

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Other Names/Site Number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

### 2. Location

Street & Number: 576 N. Western Ave  
City or town: Crowley State: LA County: Acadia  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Kristin Sanders* 2/11/19  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

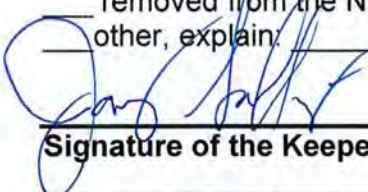
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**4. National Park Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_



2.27.2019

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

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## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick and Concrete Piers

walls: Wood and Vinyl

roof: Asphalt Shingles

other: N/A

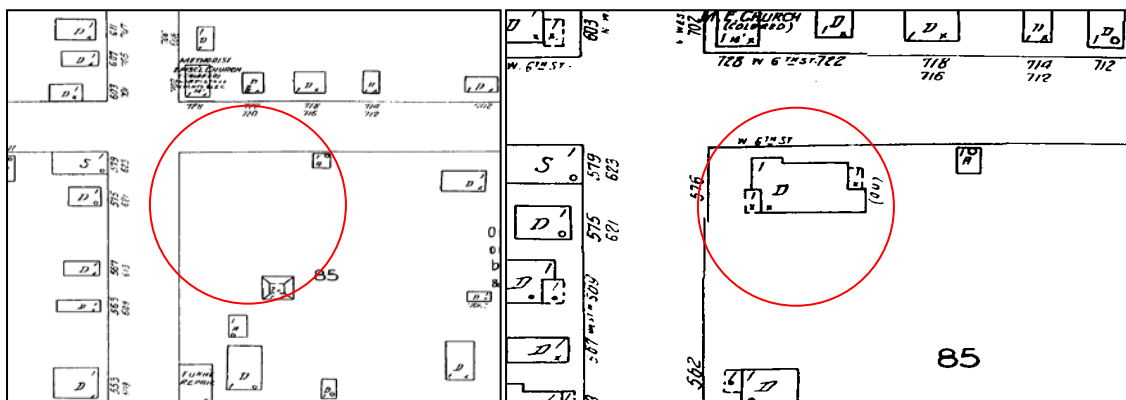
### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House (herein referred to as the May House) is a frame dwelling situated on a large corner lot six blocks from the Acadia Parish Courthouse in downtown Crowley. Built c. 1935<sup>1</sup>, the bungalow style house retains many original features on the exterior and interior including 2/2 and 1/1 wood windows, original half width front porch, multi lite entry doors, wood door and window frames, picture rail, wood floors, built in cabinetry in Mr. May's former office, multi lite French doors, five panel interior doors, terrazzo floors (from a mid-century update done by the Mays), glass door knobs, and several original light fixtures. The only alterations to the house include vinyl siding (with a matching width) over the original siding; interior cosmetic updates of paneling in Mr. May's office and the hallway and ceiling tiles; and the enclosure of the rear back porch in the 1950s for a den for the Mays. This was done during the period of significance. The house would most definitely be recognizable to Mr. and Mrs. May, as well as anyone from the community who came to the May house for meetings and social gatherings, and thus, the house is eligible for listing on the National Register.

### Narrative Description



<sup>1</sup> The 1940 US Census notes that David and Jeanette May were living at the same residence as they were in 1935. In the 1930 census, Jeanette and David are married, but residing with her father at a residence on Avenue G in Crowley. Thus the circa date of 1935 is being used for the house. It was built sometime between 1930 and 1935.

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1931 Sanborn Map at left showing no building on the lot save for a garage; 1948 Sanborn on right shows the existing house in place. A few additions to the house have been made post 1948.

As seen on the above Sanborn maps, the May House was built between 1931 and 1948. Based on the details found throughout the house, a circa date of 1935 is being used for its construction date. The May House sits on a large corner lot with a wide lawn located to the southeast of the house. In addition to the house, there is a historic one car garage located to the northeast of the house as well as a modern two car detached garage, which is considered non-contributing. The house is located one block from the former Ross High School, where Mrs. May was a teacher and librarian and Mr. May was a teacher and principal. The integrity of setting is evident here.

