



ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified Genealogist[®] • Certified Genealogical LecturerSM
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists
Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

141 Settlers Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075 • eshown@comcast.net

DATE: 12 March 2021
REPORT TO: [Private]
SUBJECT: Yves *dit* Pacalé, His Land (S9 & 86 T7N R6W), and the Historic Roque House
QUESTION: Was the Roque House built by the freed slave Pacalé or by the French Créole Paul Poissot from whom Pacalé purchased his land in 1803?

BACKGROUND

In 1967, Museum Contents, Inc., removed from Isle Brevelle an aged cypress and bousillage structure, relocating it on the riverbank in the city of Natchitoches.¹ Historical research published in the 1970s identified the land on which the property stood as a tract purchased in 1803 by a formerly enslaved man, Yves *dit* Pacale.² The house was later inhabited by Mme. Philomene Roque, who is said to have remained there until her death in 1941.³

Mills and Mills, *Forgotten People*, rev. ed., offers the following synopsis of Pacalé's life in which his land ownership is placed in the context of his other activities:⁴

The patriarchal role Augustin [Metoyer] assumed over Cane River in this era generated other slave purchases whose interpretive contexts involve textual layers. In 1813 for example, Augustin acquired a twenty-five-year-old black male named François; the seller was a free black neighbor, **Yves *dit* Pacalé**, to whom Augustin paid \$600. Viewed in isolation, that one document offers no clue to the chain of events that occurred before and after the sale.

Pacalé, one of the few Creole black slaves at Natchitoches to use an African name as his *dit* throughout life, had been a slave of the Derbanne family for the first sixty-seven years⁵ of his life.

¹ U.S. National Park Service, "Roque House," *Cane River National Heritage Area* (nps.gov/nr/travel/caneriver/roq.htm : accessed 8 March 2021). Also see Historic American Buildings Survey, "Roque House, Between Front Street & Cane River, Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, LA," *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/la0468.photos.210489p/> : 8 March 2021), for HABS No. LA-1329 photos attributed to James W. Rosenthal, 2004. No house history is provided here by HABS.

² Gary B. Mills and Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Pacale," *Natchitoches Times*, 30 November 1975 (part of the authors' weekly bicentennial series, "Tales of Old Natchitoches"). Gary B. Mills, *The Forgotten People: Cane River's Creoles of Color* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976), 68. Gary B. and Elizabeth Shown Mills, "The House that Pacalé Built," *Dixie Magazine* (May 28, 1978): 10ff. *Dixie* was a Sunday magazine supplement published at the time by many Southern newspapers.

³ U.S. National Park Service, "Roque House." However, see *Roque v. Henry*, Court of Appeal of Louisiana, Second Circuit (28 April 1939); reported at *Casemine* (<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/5914cc12add7b049348077bd> : 8 March 2021). This suit describes the property as 30 acres.

⁴ Gary B. and Elizabeth Shown Mills, *The Forgotten People: Cane River's Creoles of Color*, rev. ed. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013), 79–80; also 335 *n*76 and 311 *nn*71, 72, 73.

At the death of Pierre Derbanne's widow in 1798, he asked the heirs to give him his freedom, and they agreed.^[71] From a neighbor, he bought a small raw tract of land and built a home. By 1802, he had the funds to buy his wife, Marie Louise; and, under the manumission laws of the colony, he immediately freed her. That wife soon died, and the aging Pacalé saved to buy a new wife, called "Eteroux" in the bill of sale, who was already sixty-five when he purchased and freed her in 1806. With his physical strength waning, he next bought a slave for labor, a young black male named François.^[72]

In 1812, the aged Pacalé approached Augustin Metoyer asking for help. He had a forty-year-old daughter who was still enslaved. Thérèse's owner, the Roubieu brothers, had set a price of \$800. Pacalé lacked the money to buy her, but her owners were willing to take a note if someone of substance would guarantee it. Augustin agreed, the purchase was made, and Pacalé advertised his intent to manumit Thérèse. No one in the community objected, and the parish judge approved her manumission. Then the one-year note came due and Pacalé was destitute. He sold his ninety-one acres to a white Creole neighbor, despite the fact that he had already mortgaged the land and his laborer François to Augustin, to cover Augustin's guarantee of the Roubieu debt. Yet the proceeds for the sale of Pacalé's land fell far short of the needed funds. Failure to repay the debt would mean, under manumission laws, that his daughter could be seized by the Roubieu brothers and remanded to slavery.

Again, Augustin stepped in. He paid the Roubieus for Pacalé's daughter; then, because the young mortgaged male was worth considerably more than the forty-year-old Thérèse, he paid Pacalé an additional \$600 to equalize the transaction. Pacalé then made title to Augustin, but Augustin apparently left the man in Pacalé's possession, recognizing that the aged freedman would have no other way of providing a livelihood for himself and the two females he was now supporting. The white Creole purchaser of Pacalé's land also allowed the hapless family to remain in their home and continue tillage of the land. Six years later, Pacalé died, at the age of eighty-two. His land went to the purchaser and his slave moved to Augustin's plantation, where he would remain until Augustin's death.^[73]

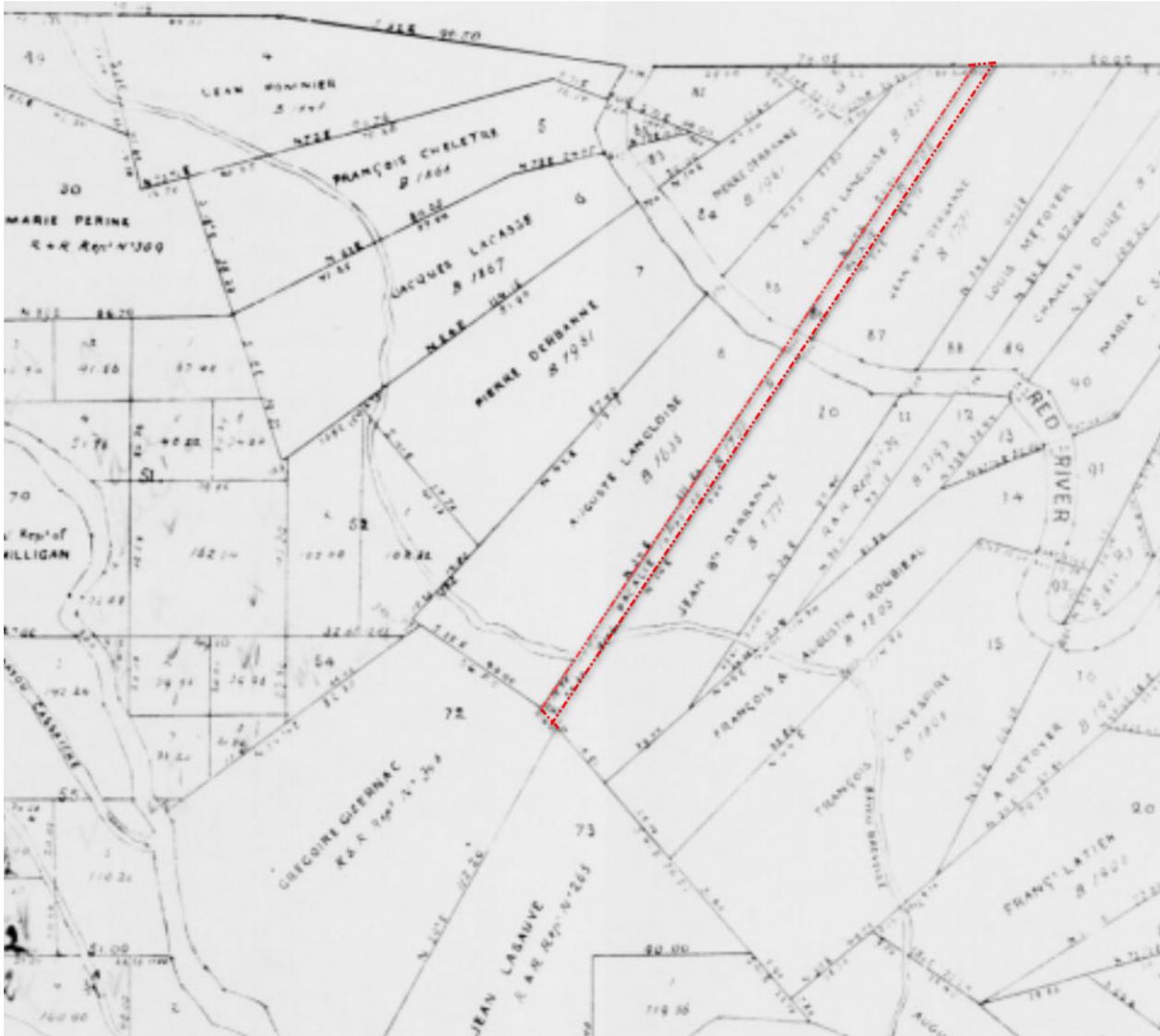
Notes (p. 311):

71. Yves dit *Pacalé* was born at Natchitoches and baptized there on Jan. 2, 1736, as the son of Jean Baptiste and Marie, two legally married African slaves belonging to the succession of the late subdélégué François Dion des Pres Derbanne. Pacalé was inherited by Derbanne's half-Indian son Pierre, who subsequently became one of the wealthiest planters on Cane River. For the baptism, see Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729–1803*, entry 35. For Pacalé's manumission, see Succession of Marie Le Clerc (Widow Derbanne), doc. 2857, NCA [Natchitoches Colonial Archives].
72. Marie Derbanne to Yves Pacalis, Sale of slave; and Yves Pascales to Marie Louise, Manumission, c1802, doc. 2979, NCA. The document itself is no longer on file, but descriptive entries appear in the 'Index to French Archives.' Jean Baptiste Ailhaud Ste. Anne to Pacalé, Sale and manumission of 'Eteroux,' Jan. 1, 1806, doc. 3324, NCA. The age of 'Eteroux,' and the fact that Ste. Anne inherited her from the Buard family who owned Coincoin's sister Mariotte and her brother François, suggests that 'Eteroux' may have been Coincoin's older sister Gertrude *dite* Dgimby. As pronounced by the colonial French, the initial 'G' was silent, the 'r' was rolled, and the final "de" was elided (thus: Eteru). The name Gertrude was extremely rare at the Natchitoches post; the only ones found on record were a St. Denis daughter, ... their family slave, Coincoin's sister who was more commonly called *Dgimby* [and, adding from p. 335 n76: a slave born in 1738 to the J. B. Derbanne household, with a godmother from Los Adais].

⁵ The inventory of Pierre Derbanne's succession, taken 1 December 1797, cites Pacalé as sixty-seven. If correct, it would place his birth in 1730, making him six at the time of his baptism on 2 January 1736. For the inventory see Doc. 2729, Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA); Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches.

73. Pacalé to Metoyer, Mortgage, Mar. 20, 1812, doc. 4058, NCA; Roubieu Brothers to Pascalis, sale of Thérèse, Mar. 20, 1812, doc. 4059, NCA; also Pacalé, public notice of intent to free Thérèse, Mar. 21, 1812, and Pacalé to “Thérèse, *sa fille*” (i.e., ‘his daughter’), emancipation, May 29, 1812, docs. 4096 and 4097, NCA. Pacallé to Auguste Langlois, sale of land, May 27, 1813, doc. 4140, NCA; and Natchitoches Conv. Book 3: 316–37; Pacallé to Metoyer, sale of François, May 27, 1813, doc. 4150, NCA; and Natchitoches Conv. Book 3: 18.

