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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 26 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kell House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 502 N. Mulberry Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Tallulah N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71282

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Leslie P. Tassin May 23, 1988  
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer, Louisiana Date  
Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 6-23-88  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Queen Anne Revival

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Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

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walls weatherboard

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roof asphalt

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Kell House (c.1910) is a rambling Queen Anne-Colonial Revival frame house located on a large lot near the center of the parish seat of Tallulah. The only alterations have been the enclosure of a small portion of the gallery and the installation of paneling on the interior.

The plan has an irregular cruciform shape culminating in a large central living hall which has a quarter turn staircase and a corner fireplace. The stair derives a certain monumentality from its two massive oak newel posts with their ornamental panels and oeil-de-boeuf motifs. On one side of the living hall is the "music room," which terminates in a polygonal bay. It too has a corner fireplace. On the other side of the living hall is the dining room with the large kitchen beyond. Between the living hall and the dining room is an enclosed staircase which ascends directly from the outside. Evidently it was originally a servants' stair.

This complex floor plan is encompassed on four sides by a continuous single story wraparound Tuscan gallery of twenty bays. There is also a secondary rear gallery. Principal downstairs rooms connect with the gallery by means of large plate glass sliphead windows. The exterior is sheathed in narrow gauge clapboard. The gently picturesque roofline features articulated gables with pedimented proportions and scrollwork vergeboards. There is also an off-center pent dormer.

The interior features Colonial Revival mantel-overmantel sets with mirrors and simple entablatures over the doors and windows.

#### Alterations

In the 1920s the east corner of the gallery was enclosed for a kitchen extension. This was fairly sensitively done, using large windows and leaving the columns exposed on the exterior. Thus this change, although regrettable, has not significantly marred the house's appearance.

More recently, the interior walls have been covered with plywood paneling. This change should be regarded as minor and purely cosmetic because no mantels, moldings, or openings were affected. A coat of paint would bring the interiors fairly close to their original appearance.

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c.1910

Significant Dates  
c.1910

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Kell House is of local significance in the area of architecture as an architectural landmark within the context of the parish seat of Tallulah. Although the town was founded in 1857, floods and other factors have taken their toll on the building stock. Today there are perhaps 100 50+ year old residences, most of which are plain bungalows, nondescript cottages, or Colonial Revival cottages. There are also a handful of fairly generic Queen Anne Revival cottages. The Kell House is one of very few residences that stand significantly above the norm in Tallulah. It is two stories with a broad, gently picturesque front which is easily the longest residential facade in town. The wraparound Tuscan gallery particularly enhances the house's landmark status, being easily the most architecturally impressive residential gallery in Tallulah. The typical residential gallery of the period has simple square posts rather than Tuscan columns and only three or four bays, whereas the gallery at the Kell House wraps around following the profile of the house for a total of twenty bays. Finally, the Kell House features a fully developed Queen Anne Revival living hall, something found on only the finest, most urbane examples of the Queen Anne Revival taste. Undoubtedly it is the only living hall in town.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Windshield survey of Tallulah conducted by National Register staff, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Division of Historic Preservation,  
Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	7	0	8	4	0	3	5	8	7	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

  
C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

  
D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed property plat map. Boundary lines follow property lines.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow legal property lines, as per enclosed property plat map.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1988  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