#### **Façade (Southwest elevation) - Photos 1, 3, 4, and 14**

The façade faces N. Western Avenue and features a large picture window flanked by 1/1 wood windows on the left side of the elevation. The main entry into the living room of the house is to the right of this picture window and features a multi lite door and screen door. The front porch is inset on the right side of the façade and there is a second multi lite door providing direct access into Mr. May's former office. A set of two 2/2 windows is located to the right of this door. Two wrought iron columns support the overhanging front gable. Vinyl siding has been installed over the original siding to match the reveal. The exposed rafter tails have also been boxed in, but the overall bungalow form is most definitely intact. The roof line features a second front facing gable as well as a cross side gable. The ceiling of the porch is wood painted blue. There are decorative metal awnings along the façade and other elevations that likely date to the 1940s or 1950s. The current owners have stated they have been there as long as they can remember (they attended Ross High School and were close with the Mays throughout the 1950s and 1960s).

#### **Southeast elevation – Photos 4-7**

The porch is located at the far left under the first front gable. There are two sets of double 2/2 windows on the main part of this elevation. A bathroom addition projects from the elevation with its own gable roof. A shed roof has been connected to the rear of this elevation providing cover between the main house and the one car historic detached garage.

#### **Northeast elevation – Photo 9**

This elevation features a set of double 2/2 windows at the far left. The rest of the elevation is the former rear porch, which was enclosed in the 1950s/1960s for a den. There are two windows, a door, three more windows, and then two more 2/2 wood windows at the far right. A projecting rear facing gable projects out over the entry door and features a 4 lite fixed window in the gable end. This projection also has exposed rafter tail so this is likely an original construction to the building that was part of the former rear porch. Today, the former porch floor has been lowered to ground level and it is used as a carport. A more modern roof was constructed connecting this roof to the one car garage to continue the covering for protection from weather. When the den was created, the original 2/2 wood windows were all used for the new exterior wall.

#### **Northwest elevation – Photos 12-14**

At the far left of this elevation, there is a bank of four 2/2 windows, three smaller windows (in the kitchen area), a set of three 2/2 windows (in the dining room), and a final set of three 2/2 windows that are located at the front corner. The roof on this elevation features two front facing gables at each end with the side of the side gable in between.

#### **Interior – Photos 15-30**

Upon entering the house via the main entry, one enters the living room. The overall floorplan of the house has not changed since the Mays last lived in the house (Mr. May passed away in 1987 and Mrs. May passed away in 1997). The room is wallpapered and has a picture rail, wood floors, and acoustic tile ceiling. A simple ceiling molding is also in the room. A five panel wood door leads to Mr. May's office at the right side of the room. There is a small closet adjacent to this door. A double width opening leads to the dining room. The doors

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themselves are original multi lite Craftsman style doors (see Photo 18). The dining room has matching wallpaper to the living room, and has the same architectural details previously mentioned. A butler's pantry attaches to the dining room as one enters into the kitchen. The kitchen fixtures all date to the 1940s and only the appliances have been updated. An opening has been cut into the rear wall of the kitchen, formerly the rear wall of the house, to connect to the den that the Mays put in (see Photo 28). The den is finished with wood paneling and an acoustic tile ceiling with a slight marbled pattern. A small half bath was added in the den and the room features walls of original 2/2 windows, moved here when the porch was infilled and former exterior wall altered, and a tile floor. The original exterior door seen in Photo 24 is still in place leading to the den. All interior doors, both those that are paneled and multi lite, have original glass door knobs.

The den is accessed via the main hallway, which has a terrazzo floor, mid-century wall paneling like the den, and an acoustic tile ceiling (see Photo 21). Multiple original five panel wooden doors open off the hallway. The doors open onto bedrooms and to a walk in closet and bathroom. The door at the front of the hallway, closest to the living room, opens to Mr. May's office. The office is finished in paneling and a ceiling matching the den so it can be inferred that this room, the hallway, and perhaps the living and dining room ceilings, were all updated in the early 1950s. The office has a picture rail and all of the woodwork, including a wonderful building in cabinet (see Photo 16) are stained a dark wood color. It is clear that when this house was built, it was designed with this room to be used as an office based on the door that opens directly to the porch and how it can be closed off from the rest of the house.