Figure 1
Pacale’s Sliver of Land: One Acre Frontage on Cane River
Sections 9 & 86, Township 7 North, Range 6 West
Northwestern Land District of Louisiana⁶



⁶ Northwest quadrant of “Official Plat Map: 1851 Original Plat of T 07N, R 06W, NWD,” Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (<https://www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=522.01882&category=H#1> : 12 March 2021).

FINDINGS

Poisson Ownership of Land

In 1763, as Louisiana transitioned from French to Spanish control and French military personnel were discharged, Lt. Remy Poisson Sr. and his son-in-law Jean Baptiste Brevel petitioned the governor of the province for grants of land on the branch of Red River known today as Cane River. The sites they settled lay along the upper end of what came to be known as Isle Brevelle.⁷ Following the custom of the times, they and other post settlers who moved downriver to establish plantations did not choose adjacent lands. Typically, they left a mile (or several) of vacant land between them, to allow for expansion. As Remy's sons and step-sons married, they obtained their own lands around the parental homestead.⁸

On 18 May 1796, Remy Poisson Jr. filed a request with the Natchitoches commandant for adjacent land to expand his own holdings: 10 arpents frontage on Red River (now the Cane) "at the place called l'Isle à Brevelle."⁹ Remy Jr. was at that time a forty-eight-year-old head-of-family, with two children newly married and several minors. he was also ill or fell ill soon thereafter. He did not have the land surveyed in order to receive a Spanish patent.

Remy Jr.'s illness became a matter of record on 20 December 1796 when he called the Natchitoches commandant Felix Trudeau out to his "habitation" to notarize a document. His wife of twenty-nine years, supposedly of her own free will, made a "declaration of bastardy" swearing that her oldest son, "the individual Antoine, ordinarily called Poisseaux and popularly called *la Grosse Tête* is a bastard conceived prior to their marriage," that he was the son of a stranger, and that he was baptized under the name Antoine *Cavée*." Therefore, the declaration stated, he was incapable of inheriting from Remy Jr.'s estate.¹⁰ Meanwhile, Remy Jr., over the preceding three months, had not made the trip into the post and parish church to arrange baptism of his newborn daughter Marie Marcellite.¹¹

⁷ Ory G. Poret, *Spanish Land-Grants in Louisiana: Abstracts of Documents from the Archives of the State Land Office Relating to the Region West of the Rivers Mississippi and Atchafalaya* (Ville Platte, LA: Provincial Press, 1999), 6.

⁸ Remy had married Anne Marie Philippe, the widow of Jacques Dupré, by whom she had five Dupré children. See E. S. Mills, "Deliberate Fraud and Mangled Evidence: The Search for the Fictional Family of Anne Marie Philippe of Natchitoches, Louisiana," *The American Genealogist*, 75th anniversary ed. (July–October 1997): 353–68, particularly 356. Archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/delibphil.pdf>).

⁹ The *requête* is not known to exist. It is identified and dated in "Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#42 : accessed 8 March 2021), affidavit of Jacques Lacaze for Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85. **See attached exhibits, arranged chronologically, for Exhibit 5-c.**

¹⁰ Doc. 2734, Natchitoches Colonial Archives (NCA); Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches. This series was microfilmed in the 1960s by the Genealogical Society of Utah and is available through Salt Lake City's Family History Library system. *Part* of the series has been imaged by *Ancestry.com* in the collection "Louisiana Wills and Probate Records, 1756–1984."

After Remy Jr.'s death, the guardian of his minors (his brother Athanase), his son-in-law Denis Buart (as husband of Remy's one adult daughter), and his widow filed a new declaration recognizing "the named Antoine surnamed Poisson, as a legitimate heir to the succession"; see Doc. 2756, NCA.

When Antoine married on 3 February 1795, his marriage record identified him as the "legitimate son of Dn. Remigio Poisson and Louisa Cave," but the named father was not present at the marriage. See Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches: Abstracts of*

Two weeks later, on 5 January 1797, Remy Jr. died.¹² Twenty days after that, the commandant met with heirs and witnesses at the family *habitation* about eight leagues from the post. There, the widow declared that her late husband had made a “last will and testament” to which he had affixed his mark in the presence of witnesses. Then without explanation, Commandant Trudeau declared that Poissot had died *intestate* and proceeded with the inventory and appraisal of all goods, “movable and immovable” (i.e., personal property and real estate), as required when no will existed. No will appears in the voluminous succession file.¹³

That inventory identifies only one tract of land for Remy Jr.—a well-developed tract of eight arpents frontage on both sides of Red River—and numerous enslaved workers. The *maison* was described as 30 feet in length, constructed of *poteaux en terre*, with a gallery all around and the whole covered with shingles. The “habitation” also included a storehouse of 20 feet in length, a small chicken house, and an *indigoterie* (indigo processing shed). His habitation sold for 633 piasters to their neighbor Pierrite Derbanne (Pierre Derbanne Jr.). No mention was made of the unsurveyed land for which Remy had received a concession (i.e., the legal right to survey and develop the land), eight months earlier, suggesting that the land did not yet have marketable value.¹⁴

Subsequent documents filed with the U.S. Land Office report that Remy Jr.’s undeveloped land was “inherited [by Paul Poissot] from his father to whom was accorded a Concession dated 18th May 1796.”¹⁵ Paul married at nineteen, almost two years after his father’s death. In his civil marriage contract, dated the day of his marriage, 6 October 1798, he declared that he possessed 2000 *piastres*, apparently representing his share of his father’s estate. He claimed no land.¹⁶

the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana, 1729–1803 (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), entry 3403. Antoine’s baptismal record is not found at Natchitoches or at New Orleans, where his mother Louise Cavé was reared. Four years prior to Louise’s marriage to Remy Poissot, her older sister Marie Jeanne Cavé had wed Remy’s half-brother Robert Dupré and settled with him at Rapides. Considering that Louise married Remy at Natchitoches with Robert Dupré acting *en locus parentis* for her marriage contract, it is likely that she was living then with the Duprés. That raises a possibility that Antoine may have been baptized by Fr. Valentin at Rapides, whose records are not known to exist. However, the Poissot-Cavé marriage contract does not reference any child previously born to her, suggesting that Antoine was born after the marriage. See Winston DeVille, translator and abstractor, *Marriage Contracts of Natchitoches, 1739–1803* (Nashville, TN: Benson Printing Co., 1961), entry 32.

The “nickname” reported for Antoine (“The Big Head”) suggests that he may have been born prematurely and suffered from a common consequence, hydrocephalus (“water on the brain”) that created an enlarged head. He is not known to have lived past his mid-20s.

¹¹ For dates of Marcellite’s birth and eventual baptism, see Mills, *Natchitoches ... 1729–1803*, entry 35.

¹² Mills, *Natchitoches ... 1729–1803*, entry 3030.

¹³ Doc. [File] 2742, NCA; see particularly pp. 2–3, where the widow declared there was a will and p. 4, on which the commandant declared that Poissot had died “*ab intestate*.” The document that the widow called his “testament ou acte dernière volonté” was likely drafted the same day as Mme. Poissot’s 20 December 1796 declaration, which was the only one filed for record.

¹⁴ Doc. 2742, NCA.

¹⁵ “Claim Papers N.W.D [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4,” Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#42 : 8 March 2021), Auguste Langlois claim B1635 S8 & 85, a claim based on his 1803 purchase from Poissot. **See Exhibit 5-C.**

¹⁶ DeVille, *Marriage Contracts of Natchitoches, 1739–1803*, entry 96. As a point of comparison, Paul’s older brother Antoine Poissot executed his marriage contract on 9 September 1794, citing no property or money at all. That document identifies him as Remy’s son; but, contrary to custom, Remy was not present in a parental capacity. See *ibid.* entry 79.

The possibility that Antoine Poissot may have occupied the portion of land later sold to Pacalé is eliminated by the fact that Antoine left the parental community before his Remy Jr. acquired the concession. After his marriage, Antoine moved to Campté, north of Natchitoches, where he obtained a concession of ten arpents on each side of Red River that he sold in April 1805. See claim papers filed in the U.S. Land Office at Opelousas, abstracted in Judy Riffel, *Calendar of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Civil Records*, vol. 1, 1803–1819 (Baton Rouge: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 1995), 60, 82. Also the claims-file abstracts

The newlywed Paul then began to develop a *habitation* for himself and his new wife, on his father's concession of 1796,¹⁷ but he would not remain there. In early 1803 he executed two sales—one to the freed Derbanne slave Yves *dit* Pacalé and one to their neighbor Auguste Langlois. The two sales must be considered together in order to interpret correctly the language of each:

- 28 February 1803: Before Commandant Felix Trudeau, in presence of witnesses Nicolas Lauve and Guillaume Labarre, Sieur **Paul Poissot**, habitant of this district, sells to Sieur **Augustin Langlois**, one “**hab_____**” situated about nine leagues from the town in descending Red River, eight arpents and a half on each bank of the said river, bounded on the upper by Sieur Pierre Derbanne [Pierre Jr., who had bought the Remy Poissot plantation], and on the lower by the said seller, which comes to him by virtue of a request for concession to the governor of this province. The said sale and conveyance is made for the price of 450 piasters, for which the seller acknowledges receipt and the acquirer declares having received charge of “**the said habitation**,” etc. [Signed] Mark + of Paul Poissot; Auguste Langl____, N^{las} Lauve, Delabarre, Felix Trudeau.¹⁸
- 16 April 1803. Before Felix Trudeau, Civil and Military Commandant of the Post of Natchitoches and its dependences, in presence of Sieurs Nicolas Lauve and Paul Marcollay, witnesses ... there has appeared in person the **Sr. Paul Poissot**, inhabitant of this district, who by the present declares having sold, ceded, and conveyed all rights and guarantees against all troubles in general to **Yves dit Pacalee**, free negro ... one and a half arpent [one acre] of **land** fronting on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by **Augustin Langlois** and on the lower by Jean Bte. Derbanne, the which land belongs to him [Poissot] by concession, the which sale and conveyance is made for the sum of one hundred eighty piasters which he [Poissot] has acknowledged receiving and the said buyer acknowledges taking possession of the property, etc. [Signed] Yves dit Pacalee + mark. Paul Poissot + mark. N^{las} Lauve, Paul Marcollay, Felix Trudeau.¹⁹

One significant difference exists between these two documents. The large tract sold to Langlois is described as a *habitation*—i.e., a plantation consisting of the family home and outbuildings. The small sliver of land sold to Pacalé is described only as “land.”

This same distinction also exists in the description recorded for each sale in the contemporary index:²⁰

“1803 Poissot, Paul, to Auguste Langlois	Sale of <i>Plantation</i> ”
“1803 Poissot, Paul, to Pacalé, fmc	Sale of <i>Land</i> ”

That distinction is significant to the research question: *Did Pacalé build his own dwelling or did it already exist on the Poissot land before he bought it?* The two sale documents of 1803 attest that a home and conventional outbuildings existed on the large tract. No such reference appears in the document for the small tract. Indeed, for young Poissot to build a separate dwelling on the lower fringe of his property, more than a mile from his “habitation,” would have been unconventional and illogical.

published in *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States*, Public Land Series, 8 vols. (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834–62), 2: 803, 865, and 3: 78.

¹⁷ The 1814 survey of Paul's land, performed for his buyer Auguste Langlois, places the dwelling house on the left descending bank, on the *upper* side of the plantation about a mile from the land of Pierre Derbanne. Pacalé's land lay on Langlois' *lower* side. For the survey, see “Claim Papers N.W.D., T. 7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#46), Survey, Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85. **Image attached as Exhibit 8.** The original document from which this image was made, as posted by the State Office of Lands, is extremely faint and blurred.

