

History Culture Essay
Amcult 263 Section 004

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After listening to “Born on the Bayou” by Creedence Clearwater Revival (CCR), one would be led to believe that the band and its members were born and raised in the backwoods of Louisiana.¹ It would be hard to imagine otherwise, given the explicit imagery of the southern landscape and the iconic E7 chord that the song opens with.² However, none of the members of CCR had ever been to Louisiana before John Fogerty wrote the track.³ In fact, the members of CCR were from Northern California, specifically El Cerrito, California, just east of San Francisco, far from the conventional idea of the American South.⁴ Thus, the natural question arises — can CCR be considered a Southern band given that the members are not from the South and have never physically been to the South? The answer is in fact yes, CCR can be considered a Southern band.

¹Creedence Clearwater Revival, *Bayou Country*, recorded in Hollywood, California, 1968, RCA Studios, 1969.

²Alex Abramovich, “Where John Fogerty’s Songs Come From,” *The New Yorker*, October 6, 2015, accessed March 20, 2017, <http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/where-john-fogertys-songs-come-from>.

³*Ibid.*

⁴Hank Bordowitz, *Bad Moon Rising: The Unauthorized History of Creedence Clearwater Revival* (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, Incorporated, 2007), 7.

Bibliography