

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Palapa Table for James Richard Marmion
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1214 County Road
CITY OR TOWN: Sweeny
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Brazoria **CODE:** 039 **ZIP CODE:** 77480
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: X

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (nomination) (request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	0	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	1	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: *The Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION
WALLS
ROOF
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 5)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Art

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1926

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Dionicio Rodriguez

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheet 5)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 5)

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	15	242190	3215562

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The table is located in the north central portion of a track of land described in a professional survey as follows: "A plat of a 12.63 acre tract of land out of the J.R. Marmion Jr. called 8.910 acre tract and the J.R. Marmion called 9.019 acre tract out of Lots 3 and 4 of the original partition of the John Cummings league, abstract 57 Brazoria County, Texas; Said 12.63 acre tract being composed of a called 0.917 acre tract, a 4.63 acre tract, and the residue of a 8.00 acre tract conveyed by W. Wayne Richardson to Jo Nan Richardson by deed recorded in volume (89)637, page 579 of the official records of Brazoria County, Texas..." The nomination encompasses only the table, benches and the ground upon which they stand.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the table and benches. Although the estate itself may be eligible, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this theme (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez*).

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Patsy Light and Maria Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION:

DATE: January 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 300 Argyle

TELEPHONE: (210) 824-5914

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78209

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet 5)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheet 6)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Mitzi Denton

STREET & NUMBER: 109 Bougainvillea

TELEPHONE: (979) 297-2737; Cell (979) 482-0741

CITY OR TOWN: Lake Jackson

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 77566

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7, 8, 9, Photo Page 5

Palapa Table for James Richard Marmion
Sweeny, Brazoria County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

The Dionicio Rodriguez palapa table on the James Richard Marmion Estate in Sweeny, Brazoria County, Texas, is on the north central portion of the estate. The concrete table structure with benches was built of concrete, with a sculpted and tinted finish made to resemble wood. The set was built near a non-extant residence that was situated on the high western bank of the San Bernard River, and features a round palapa roof that measures 8' across the bottom, and is supported by a 9' high faux tree trunk. A large *faux* steel bolt is imbedded in the trunk. Three branches serve as supporting brackets for the roof. Bisecting the heavily textured trunk (finished with faux knot holes and peeling bark) is a forty-inch concrete tabletop with a surface made to resemble diagonally mortised boards secured onto a base with two dowels. A backless bench of a curved *faux* log measures 8'3" and the seat is 20" tall. The second bench with a textured *faux* bark backrest curving downward (with a large area of peeling bark) to the ground is 6'10" long, and its seat height is 20".

SIGNIFICANCE

The rustic table with its two benches (along with a palapa roof gazebo, on the eastern portion of the property) was commissioned by James Richard Marmion for his weekend retreat on the San Bernard River, approximately two miles east of Sweeny, Texas. The table and benches constitute one of Rodriguez's best pieces, revealing the artist's attention to detail through an outstanding level of craftsmanship. The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Art as an exceptional example of the work of noted sculptor Dionicio Rodriguez. Although the Marmion Estate itself may be eligible for listing, it has not yet been evaluated due to the specific focus of this Multiple Property Submission (*Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas*).

Bibliography

Cortes, Carlos. Interview with Patsy Light, February 20, 1998

Maricle, Curtis. Telephone interview with Patsy Light; June 4, 2002.

Marmion, Jean. Telephone interview with Patsy Light; June 4, 2002. Numerous other conversations.

Photo Log

Table for James Richard Marmion, Sweeny vicinity, Brazoria County, Texas

Photo 1: Historic photograph, ca.1950 (collection of Mrs. Richard Marmion)

Photo 2: Historic photograph, ca.1950 (collection of Mrs. Richard Marmion)

Photo 3: Palapa table and benches, Sweeny, Brazoria County, Texas

Photographed by Myssie Light Acomb, March 1998

Camera facing south

Negatives on file with Patsy Light

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Section Figure Page 6

Palapa Table for James Richard Marmion
Sweeny, Brazoria County, Texas

Marmion Property, with Rodriguez sculptures noted (no scale)