¹⁸ Doc. 3036, NCA. **See Exhibits 1a, 1b.** Note highlights thereon.

¹⁹ Doc. 3047, NCA. **See Exhibits 2a, 2b.** Note highlights thereon.

²⁰ “Index to French Archives,” p. 357. **See Exhibit 3.**

These facts raise two new questions: *Why did Paul Poissot split the land into two parts, and why did the sale to Pacalé occur six weeks after the sale to Langlois.*

Pacalé's chronology, below, suggests the answer to both.

Pacalé's Manumission and Acquisition of the Land

Two documents that exist for Pacalé during his enslavement speak to the nature of his skills as an enslaved man:

- 28 October 1765. Pierre Derbanne [Sr.] supplied Jacques Rachal with seven enslaved men and women to work a tract "near the Indian village of this post" and authorized Rachal and those hands to build a small cabin on the land for Rachal's home (20' long). The second named slave was "Pacalé," the Derbanne slave who had been baptized in 1736 under the name Yves.²¹
- 1 December 1797. Inventory and appraisal of the succession of Pierre Derbanne ... Item: a **Negre named Yves, a bit of a carpenter, aged sixty-seven years**, estimated at three hundred Piasters.²²

A year after Pierre Derbanne Sr.'s death, his widow also died. Pacalé asked the heirs to give him his freedom for his years of service to the family. Four heirs agreed, dividing between themselves the loss, based upon his estimated value.²³ For about three years he labored, likely for the Derbannes since that was the family cluster in which he spent his life, and saved his earnings. At some point between 1800 and 1802, he petitioned his late master's niece Marie Derbanne (widow of Joseph Dupré, the half brother of Remy Poissot) to sell him her slave Marie Louise.²⁴ The exact date of that purchase is not known. The document by which the purchase was made is now missing, the index entry dates it only as "1800–2," but the notarial number assigned to it suggests that it was about the end of 1801 or early 1802. At that time, Pacalé clearly would have needed a home. Two freed slaves, working on their own, would not have been given free housing.

Free persons in this society, black or white and landless, typically went onto "vacant" land to build a home and clear enough acreage for a garden and then commercial crops. The vacant land that Pacalé chose lay along the upper bounds of the land of Jean Baptiste Derbanne (S10 & 87, T7N R6W; see map, figure 1). That land also lay along the edge of the unsurveyed land that Paul Poissot had inherited from his father. Considering that Paul was only nineteen at the time he married and began to clear his 10 arpents frontage (800 superficial arpents, roughly 677 acres), whether he was inattentive, or simply underestimated the bounds of his unsurveyed land, cannot be determined from the records. What can be reasonably concluded from the records is this:

- The house that Pacalé built for himself and his newly purchased wife lay on Poissot land.

²¹ Doc. 437, NCA.

²² Doc. [File] 2729, NCA. **See Exhibit 4.**

²³ Doc. [File] 2857, NCA; imaged in "Louisiana, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1756–1984," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067>) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 2829–2860, Book 29, 1798 > images 339–40. Pacalé's document, which is filmed after the lengthy inventory and sale, begins "On the same day" To determine the date, see four pages earlier, at image 338.

Pacalé's exact date or year of birth is unknown. Prior to his baptism, Natchitoches was rarely served by a priest. About the time of his baptism, frequent "catch-up" sacraments were administered to the enslaved population. See Mills, *Natchitoches ... 1729–1803* for entries in Register 1. This paper's identification of his age is taken from the Derbanne inventory.

²⁴ Index to French Archives, p. 357.

- When Paul Poissot decided to move from Isle Brevelle and sold his “habitation” to Langlois, for some reason or problem that went unexplained, he did not sell Langlois his full tract.
- Six weeks later, Pacalé had raised 180 piasters to purchase the unsold slice of the Poissot habitation. How or from whom he raised the money, just months after the costly purchase of Marie Louise, is not a matter of record. As discussed in the “Background” excerpt from Mills and Mills, later records do show that when the aging Pacalé went into debt to purchase an enslaved male to help him labor—and again when he went into debt to purchase his middle-aged daughter Thérèse—he borrowed the money from Augustin Metoyer, f.m.c.



CONCLUSION

The bousillage structure known today as the Roque House was, beyond reasonable doubt, built by Yves *dit* Pacalé on unsurveyed land that he presumed to be “vacant,” one or two years before his actual purchase of the land from the young Paul Poissot in April 1803.

APPENDIX 1:
Research Notes:
All Records Discovered for Yves *dit* Pacalé

JANUARY 2, 1736

Baptism of **Hyves**, son of Jean Baptiste and Marie, negro slaves of d’Herbanne. Godparents: Hyves du ___ [Bos], *cadet*, and _____ d’Herbanne (x).²⁵

COMMENT:

Although baptized as “Hyves” (more typically written as Yves), this man used the name **Pacalé** throughout his life. His father, baptized as Jean Baptiste, also used an African name at Natchitoches. See the marriage of Jean Baptiste *dit* Flondor and Marie on 19 June 1835.²⁶

28 OCTOBER 1765

Pierre Derbanne supplied seven slaves to Jacques Rachal, to work a tract “near the Indian village of this post.” The workers were identified as:

Da_üain, nègre
Pacalé, nègre
Julien, nègre
Bap^{te}, negri[ll]on
Thérèse, négresse
Maria, négresse
Marianne, negritte

All were to work corn, “favas” [beans?], potatoes, citrus fruits, and tobacco. The arrangement was on shares, with two shares for Derbanne and one for Rachal. A small cabin is to be built on the land for Rachal's home (20' long). [Other terms not abstracted here.]²⁷

1 DECEMBER 1797

Succession of Pierre Derbanne

Inventory and appraisal of the succession of Pierre Derbanne ... Item: a **Negre named Yves, a bit of a carpenter, aged sixty-seven years**, estimated at three hundred Piasters.²⁸

24 OCTOBER 1798

Succession of Marie Louise LeClerc, widow of Pierre Derbanne. **Pacalé** asked heirs of the Derbanne succession to give him his freedom for his years of service to the family. Four heirs agreed, dividing between themselves the loss, based upon the cost of his newly estimated value: \$100.²⁹

CA. 1800–2

Marie Derbanne to **Yves Pacalé**, Sale of Slave, Marie Louise, for manumission.

²⁵ Mills, *Natchitoches ... 1729–1803*, entry 35.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, entry 26.

²⁷ Doc. 437, NCA.

²⁸ Doc. [File] 2729, NCA. See **Exhibit 4**.

²⁹ Doc. [File] 2857, NCA.

COMMENT:

The document is missing. Only the index entry has been found.³⁰

The “Marie Derbanne” who was active in this period was Marie de l’Incarnacion Derbanne (daughter of Jean Baptiste Derbanne and granddaughter of the subdélégué François). She was the widow of Joseph Dupré I, the half-brother of Remy Poissot Jr.

16 APRIL 1803

Before Felix Trudeau, Civil and Military Commandant of the Post of Natchitoches and its dependences, in presence of Sieurs Nicolas Lauve and Paul Marcollay, witnesses ... there has appeared in person the **Sr. Paul Poissot**, inhabitant of this district, who by the present declares having sold, ceded, and conveyed all rights and guarantees against all troubles in general to **Yves dit Pacalee**, free negro ... one and a half arpent of **frontage** on each bank of Red River, bounded on the upper by Augustin Langlois and on the lower by Jean Bte. Derbanne [son of Pierre], the which **land** belongs to him by concession, the which sale and conveyance is made for the sum of one hundred eighty piasters which he [Poissot] has acknowledged receiving and the said buyer acknowledges taking possession of the property, etc. [Signed] Yves dit Pacalee + mark. Paul Poissot + mark. N^{las} Lauve, Paul Marcollay, Felix Trudeau.³¹

COMMENT:

The right margin of page 2 of this document (like many records in this series) is bound into the crack of the book, rendering one or two words unreadable at the end of each line. Therefore, I have made a translated extract, rather than a full and exact translation.

Note that there is no reference to a house or other improvement on this land *and the property is described as “frontage” and “land,” rather than “a habitation.”* The significance of this point becomes clear when compared to the wording of Poissot’s sale of the larger portion of this tract to Auguste Langlois five weeks earlier:

28 FEBRUARY 1803

Before Felix Trudeau Commandant [etc] in presence of witnesses Nicolas Lauve and Guillaume Labarre, Sieur **Paul Poissot**, habitant of this district, sells to Sieur **Augustin Langlois**, one “**hab_____**” [appears to be t____overwritten with *hab_____*; rest of word torn away] situated about nine leagues from the town in descending Red River, being eight arpents and a half on each bank of the said river, bounded on the upper by Sieur Pierre Derbanne [Jr.], and on the lower by the said seller, which comes to him by virtue of a request for concession to the governor of this province. The said sale and conveyance is made for the price of 450 piasters, for which the seller acknowledges receipt and the acquirer declares having received charge of “**the said habitation**,” etc. [Signed] Mark + of Paul Poissot. Auguste Langlois, N^{las} Lauve, Delabarre, Felix Trudeau.³²

1 JANUARY 1806

Pacalé paid Jean Baptiste Ailhaud St. Anne \$250 for a Negro woman named “Eteroux,” age 65, to be emancipated immediately. Witnesses: Lauve, John Duforet, John C. Carr.³³

³⁰ Index to French Archives, p. 357.

³¹ Doc. 3047, NCA. See Exhibits 2a, 2b.

³² Doc. 3036, NCA. See Exhibits 1a, 1b.

³³ Doc. 3321, NCA.

COMMENT:

“Eteroux” (*E’tru*) appears to be a phonetic spelling of *Gertrude*. No other document has been found for her under the name Eteroux. See the Mills and Mills discussion under “Background” on pp. 1–2 of this report.

One point for further consideration is not presented in the 2013 Mills and Mills discussion of Pacalé: the enslaved child named Marie Gertrude, who was born in 1738 into the household of Jean Baptiste Derbanne (brother of Pierre Sr.) was Pacalé’s sister. The unsettled succession of François Dion desPres Derbanne was then being administered by the eldest son, Jean Baptiste Derbanne (father of the Marie Derbanne from whom Pacalé purchased the enslaved Marie Louise for manumission about 1801). Pacalé himself was inherited by the youngest son and heir, Pierre.

20 DECEMBER 1806

“Augustus L’Anglais [**Augustin Langlois**] claims Eight and one half acres of Land in front with the ordinary depth of forty acres on each side of Red River [now the Cane], by purchase of **Paul Poissot** by Deed passed 28th February 1803, **who inherited the same from his father to whom was accorded a Concession dated 18th May 1796**, which *requette* &c are herewith filed. Natchitoches 20th Dec^r 1806. [Signed] Auguste Langlois.”³⁴

Document label: “Augustus L’Anglais, Notice. Filed Dec^r 20th 1806. B N^o 1635. Sec 8 T7N R6W, T8N R6W. Notation: Rec^d the title papers filed with this notice June 11, 1812.” [Signed] W. Murray [attorney who filed the land claim for Auguste Langlois]³⁵

COMMENT:

Filed with this claim is an affidavit by Langlois’ and Pacalé’s neighbor, Jacques Lacaze, attesting that “Remy Pousseau” was the original concessionnaire—thereby putting an identity to the “father” of Paul who is unnamed in the document above. That father was Remy Poissot *Jr.*, who died in January 1796.