**One Car Detached Garage (Contributing) – Photos 6-8, 11-12**

The one car garage is not shown on the 1948 Sanborn map, but it had to have been built very soon after based on the historic wood siding, multi lite windows, and exposed rafter tails. The southeast elevation features a single multi lite entry door and three double hung windows. They are replacement aluminum windows. There is one multi lite single sash wood window on this elevation too. The northwest elevation has four windows with the same replacement aluminum windows. The main façade of the garage has had the former car opening has been infilled with two modern doors and sidelights. There have been some additions and alterations made to the garage, but it is still clearly recognizable as a historic detached garage. Two roofs have been attached to the main garage roof to connect to the rear of the house and a second one northeast side of the building for a covered porch. Fortunately, both roofs are clearly recognizable as new and have closed eaves to distinguish from the exposed rafter tails on the garage roof.

**Two Car Detached Garage (Non-contributing) – Photos 7 and 12**

This building is a simple, detached two car garage with a double garage door on the front, a set of double doors on the rear elevation, and a few modern windows and doors on the side elevations. It does not attach to any of the other structures with roofs.

**Integrity**

The only changes made to the May House are primarily cosmetic. The den addition was completed more than 50 years ago by the Mays. Any other updates have been cosmetic and include wall paneling, acoustic ceiling tiles, and vinyl siding. Even though these do impact the integrity of materials slightly, the home still retains integrity of location, setting, design, craftsmanship, feeling, and association. It would definitely be recognizable to Mr. and Mrs. May as well as any of their former students, peers, and anyone who may have visited the home for business or social purposes.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
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<b>X</b>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:**

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Education and Politics/Government

**Period of Significance:** 1935-1968

**Significant Dates:** N/A

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): David L. and Jeanette Ross May

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification):** The period of significance covers the years that the Mays resided at the house. It ends with 1968, the 50 year guideline, but the Mays did continue to live in the house until 1997.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of Education and Politics/Government as it was the home of two of the most significant African American educators and leaders in Crowley at a time when segregation was alive and well. David and Jeanette May were longtime educators and were involved in many other organizations related to African American education as well as social organizations supporting the African American community in Crowley. The house was not only their home, but it was also Mr. May's office. He was one of the first two African American alderman elected in the state in 1954 and his home served as his office during his terms as alderman and beyond. The period of significance for the house is 1935-1968, encompassing the years the Mays lived in the house through the 50 year guideline. The Mays continued to live in the house until their respective deaths in 1984 and 1997.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Crowley

Crowley was founded in 1886 by C.C. Duson and W.W. Duson. Incorporated in 1887, W.W. Duson, General Manager of Southwest Louisiana Land Company, plotted and developed Crowley. W.W. Duson's daughter, Maime Duson, married Percy Lee Lawrence, who founded the First National Bank of Crowley. The 7-story building was once the tallest building between Houston and New Orleans. They lived with their three children, P.L. Jr., Pattee, and Jack at 219 East 2nd Street. The house is now on the historic register. The town was named after Pat Crowley, an Irish railroad man who brought the railroad depot to W.W. Duson's land. Descendants of founder W.W. Duson, continue to live in Crowley.

African American Education in Louisiana and Crowley

\*\*\*The following educational context is taken from the National Register nomination for John S. Dawson High School in West Feliciana Parish.\*\*\*

*At the beginning of the twentieth century, public education in Louisiana was in a terrible state of affairs. The state constitution of 1898 had legally mandated the already status quo segregation of schools by race, and at that time students of all races were severely underserved.<sup>2</sup> The state's public school system was characterized by crude, deteriorating school houses and abysmally low attendance. During the first two decades of the century, great improvements were made in school house construction, curriculum standardization, and attendance through transportation advances and consolidation. However, these developments generally applied only to the white schools. In Louisiana's underfunded dual school system, African-American schools received little to no investment from their parish school boards. The disparity this created between the two separate and supposedly equal school systems was blatant.*

*The few schools that did exist for African Americans in rural areas were typically taught in churches or associated buildings on church property. High school education, which was being so improved for white students, remained non-existent for black students in Louisiana until the second decade of the twentieth century. It is indicative of the statewide circumstances that in 1900, the school board of the relatively progressive city of New Orleans officially reduced education for African Americans to just five grades.<sup>3</sup> Throughout the state, particularly in rural areas like West Feliciana Parish, there had never been much opportunity for secondary education for African Americans and the sentiment against it by parts of the white population was strong. A compromise between the demand of African Americans for secondary education and the reluctance of certain whites to provide it was found in the concept of "county training schools." An African-American educator, Professor A. M. Strange of Louisiana's Tangipahoa Parish, first proposed the idea of a school that would emphasize agricultural training and home economics in 1910. Through his efforts, the Tangipahoa Parish Training School was opened in 1911. Many others across the south were soon to follow, but over a decade later, in the 1923-24 school year, just sixteen of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes had a parish training school.<sup>4</sup>*

