron Hugo Ernestus Krebs arrived from Germany, came into possession of the building and grounds through marriage with de la Pointe's daughter, Marie Jeanne. Krebs is described as having had a splendid plantation, hundreds of slaves, raised rice, cotton, indigo, among other commodities. He is said to have invented his own cotton gin using slave power, antedating Whitney's cotton gin by many years. Until recently the house was occupied by descendants of Baron Krebs.

References: "Brief History of the 'Old Spanish Fort' at Pascagoula, Mississippi" compiled by WPA, Pascagoula: "Settlement of German Coast of Louisiana and the Creoles of German Descent", J. Hanno Deiler, p. 25.

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Approved: _____ Date _____
District Officer