18 NOVEMBER 1811

“Jacques Lacaze being Sworn in the claim of Augustin Langlois for Eight and half arpens of front on Each side of the River at the Isle a Brevel Recd by an order of Survey to **Remy Pousseau** Deposeth and Saith that the land claimed has been inhabited and cultivated for fifteen years without interruption first by the grantee and after by the claimant. [Signed] Jacq^s his + mark Lacaze. Sworn to before the Board this 18th November 1811.

15
1796 R287³⁶

25 DECEMBER 1806

“**Pacalée** a free negro claims One Acre and one half acre front on each side of Red river, with the Depth of forty Acres, bounded above by Land of **Auguste Langlois**, and below by Land of **John Bapt^{te} Derbanne** [son of Pierre Sr.], by virtue of Deed of Conveyance from **Paul Poissot** to whom the tract of land (of which the tract now claimed is a part), was regularly conceded, which concession is filed in the Registers

³⁴ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#42), Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85. **See Exhibit 5-a.**

³⁵ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#43), Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85. **See Exhibit 5-b.**

³⁶ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#44), Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 75. **See Exhibit 5-c.**

Office for the County of Natchitoches [*sic*], in the Notice of s^d Augustus [*sic*] Langlois, & by Virtue of the Acts of Congress in that Case made & provided the Deed of Conveyance above mentioned is filed with this notice. [signed]: Pacalle.

“~~Order of Surve~~ [*sic*]

“See Langlois claim for Testimony. B~~1632~~ 1635 [*sic*].

\$20

84.63 [apparently represents acres estimated for one side of river]

16.82 [apparently represents acres estimated for other side of river]

101.55 [apparently represents total estimated acreage]³⁷

Document label: “1706. Pacalle. Notice. Filed Decr^r 25th 1806. B N^o 1706, NWD T7N R6W Sec 9. [Old Board] N^o 95.”³⁸

30 JANUARY 1808

Mme. Anne LaBerry, Widow La Renaudière, sells to Monsieur St. J. P. de Pons, doctor, a *négresse*, **Thérèse**, aged about 40, whom she bought at the succession sale of “Mr. Derbanne” on 28^r April 1799. Price: \$650.³⁹

COMMENT:

Note: Because this Thérèse, like Pacalé, originated on the Derbanne plantation, the possibility exists that she might be one and the same as his daughter, Thérèse. *Beginning with De Pons documents, the above Thérèse needs to be followed to determine if she was transferred to Auguste Roubieu prior to November 1811.* Numerous cases against Dr. St. Julien de Pons also appear on microfilm PC.3–6 [Parish Court files, years 1808–9] in the Clerk of Court's office. It is highly likely that his property was put up at auction in 1809 to satisfy a judgment against him.

8 OCTOBER 1810

Last Will and Testament of **Pacalé**. As a good Christian he commends his soul to its maker. All of his goods should go to the free *négresse* Marie Jeanne. Executor would be the free *negre*, Athanase. “Made and passed at Natchitoches.” [Notary not cited.] Signed: A. Sompayrac, witness; Jacques Fabre, witness; Jⁿ Boucher, witness; Henry Block, Ch^s F^{cois} Sandoz, Mex^r Downy. Dubois.⁴⁰

COMMENT:

Pacalé would replace this will in 1812. This Marie Jeanne, whose name was a common one among enslaved women on Cane River, has not been identified.

30 NOVEMBER 1811

Auguste Roubieu sells to [his brother] François Roubieu a *négresse* named **Thérèse** and a *nègre* named Jean Baptiste.⁴¹

COMMENT:

François Roubieu would sell Thérèse to Pacalé, her father. See 20 March 1812, below.

³⁷ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#56), Pacalé claim B1706, S9 & 86. **See Exhibit 6-a.**

³⁸ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4,” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#57), Pacalé claim B1706, S9 & 86. **See Exhibit 6-b.**

³⁹ Doc. 3572, NCA.

⁴⁰ Doc. 3870, NCA.

⁴¹ Doc. 4027, NCA.

21 DECEMBER 1811

“Monthly return of certificates issued by the Commissioners of the western district of Orleans Territory, for December, 1811 ...

No.	B 1635
Date:	December 10
Name of person under whom land was claimed:	Remigio [Remy] Poissot
In whose favor issued:	August Langloise
Nature of claim:	Order of survey and settlement
Situation of land:	Natchitoches “County,” Red River [now Cane]
Number of acres and hundredths:	575.47
Arpents and hundredths in front:	680
Remarks:	[None] ⁴²

No.	B 1706
Date:	December 21
Name of person under whom land was claimed:	Remigio [Remy] Poissot
In whose favor issued:	Pacalie, free negro
Nature of claim:	Order of survey and settlement
Situation of land:	Natchitoches “County,” Red River [now Cane]
Number of acres and hundredths:	101.55
Arpents and hundredths in front:	120
Remarks:	[None] ⁴³

20 MARCH 1812

Pacalé purchased from François Roubieu a slave, **Thérèse**, aged about 40. \$800. Witnesses: A. K. McLaughlin and James Bludworth.⁴⁴

COMMENT:

As a possible clue to the origin of this daughter and her mother, the Roubieu kinsman Remy Poissot Sr. owned one Marie Louise, négresse, who bore **Marie Thérèse**, 11 Dec. 1776.⁴⁵ She has not been tracked after Poissot’s death. If the age stated in the deed above is correct, Thérèse’s birth would have occurred about 1771–72. However, ages of enslaved people were frequently “rounded off.”

20 MARCH 1812

Pacalé gives mortgage to Augustin Metoyer, acknowledging that he owes him \$800. As surety, he pledges 2 arpents of land on each bank of Red River, bounded above by Auguste Langlois on upper and Bte. Derbanne on lower. Also gives mortgage on an enslaved Congo male, François, aged about 20?.⁴⁶

20 MARCH 1812

Pacalé filed notice that he intends to emancipate his slave, **Thérèse**, aged about 40. Notice was filed on this day and 40 days were allowed for objections to be filed by any interested parties.⁴⁷

⁴² *American State Papers*, Public Land Series, 2: 847.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 849.

⁴⁴ Doc. 4059, NCA. The clerk’s record copy of this document is at Conveyance Book 2: 223–24.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, entry 2300.

⁴⁶ Conveyance Book 2: 224–25.

⁴⁷ Doc. 4096, NCA.

8 APRIL & 27 MAY 1813

Before Pierre David Cailleau Lafontaine, judge of the parish of Natchitoches, on 27 May 1813 appears Augustin Metoyer, “free mulatto” and his witness Mr. Pierre Charriau, to register an act of sale by which **Pacallé**, “free negro,” an inhabitant living on Isle à Brevel, sold to Metoyer for \$600 piasters a “Negro named François, aged about 28 years. Signed: Ordinary mark + of Pacallé, *negre libre*. Ordinary mark + of Augustin Metoyer, *m.l.* P^{re} Charriau, witness. Lavespere, witness. Anty, witness.

8 April 1813, “I the undersigned” declare having conveyed to Sieur Augustin Metoyer, “free mulatto” all rights in and to the “negro named François which he has acquired from Pacalé, *Negre libre*. Signed: Fs. Roubieu, P^{re} Charnau.”⁴⁸

COMMENT:

The sense of the document clearly says that “I the undersigned” should be Pacalé. However, his signature, or mark, does not appear.

9 MAY 1812

Pacalé manumitted **Thérèse**, “for paternal affection that he has toward the said Thérèse, his daughter.” Witnesses: Dubois, Richd Graham. Passed before Judge John C. Carr.⁴⁹

19 MAY 1812

Pacalé made a new will and testament, leaving everything to his daughter **Thérèse**. Augustin Metoyer is named executor. Witnesses: Lewis Latham, John Nancarrow, J. Wallace, A. K. McLaughlin, Dubois, and Jos. V. Johnson [i.e., the “courthouse crowd”—not individuals particularly connected to Pacalé]. Passed before Judge John C. Carr.⁵⁰

27 MAY 1813

Before Pierre David Cailleau Lafontaine, there appeared Auguste Langlois, together with his witness Sr. **Pierre Charriau**, who have registered an act of sale:

“We the undersigned, acting as witness in default of a notary public, has appeared **Pacallé**, free negro “habitant” of this parish,” who acknowledges having sold to Monsieur **Auguste Langlois** a tract situated in the parish of Natchitoches, consisting of 1½ arpents on each side of river, to the depth it is able to carry. Lower neighbor: Mr. Jean Baptiste Derbanne. Price: 300 piasters. A lifetime reservation is made of that portion of said land that he is able to cultivate. Signed: Pacalle, *negre libre*; Auguste Langloÿ —P^{re} Charuau, witness; Lavespere, witness; Anty, witness. Recorded 27 May 1813.⁵¹

27 MAY 1813

Before Pierre David Cailleau Lafontaine, judge of the parish of Natchitoches, on 27 May 1813 appears Augustin Metoyer, “free mulatto” and his witness Mr. Pierre Charriau, to register an act of sale by which **Pacallé**, “free negro,” an inhabitant living on Isle à Brevel, sold to Metoyer for \$600 piasters a “Negro named François, aged about 28 years. Signed: Ordinary mark + of Pacallé, *negre libre*. Ordinary mark + of Augustin Metoyer, *m.l.* P^{re} Charriau, witness. Lavespere, witness. Anty, witness.

8 April 1813, “I the undersigned” declare having conveyed to Sieur Augustin Metoyer, “free mulatto” all rights in and to the “negro named François which he has acquired from Pacalé, *Negre libre*. Signed: Fs.

⁴⁸ Doc. 4150, NCA. The clerk’s record copy of this document is in Conveyance Book 3: 18–19.

⁴⁹ Doc. 4097, NCA. The clerk’s record copy of this document is at Conveyance Book 2: 250.

⁵⁰ Doc. 4099, NCA.

⁵¹ Doc. 4140, NCA. The clerk’s recorded copy of this document is at Conveyance Book 3: 18–19.

Roubieu, P^{re} Charnau.”⁵²

COMMENT:

The sense of the document clearly says that “I the undersigned” should be Pacalé. However, his signature, or mark, does not appear.

9 NOVEMBER 1814

Survey, land claim of “Pacalie, free Negro”

“I have *resurveyed* measured & marked the boundaries of a Tract of Land claimed by **Pacalie** a free Negro to whom the Title has been confirmed by Commissioners Certificate B No. 1706 containing ninety four acres and 15/100 of an Acre, Situated on both sides of Red River in the Parish of Natchitoches, in Township No. 7 & [illegible character] North in Range NE 6 West and having such form & marks natural & artificial as are represented in the above Plat & notes of Reference Nov^r 9th 1814, Joseph Irwin, D.S. August Brunet & John Rachal, chain carriers.”⁵³

COMMENT:

The adjacent land that Auguste Langlois obtained from Paul Poissot was also surveyed the same day.⁵⁴

18 DECEMBER 1818

Burial of a free Negro ‘known as Pacale,’ aged about 80 years, who died of fever. Priest: F. Magnes.”⁵⁵

⁵² Doc. 4150, NCA. The clerk’s record copy of thsi document is in Conveyance Book 3: 18–19.

⁵³ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#58), Pacalé claim B1706, S9 & 86. **See Exhibit 7.**

⁵⁴ “Claim Papers N.W.D. T.7N. R.6W.4” (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#46), Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 87. **See Exhibit 8.**

⁵⁵ Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980), entry 1776.

