

(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  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A  
VICINITY: X  
ZIP CODE: 77480

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.)

*Cherene Ochs*

Signature of certifying official

9-1-2004  
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:

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*Edson Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
10/22/04

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Object

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	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*

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** Recreation and Culture / Work of Art

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** OTHER: Faux bois sculpture

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION  
WALLS  
ROOF  
OTHER CONCRETE

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 5)



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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 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)

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**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:

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
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*).

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**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

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet 5)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheet 6)

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**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



United States Department of the Interior  
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

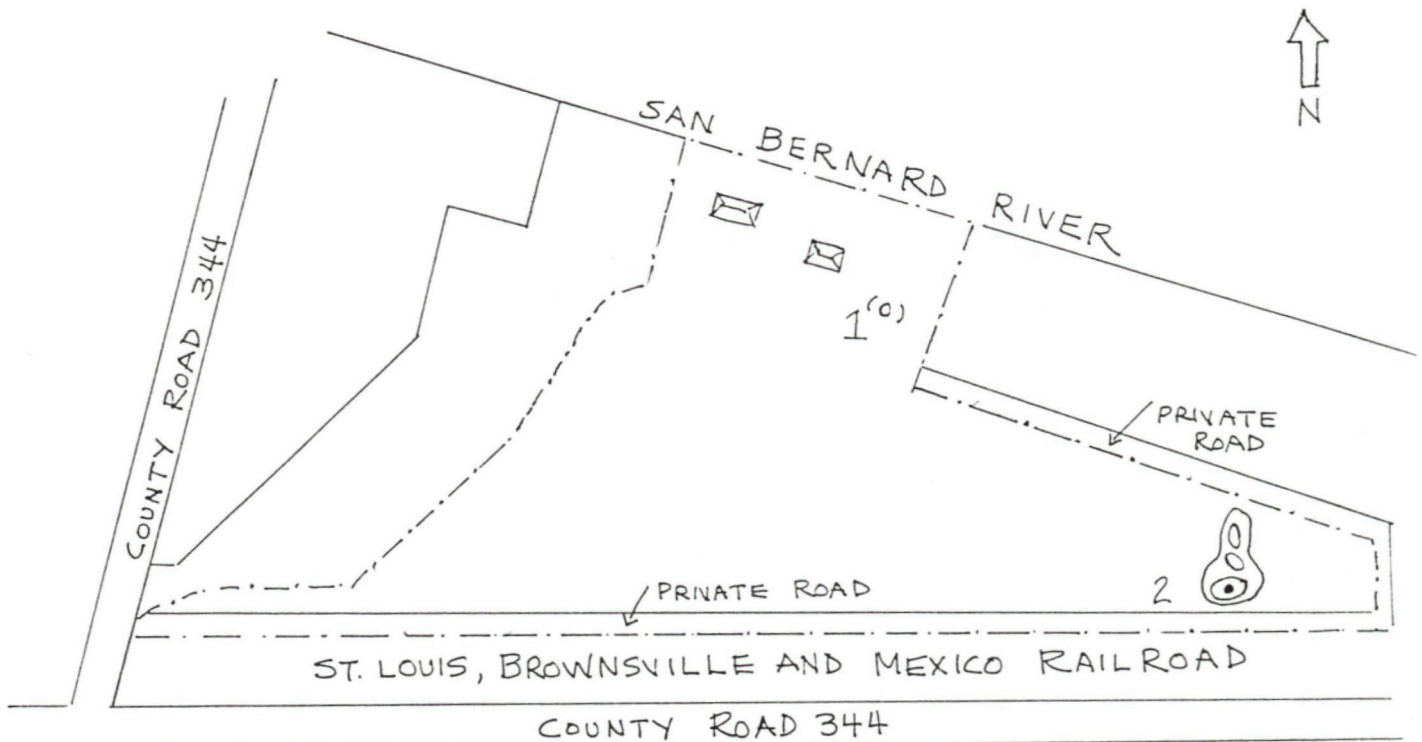
United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 6

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

Marmion Property, with Rodriguez sculptures noted (no scale)



JAMES RICHARD MARMION'S GAZEBO AND  
"PALAPA" TABLE BY DIONICIO RODRIGUEZ

1 "PALAPA" TABLE AND BENCHES  
2 GAZEBO (ON ISLAND IN LAKE)

SITE MAP NOT TO SCALE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Palapa Table for James Richard Marmion  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Sculpture by Dionicio Rodriguez in Texas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Brazoria

DATE RECEIVED: 9/08/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/12/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/27/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/22/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001172

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 10/22/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ 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.





PALAPA TABLE OF JAMES RICHARD MARMION  
SWEENEY VICINITY, BRAZORIA CO., TEXAS  
PHOTO 193





PALAPA TABLE for JAMES RICHARD MARMION  
SWEENEY VICINITY, BRAZORIA CO., TEXAS  
PHOTO 293





PALAPA TABLE FOR JAMES RICHARD MARMION  
SWEENEY VICINITY, BRAZORIA CO., TEXAS  
PHOTO 3 7 3

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500904