*During the following decades, secondary education for African Americans in Louisiana slowly but steadily expanded. In 1929-30, there were still thirty-seven parishes without state approved black high schools. In 1944-45, the number of black four-year high schools had grown to eighty and one was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, but thirteen parishes remained without approved*

<sup>2</sup> Rodney Cline, *Education in Louisiana – History and Development* (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1974), 34.

<sup>3</sup> Donald E. Devore and Joseph Logsdon, *Crescent City Schools: Public Education in New Orleans, 1841-1991* (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1991), 118.

<sup>4</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Tangipahoa Training School Dormitory, Kentwood, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, National Register #79001091.

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*high schools for African Americans.<sup>5</sup> Among them was West Feliciana Parish. Until the 1950s, West Feliciana Parish African Americans who completed the seventh grade and wished to continue their education had to look beyond their parish. Those who could manage the travel and accommodations went to schools such as Baton Rouge's McKinley High School (NR 1981), which opened in 1927 and is nearly thirty-five miles to the southwest of St. Francisville<sup>6</sup>*

*The quality of Louisiana school buildings for African Americans saw some improvement in the early twentieth century, mostly through the support of the Rosenwald Fund, a national philanthropic foundation. Four schools were constructed in West Feliciana Parish with partial funding from Rosenwald: Independence, a three-teacher school built before 1920; Afton Villa, a two-teacher school built in 1920-21; Polk, a two-teacher school built in 1921-22; and Solitude, a two-teacher school built in 1925-26.<sup>7</sup> These wood-frame schools were based on Tuskegee and Rosenwald Fund plans that were carefully designed to provide an effective learning environment through details such as good daylighting. None of these school buildings remain. The historic Independence Baptist Church is the only associated building of this period to survive. Each of the other churches has been replaced and a later Polk school building has been converted into a residence.<sup>8</sup>*

*In the 1950s, further strides were made in the construction of quality school buildings for African Americans. By this time, the wide disparity between the number and quality of public school buildings for African Americans versus those for whites was undeniable. The 1950s were ushered in by the filing of multiple lawsuits across the country challenging the constitutionality of "separate but equal" schooling and calling for the integration of schools. In 1952, New Orleans attorney, A. P. Tureaud filed Earl Benjamin Bush et al. v. Orleans Parish School Board for the integration of New Orleans schools. A suit was also filed for the integration of schools in St. Helena Parish, which lies two parishes west of West Feliciana. In the meantime, suits from other states were coming before the Supreme Court. Five became consolidated as Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. As the case awaited review by the Supreme Court, some states, like South Carolina and Mississippi made a last ditch effort to protect segregation by implementing programs of school equalization.*

*Louisiana did not institute such a statewide program, but whether individual districts attempted to hold off integration by improving black schools is unclear. New modern facilities constructed for African Americans in the 1950s in Louisiana appear to have been derived from African American demands for equal facilities and from acknowledgement by school officials that new buildings were truly needed, even if white voters didn't always agree. Regardless of the impetus behind it, the construction of new modern schools in the 1950s provided African Americans with long awaited quality learning environments and were a source of pride for communities. Ross High School was the equalization era school for Crowley as it was constructed in 1954 and opened for the 1955 school year.*

### History of African American Life and Education in Crowley and the Ross/May Families

The first African Americans who came to Crowley after the Civil War worked as maids, cooks,

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<sup>5</sup> J. B. Cade, "The Education of Negroes in Louisiana," in *The African American Experience in Louisiana: Part B*, ed. Charles Vincent (Lafayette: University of Southwestern, LA, 2000), 232, first published in the *Louisiana Colored Teacher's Journal*, 27 (1948): 7-11; Minns Sledge Robertson, "Development of the High-School Program," in *Education in Louisiana*, ed. Michael G. Wade (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1999), 272, first published in Minns Sledge Robertson, *Public Education in Louisiana After 1898* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Department of Education, n.d.g.), 55-82.