APPENDIX 2 Principal Sources Used

Original Records (in personal microfilm collection):

Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches:

- “Index to French Archives,” c. 1732–1819
- Natchitoches Colonial Archives, 1732–1819
- Natchitoches Parish Conveyances, vols. 1–3

Publications

American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States. Public Land Series, 8 vols. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834–62.

DeVille, Winston. *Calendar of Louisiana Colonial Documents*, vol. 2, *St Landry Parish*, part 1. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Archives and Records Commission, 1964. Includes some U.S. Land Office records for Natchitoches landowners.

———. *Natchitoches Documents, 1732–1785: A Calendar of Civil Records from Fort St. Jean Baptiste in the French and Spanish Province of Louisiana*. Ville Platte, LA: Provincial Press, 1994. This translation of an inventory filed in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain, provides some additional detail for documents that are now missing from the Natchitoches Colonial Archives to supplement the cryptic entries in the courthouse “Index to French Archives.”

DeVille, Winston, translator and abstractor. *Marriage Contracts of Natchitoches, 1739–1803*. Nashville, TN: Benson Printing Co., 1961.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. “Deliberate Fraud and Mangled Evidence: The Search for the Fictional Family of Anne Marie Philippe of Natchitoches, Louisiana.” *The American Genealogist*, 75th anniversary edition (July-October 1997): 353–68. Archived online at Mills, *HistoricPathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/delibphil.pdf>). This source provides historical context and personal identifications for relevant members of the Poissot-Dupré family.

———. *Natchitoches: Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana, 1729–1803*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977.

———. *Natchitoches, 1800–1826: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. François des Natchitoches in Louisiana*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980.

Gary B. Mills. *The Forgotten People: Cane River’s Creoles of Color*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976.

——— and Elizabeth Shown Mills. *The Forgotten People: Cane River’s Creoles of Color*. Revised edition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013.

———. “Pacale.” *Natchitoches Times*. 30 November 1975.

———. “The House that Pacalé Built.” *Dixie Magazine*. May 28, 1978: 10ff.

Poret, Ory G. *Spanish Land-Grants in Louisiana, 1757–1802: Abstracts of Documents from the Archives of the State Land Office Relating to the Region West of the Rivers Mississippi and Atchafalaya*. Ville Platte, LA: Provincial Press, 1999.

Riffel, Judy. *Guide to the Louisiana Miscellany Collection [Library of Congress], 1724–1837*. Baton Rouge: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 2006. This LC collection contains random documents relating to Natchitoches lands—documents that were separated from claims files maintained by the U.S. General Land Office in D.C. and created by its district office at Opelousas.

Riffel, Judy, et al. *Calendar of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Civil Records*, vol. 1, 1803–1819. Baton Rouge: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 1995. Includes many documents for Natchitoches settlers created by the U.S. General Land Office at Opelousas.

MILLS: Yves *dit* Pacalé, His Land, and the Historic Roque House 8 March 2021

Vidrine, Jacqueline Olivier. *The Opelousas Post, 1764–1789: Guide to the St. Landry Parish Archives Deposited at Louisiana State Archives*. Baton Rouge: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 1979. Includes some land grants and other documents for Natchitoches settlers.

Websites:

(Original documents)

Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents*. www.slodms.doa.la.gov. 2021. 8 March 2021. This is a key source for land surveys and claim papers filed by Natchitoches settlers in the first two decades after the Louisiana Purchase.

“Louisiana, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1756–1984.” *Ancestry*. <https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067> : 8 March 2021. This is a key source for colonial notarial records and nineteenth century conveyance and succession records from the parish courthouse at Natchitoches. The collection (available by Ancestry subscription) is far from complete, but it does offer tens of thousands of documents for study.

(Historical perspective)

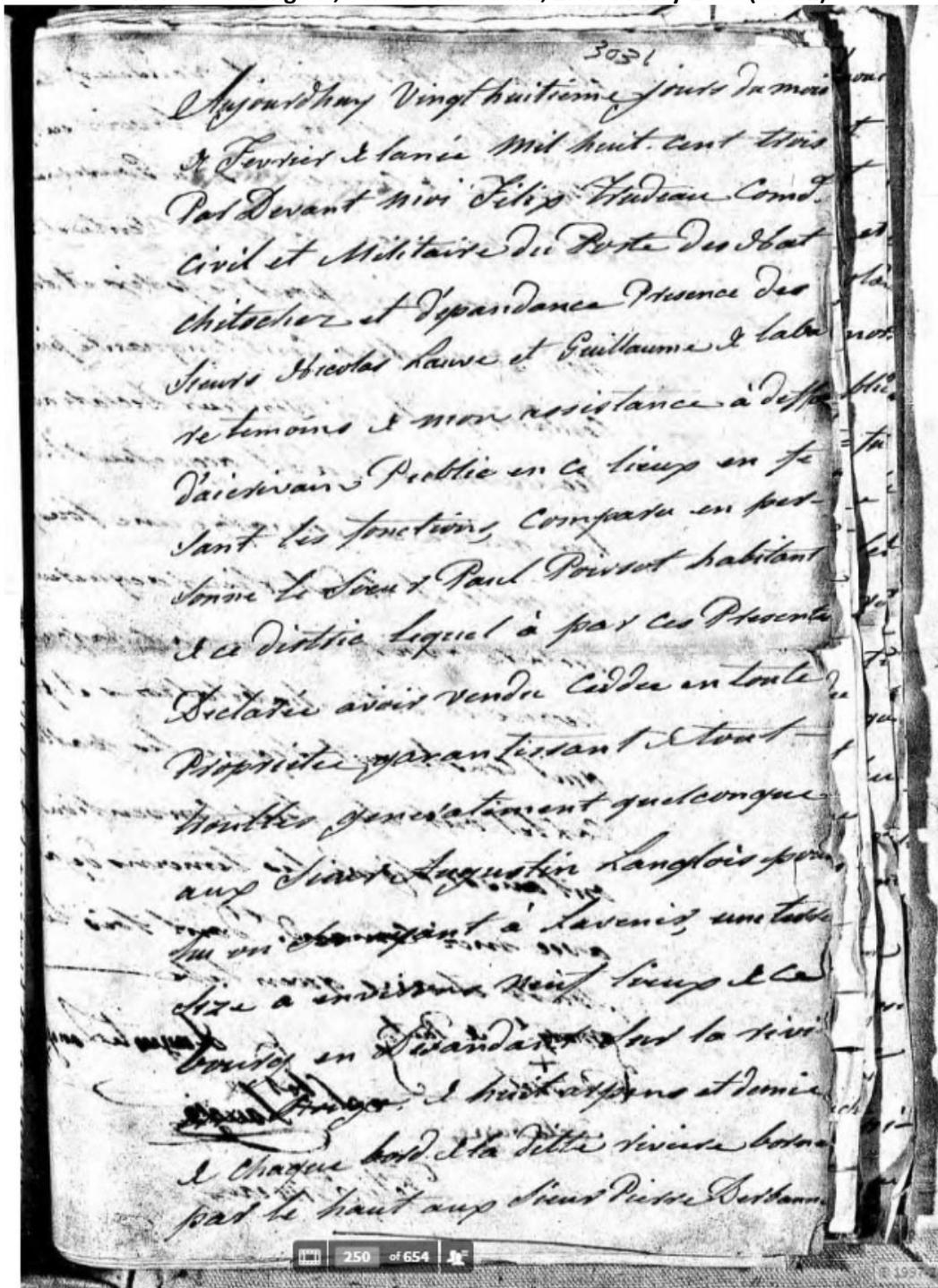
U.S. Historic American Buildings Survey. “Roque House, Between Front Street & Cane River, Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, LA.” *Library of Congress*. loc.gov/pictures/item/la0568/ : 8 March 2021. HABS No. LA-1329 photos attributed to James Rosenthal, 2004.

U.S. National Park Service. “Roque House.” *Cane River National Heritage Area*. mnps.gov/nr/travel/caneriver/roq.htm : 8 March 2021.

APPENDIX 3
Key Documents, Attached

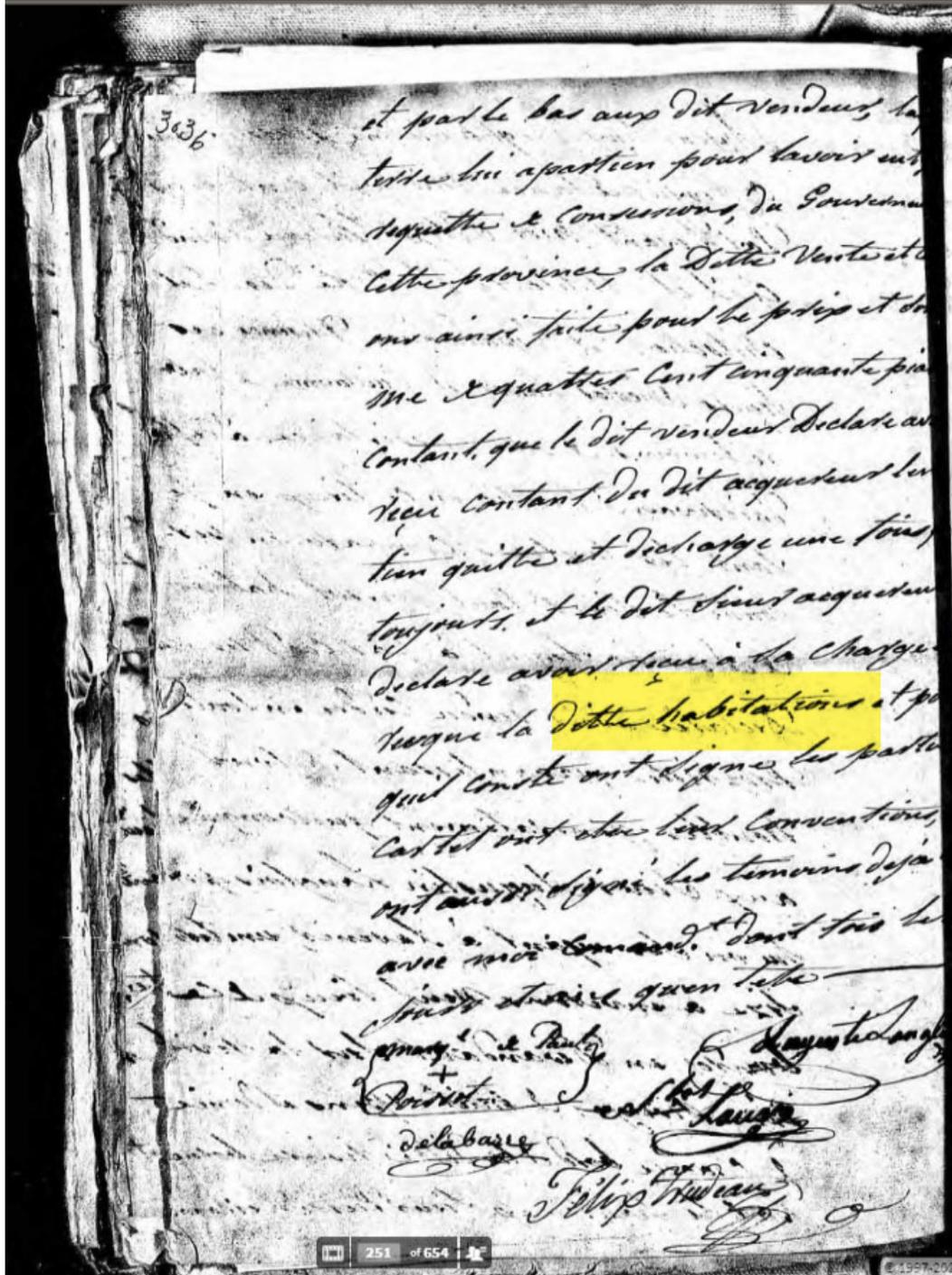
Exhibit 1-a	Poissot to Langlois	NCA Doc. 3031, side 1	28 February 1803
Exhibit 1-b	Poissot to Langlois	NCA Doc. 3031, side 2	28 February 2803
Exhibit 2-a	Poissot to Pacalé	NCA Doc. 3047, side 1	16 April 1803
Exhibit 2-b	Poissot to Pacalé	NCA Doc. 3047, side 2	16 April 1803
Exhibit 3	Poissot sale entries	Index to French Archives, p.357	1803
Exhibit 4	Pacale in Derbanne Inv.	NCA Doc. 2729	1797
Exhibit 5-a	Claimant's affidavit	Langlois Claim B1635, side 1	20 December 1806
Exhibit 5-b	Claimant's affidavit	Langlois Claim B1635, side 2	20 December 1806
Exhibit 5-c	Lacaze affidavit	Langlois Claim B1635	18 November 1811
Exhibit 6-a	Claimant's affidavit	Pacalé Claim B1706, side 1	25 December 1806
Exhibit 6-b	Claimant's affidavit	Pacalé Claim B1706, side 2	25 December 1806
Exhibit 7	Survey	Pacalé Claim B1706	9 November 1814
Exhibit 8	Survey	Langlois Claim B1635	9 November 1814

