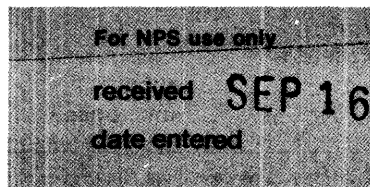


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Grayson House

and/or common Same

## 2. Location *SE of Fort Necessity on LA 562*

street & number on Hwy. 562 @ 5 miles southeast of Fort Necessity *N/A* not for publication

city, town Fort Necessity  vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 ~~county~~ parish Franklin code 041

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<i>N/A</i> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<i>N/A</i> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Leon Brooks

street & number 309 Levin Lane

city, town Shreveport *N/A* vicinity of state LA 71105

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin Parish Courthouse

street & number Main Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 70

city, town Winnsboro state LA 71295

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grayson House is a story and a half, frame, galleried, Federal style plantation house set in the flat country of southern Franklin Parish. Once numerous outbuildings have all disappeared except for a dilapidated barn which is less than 50 years old. The house was constructed c.1836 and renovated in 1910. Despite the alterations made at the time of the renovation, the house retains its architectural integrity. It still possesses those Federal features which make it significant.

The Grayson House began as a pretentious galleried dogtrot structure, two rooms deep, with a highly unusual elliptical arch set in the open passageway. A straight stair in the passageway gave access to half the garret. Access to the other half was provided via a corner stair in the front east room. Four chimneys with elaborate Adams mantels were set against the exterior of the side walls.

It appears that some of the details were locally made while others were bought from a mill. Locally made features include:

1. the staircase in the front east parlor,
2. the mantels (though individual parts were milled), and
3. the solid turned Doric columns.

Milled features include:

1. the planed fascia boards which form the frames for doorways and windows (All door and window frames have corner blocks.),
2. the upper moldings of the Adams type mantels (The mantel panels rest on crude, heavy, fluted pilasters.), and
3. some of the doors which have elaborate molded panels.

Many of the exposed interior surfaces are covered with wide, beaded, tongue and groove boards. Windows are 12 over 8. The gallery has intricate, turned balustrades.

In 1910 the house underwent a major renovation. Alterations made at this time include the following:

1. The open dogtrot passageway was enclosed and a new bungalow type staircase was installed replacing the original. This staircase is viewed through a pair of square posts set in antis resting upon bookcases. An unusual and original features of these posts is the decorative pattern of chains and hanging wooden knobs.
2. An outbuilding was moved up the west side of the house. This is now reached via the rear gallery. (Photo 4)
3. A rear kitchen-dining room was built. This wing, which is reached via an open breezeway, contains more or less standard turn-of-the-century woodwork with dark stained wainscotting.
4. Finally, the present front and rear single dormers, the porch screening, and square posts terminating the porch balustrade were added. The original columns remain under the screening.

It should also be noted that a few of the exterior shutters have been lost through the years.

In addition, it appears that the present front steps were added sometime after the 1910 renovation.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Grayson House

Item number 7

Page 2

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7. Description (cont'd)

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these changes, the house still retains the described Federal style features which make it architecturally significant.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      c.1836      **Builder/Architect**      Builder - Wiley B. Grayson

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**      Criterion C

The Grayson House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare example of a Federal style residence within the context of northeastern Louisiana. Although it can no longer be termed a dogtrot, the basic shape and most of the details of the house survive. It stands as a "full blown" Federal style residence. This can be seen in its light but elaborately paneled doors, its Adams mantels, its light, turned Doric gallery columns, and its planed woodwork with corner blocks. This is significant because there are relatively few Greek Revival structures remaining in northeast Louisiana, much less a surviving pre-Greek Revival (Federal style) structure such as the Grayson House. Therefore, it is architecturally significant on the local level as an example of an extremely rare style within the context of northeastern Louisiana.

History:

The Grayson House was built c.1836 by Wiley Blount Grayson, who resided there until his death in 1870. Grayson was born in 1807 in Kentucky and migrated with his family first to Mississippi and then, sometime between 1812 and 1814, to Louisiana. Apparently he and his wife were living at or near the location of the present house by c.1830. In April, 1836 Grayson mortgaged property including "a 565 ac. tract of land in Sec 36," said tract containing a "dwelling house, kitchen, negro cabins, stables, corncrib and cotton gin." Thus, this is presumed to be the approximate construction date for the house.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Wiley B. Grayson Papers, deposited by present owner at LSU, Shreveport,

Grayson Family Bible.

Historical Sketch of Wiley B. Grayson and Grayson House, Prepared by Owner, Located in Grayson House National Register File, Louisiana State Preservation Office.

## 10. Geographical Data

CONTINUED

Acreege of nominated property approx. .67 acres

Quadrangle name Harrisonburg, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leon Brooks

organization N/A

date June 1981

street & number 309 Levin Lane

telephone (318) 868-3310 (home)

city or town Shreveport

state LA 71105

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Robert B. DeBlieux*  
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 9, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Thomas A. Dwyer*  
date 10/27/82

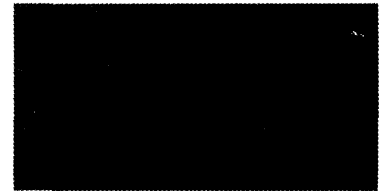
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick A. Lino*

date 10/27/82

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Grayson House

Item number 9

Page 2

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9. Bibliography (Continued)

Fortier, Alcee, Louisiana. Vol. I, pages 439-440.

Franklin Parish Vertical File, Louisiana Room, Middleton Library, LSU, BR.

# GRAYSON HOUSE

FORT NECESSITY, LOUISIANA  
(VICINITY)

↑  
TO FORT NECESSITY

APPROX. 800 FT.  
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

SITE BOUNDARIES PARALLEL BLDG.  
FACADES, DISTANCES AS SHOWN.

□ LOCATION OF GRAYSON STORE

→ TO GRAYSON BAYOU

GRAVEL ROAD

LA. HIGHWAY 502

PHOTO #2 →  
FORMER  
OUTBLDG. MOVED  
HERE IN 1910.  
(Refer to text)

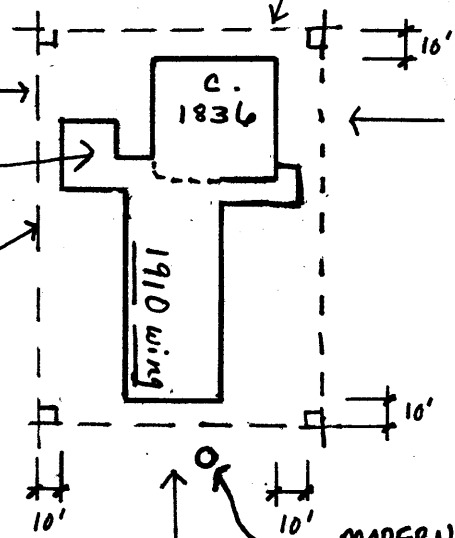


PHOTO #1

← PHOTO #3

PHOTO #4

↑ PHOTO #5

MODERN BRICK CISTERN

NB: Sketch map of house is  
only an approximation  
of configuration.

↑ N  
SCALE 1" = 100' APPROX