Exhibit 1a
Poissot to Langlois, Sale of Habitation, 28 February 1803 (side 1)



Paul Poissot to Auguste Langlois, sale of habitation, side 1, 28 February 1803; Doc. 3031, Natchitoches Colonial Archives; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches. Imaged from "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984," Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067/images/007669608_00250 : accessed 8 March 2021) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 2861-3215, Books 30-31, 1798-1804 > image 250.

Exhibit 1b
Poissot to Langlois, Sale of Habitation, 28 February 1803 (side 2)



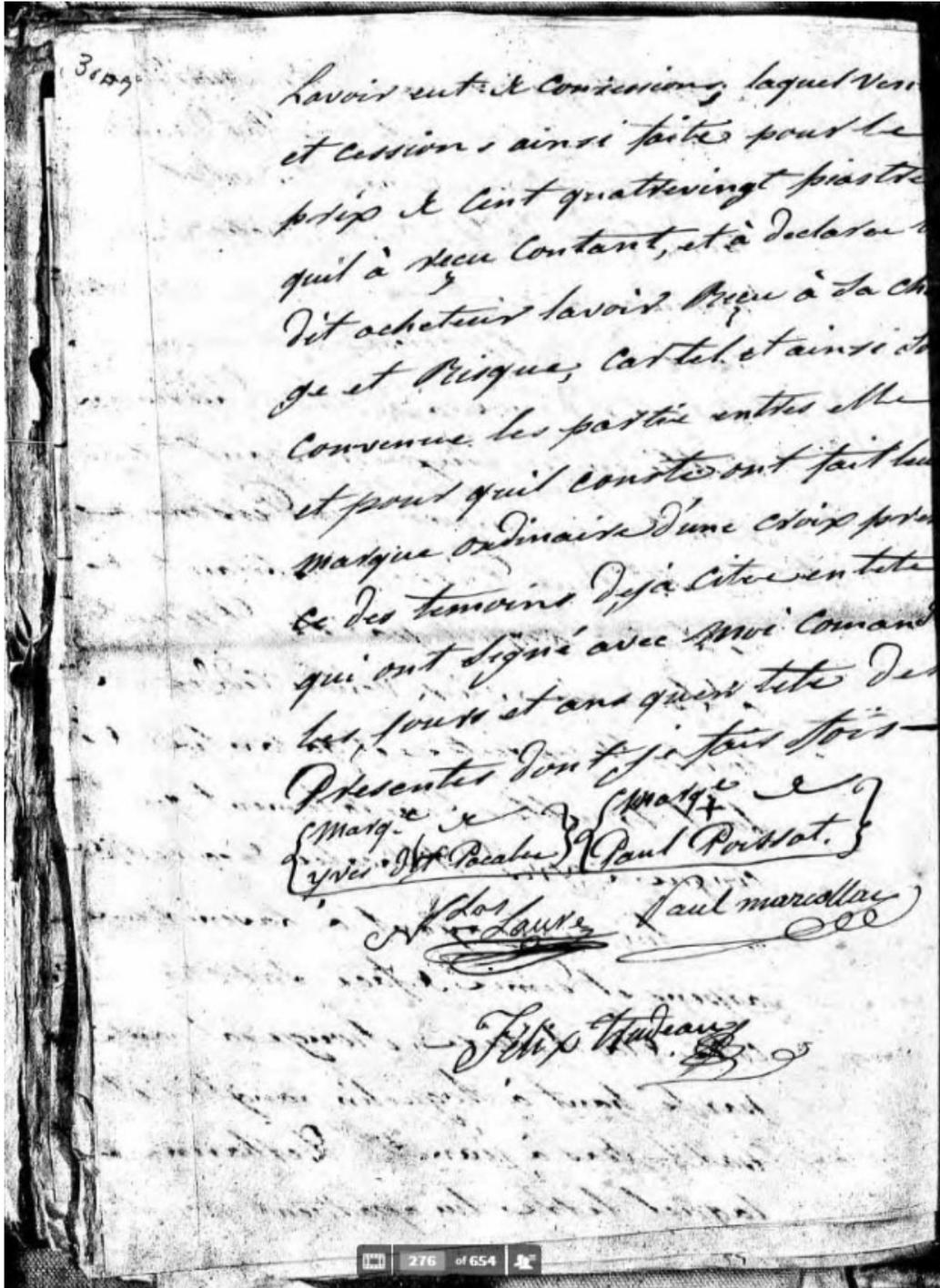
Paul Poissot to Auguste Langlois, sale of habitation, side 2, 28 February 1803; Doc. 3031, Natchitoches Colonial Archives; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches. Imaged from "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984," Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067/images/007669608_00251 : accessed 8 March 2021) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 2861-3215, Books 30-31, 1798-1804 > image 251.

Exhibit 2a
Poissot to Pacalé, Sale of Habitation, 16 April 1803 (side 1)

Le dix-huitième jour du mois d'Avril
l'an de mil huit cent trois Par devant
Monsieur Félix Trudeau Coman. et Civil et Militaire
de la Poste des Natchitoches et
Dépendance en Présence des Messieurs
Laurier et Paul Malcolley Coman. et
Mon assistance à l'effet d'avis
Public en ce lieu en faisant les
fonctions Comman. en Personne
Le Sr Paul Poissot habitant de
ce District lequel par ses Présentes
à Declaire avoir vendu ceder en
toutes Propriétés et garanties de
tout Voulles généralement quel
conque à Yves dit Pacalé Négociant
pour lui ou ses ayant à l'avenir une
arpens et demie de face sur chaque
cote de la Rivière. Longue et étroite
par le haut à Augustin Langlois et
par le bas à Jean B. Desbarras
lequel terre lui appartient pour
l'usage de son

Paul Poissot to Pacalee, sale of land, side 1, 16 April 1803; Doc. 3047, Natchitoches Colonial Archives; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches.
Imaged from "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984," Ancestry
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067/images/007669608_00275 :
accessed 8 March 2021) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 2861-3215, Books 30-31, 1798-1804 > image 275.

Exhibit 2b
Poissot to Pacalé, Sale of Habitation, 16 April 1803 (side 2)



Paul Poissot to Pacalee, sale of land, side 2, 16 April 1803; Doc. 3047, Natchitoches Colonial Archives; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches.
Imaged from "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984," Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067/images/007669608_00276 : accessed 8 March 2021) > Natchitoches > Conveyance Records, No. 2861-3215, Books 30-31, 1798-1804 > image 276.

Exhibit 3
Poisson Sale Entries in French Archives Index
(demonstrating language distinctions in description of property)

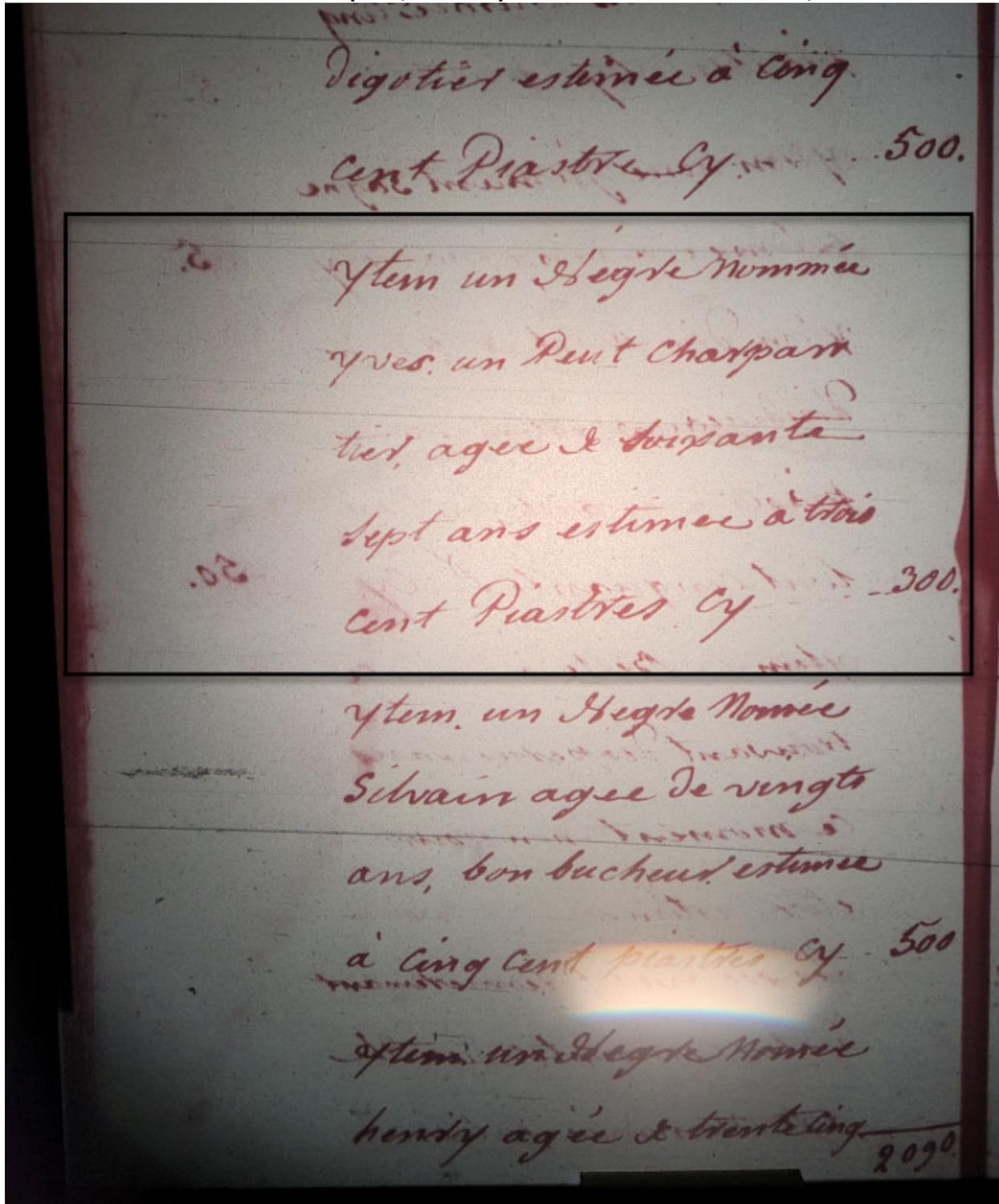
"	"	Same, of "the Deplétion"	do do	"
"	"	Benthomme, of "Same	do land	"
"	"	Same, to Antoine Bacc	Procuration	2941
"	"	Empire, Thérèse, a slave, of Gil Leguier de	Manumission	2949
"	"	Benthomme, Mamelet, of fine Bonjeire	Registry of act	2964
"	"	Bière, a slave, of Augustin fine	Manumission	2968
"	"	Berth, Bony & Joseph Bony, of Louis Davion	Marriage Contract	2966
"	"	Benthomme, Emmanuel, of Miguel Bonnard	Manumission of slave	2973
"	"	Poisson, Athanasz, case of	Last Will	2976
"	"	Same, " "	Opening of proof of will	2976
"	"	Bacale, Abel, of Marie Barbaume	Sale of slave	2979
"	"	Same, of Marie Barbaume	do do	2979
"	"	Same, to Marie Barbaume, a slave	Manumission	2979
"	"	Berth, Bony, to Bony Lambie	Procuration	3009
"	"	Plantation, Bernard, of Binson, fine	do	3011
"	"	Berth, Charles, to Nicholas Laune	Receipt	3018
"	"	Benthomme, Mamelet & Bony Lambie	Exchange of lands	3021
"	1803	Poisson, Paul, to Auguste Langlois	Sale of plantation	3036
"	"	Poisson, Athanasz, to Jean Adle	Sale of land	3080
"	"	Benthomme, Michel, of, to Louis Barbaume	Receipt	3081
"	"	Poisson, Paul, to Bacale, fine	Sale of land	3087
"	"	Bacale, fine, of Paul Poisson	do do	3087
"	"	Poisson, Paul, to Antoine Rachel	do slaves	3087
"	"	Plantation, of Augustin Frédéric, of	Receipt	3087
"	"	Same, of Deschamps Campanel	do	3087
"	"	Benthomme, Emmanuel, to Jean de Lattre	Sale of slave	3085

Index to French Archives, p. 357, showing distinction in language used for description of the property; Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches.

Imaged from "Louisiana, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984," Ancestry
 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9067/images/007669564_00195 : accessed 8 March 2021) >
 Natchitoches > Index, 1738-1819 > image 195.

Exhibit 4

Yves dit Pacalé Description, Inventory of Pierre Derbanne Succession, 1797



Succession of Pierre Derbanne, Inventory & Appraisal, 1 December 1797, citing Yves [aka Pacale], aged 67, "a bit of a carpenter, aged 67 years," valued at 300 piasters; Doc. 2729, Natchitoches Colonial Archives, Office of the Clerk of Court, Natchitoches.

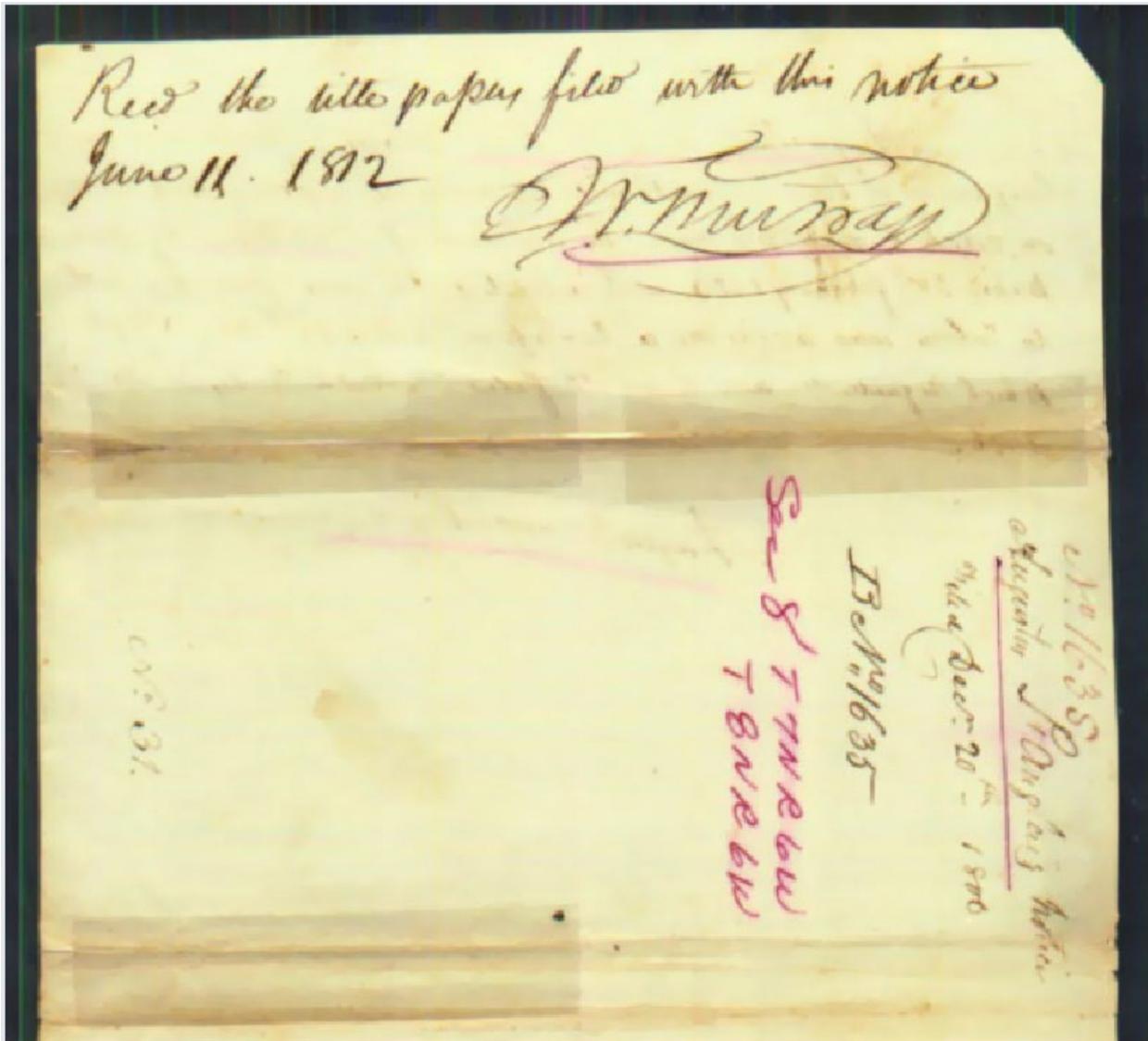
Exhibit 5-a
Claimant's Affidavit, Langlois Claim B1635, 20 December 1806 (side 1)

Auguste Le Langlois claims Eight and one
Half acres of Land in front, with the ordinary depth of forty acres
on each side of Red river, by purchase of Paul Pichot by Beau
papier 28th february 1803, who inherited the same from his father
to whom was accorded a Concession dated 18th May 1796.
which Requêtes are herewith filed. Made toby 20th Dec-
1806

Auguste Langlois

"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#42), affidavit of claimant, Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85.

Exhibit 5-b
Claimant's Affidavit, Langlois Claim B1635, 20 December 1806 (side 2)



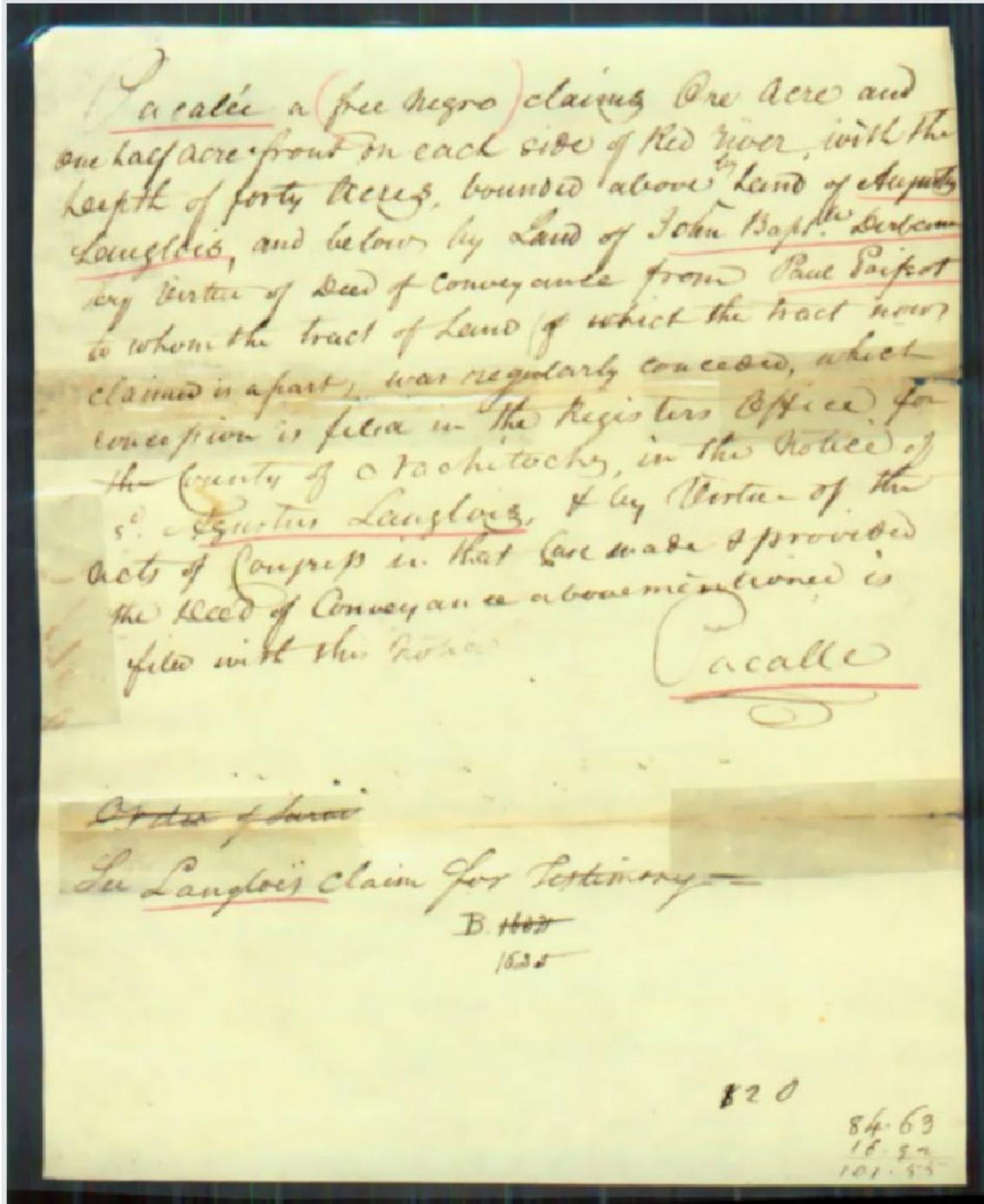
"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#43), affidavit of claimant (backside) Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85.

Exhibit 5-c
Lacaze Affidavit, Langlois Claim B1635, 18 November 1811

Jacques Lacaze being sworn in the claim of Auguste
Langlois for eight and half arpens of front on each
 side of the river at the Isle a Protel led by
 an order of Survey to Nemy Pichon ^{Deposited and kept in the} has been
 land, ^{land} ~~land~~ inhabited and cultivated for fifteen years without
 interruption first by the grantee and after by the
 claimant —
 Sworn to before the Board
 this 18th November 1811. —
 1796 R 287
Jacq: Lacaze
 Mark —

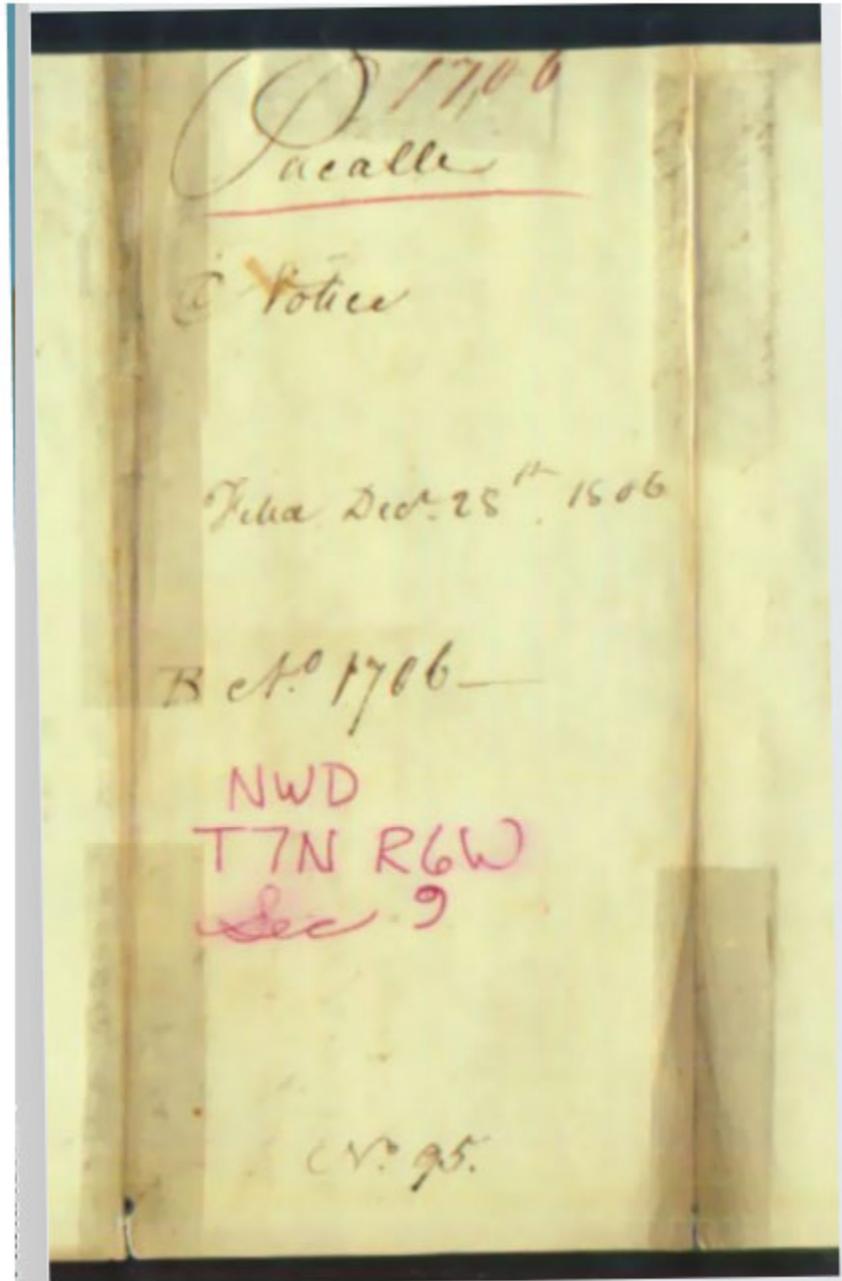
“Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4,” Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* ([wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062 &category=H#44](http://wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#44)), affidavit of Jacques Lacaze, Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85.

Exhibit 6-a
Claimant's Affidavit, Pacalé Claim B1706, 25 December 1806 (side 1)



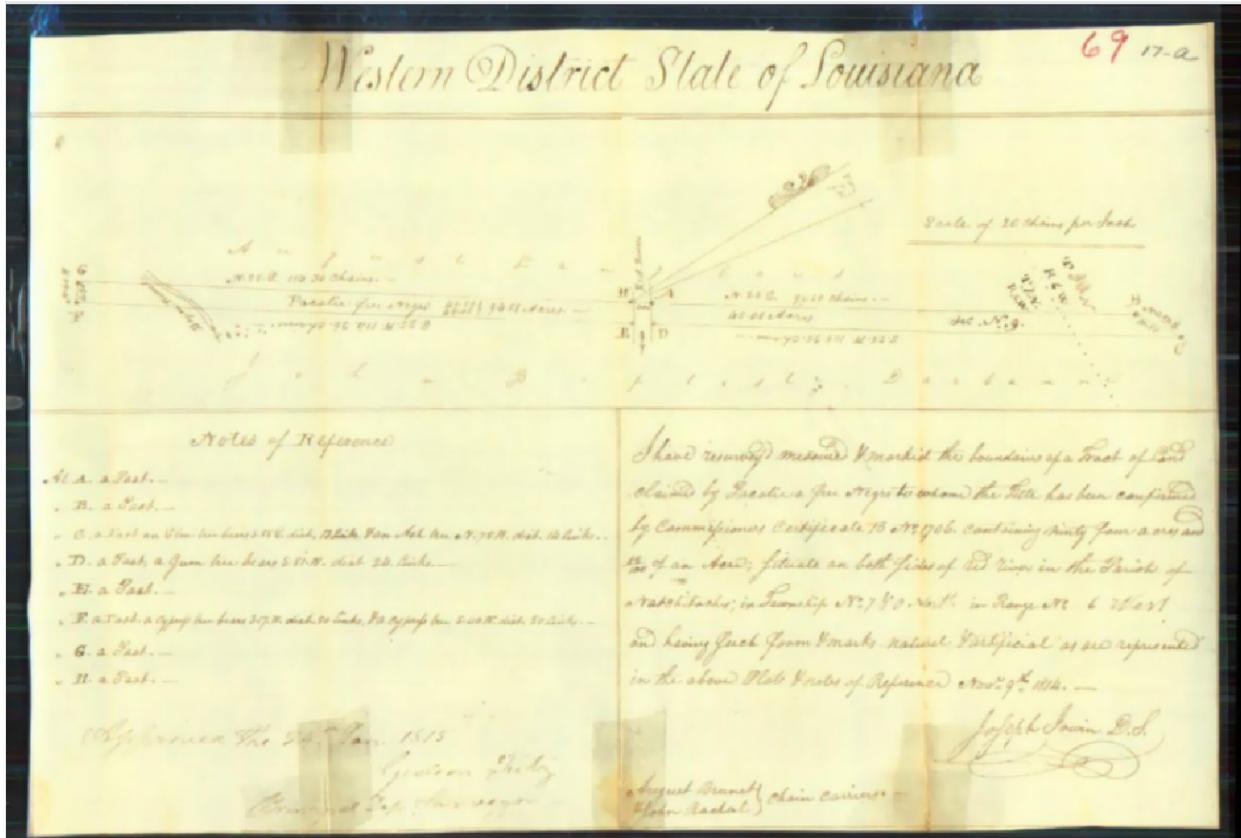
"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, Search Historical Documents (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#56), affidavit of claimant, side 1, Pacalle claim B1706, S9 & 86.

Exhibit 6-b
Claimant's Affidavit, Pacalé Claim B1706, 25 December 1806 (side 2)



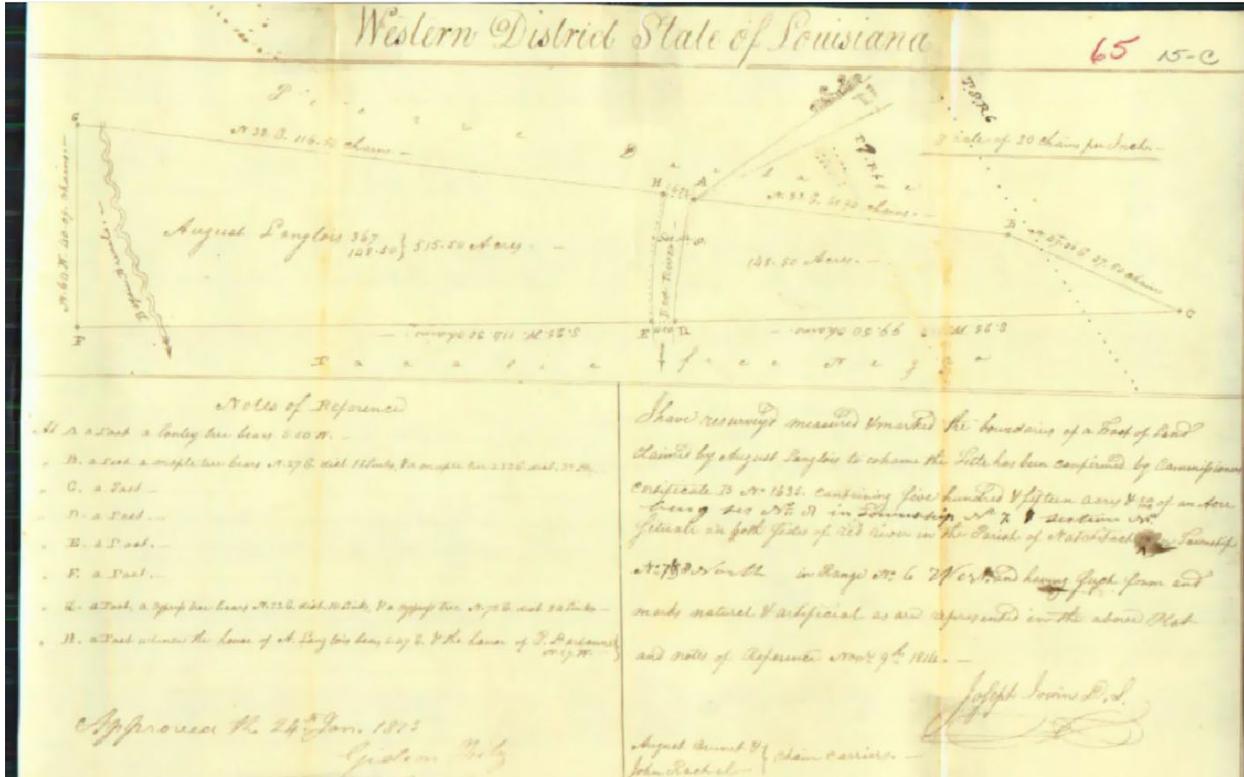
"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4,"
Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents*
([wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062 &category=H#57](http://wwwslodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#57)), affidavit of claimant, side 2,
Pacalle claim B1706, S9 & 86.

Exhibit 7
Survey, Pacalé Claim B1706, 9 November 1814



"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, *Search Historical Documents* (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#58), affidavit of claimant, side 1, Pacalle claim B1706, S9 & 86. NOTE: The quality of the online image is extremely poor.

Exhibit 8
Survey, Langlois Claim B1635, 9 November 1814



"Claim Papers N.W.D. [Northwest District] T.7N. R.6W.4," Louisiana Office of State Lands, Search Historical Documents (www.slodms.doa.la.gov/WebForms/DocumentViewer.aspx?docId=510.00062&category=H#46), Survey, Auguste Langlois claim B1635, S8 & 85. NOTE: The quality of the online image is extremely poor.