<sup>6</sup> Joyce Scott Baskin, Randy Butler, Ken Dawson, Mattie Dunbar, Gloria Duncan, Henry L. Hardy, Yvonne Jackson, Annette Keith, Rosie Lee Lindsey, Rufus McKnight, Myrtle Minor, Samuel Mitchell, Calvin Miller, Sr., Nathan Price, Willie Stevens, Roosevelt Wilkerson, and Vincent Smith, interview by author, St. Francisville, LA, October 11, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Fisk University, "Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database," [http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search&school\\_county=West%20Feliciana&school\\_state=LA&button=Search&o=0](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search&school_county=West%20Feliciana&school_state=LA&button=Search&o=0) (accessed February 23, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> West Feliciana African American Heritage Task Force Oral History Project. <http://www.wfpsb.org/education/staff/staff.php?sectiondetailid=16994> (accessed February 23, 2014).



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gardeners, and laborers. As years went by, more blacks came to Crowley and served as nurses and teachers, like David and Jeanette May and Jeanette's father, Henry Ross. In 1900, there were 1500 blacks in Crowley, a population increase related mostly to the growing rice industry. Many were also employed as laborers with the railroad.

Prominent black Crowley citizens included Jake Johnson, who owned a skating rink in a Benevolent Hall; George Chapman, who had an ice cream stand; George Barker and Alex Johnson who had retail stores; and "Aunt Sally" Bias who had a coffee shop at the parish courthouse. The People's Investment Company, which was founded in 1902 and was an all-black undertaking of 34 leaders in the community, focused on loaning money to other blacks who needed money for an emergency. Many loans were made to those who otherwise would have not been qualified at other banks due to segregation. One of its first stockholders was Jeanette May's father, Henry Clay Ross. His future son-in-law, David May would later be involved in this same organization, a testament to the leadership qualities of the Ross and May families.<sup>9</sup>

Henry Clay Ross was born near Thibodaux in 1871 and moved to Crowley c. 1899, where he began his longtime career as an educator and minister<sup>10</sup>. He was always a strong proponent of education for blacks in Crowley and established a one room school on Avenue C where he had 18 students and one teacher. In 1908, Mr. Ross moved to a bigger school, which was called the Crowley Industrial School. He was principal there for over 40 years and the school eventually became known as the "Ross School" in his honor. He also had Ross Avenue named after him while he was still alive. He was often referred to as "Professor Ross" due to his commitment to education and civic activities for blacks in Crowley. Other locals even called him the "local Booker T. Washington."<sup>11</sup> As part of Mr. Ross's educational goals, he was able to invite, along with a couple other prominent leaders in Crowley, Booker T. Washington himself to come to Crowley on April 14, 1915 for a four hour speech.

As part of the day's activities, a lunch was served at the Ross School and then a parade was led from the school to the park where the speech was held. Jeanette May remembers the day as a beautiful spring day and that people stood all around the park and a stand was built especially for Mr. Washington to speak from. Professor Ross's daughter, Jeanette, got to participate in the event by playing music for Mr. Washington's program. She remembers that Mr. Washington told those in attendance, "The world doesn't owe us anything. We have to make our way. And we have to, so to speak, let our buckets down where we are at." He also emphasized how honest work is important, how one should work for everything they get and that, "in this day and time (1915), there are certain opportunities that we don't have, but we must prove ourselves and later on in life, things will fall into place." Mr. Washington gave Mr. Ross a copy of a book of his speeches as a gift for inviting him to Crowley.<sup>12</sup>

In 1942, an article in the *Crowley Daily Signal* stated that the Crowley Industrial Training School/Ross School had an enrolment of 531 students consisting of 264 girls and 265 boys. Principal Ross stated that he was concerned that while there was a large number of pupils enrolled, there were still too many students on the street that needed to be in school. "A truant office is necessary to round them up and too, parents should be held responsible for the failure of their children to be in school. It is far more worthy and valuable to educate, train, and build character in the boys and girls than to feed and prosecute violations and criminals."<sup>13</sup> The school at the time was organizing scrap metal drives to gather iron, steel, rubber, copper, brass, bronze, aluminum, zinc, lead, and old rags for the war (World

<sup>9</sup> Ann Mire. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A.

<sup>10</sup> Mr. Ross was minister at Morningstar Baptist Church from 1910 until his death in 1945.

<sup>11</sup> Ann Mire. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A

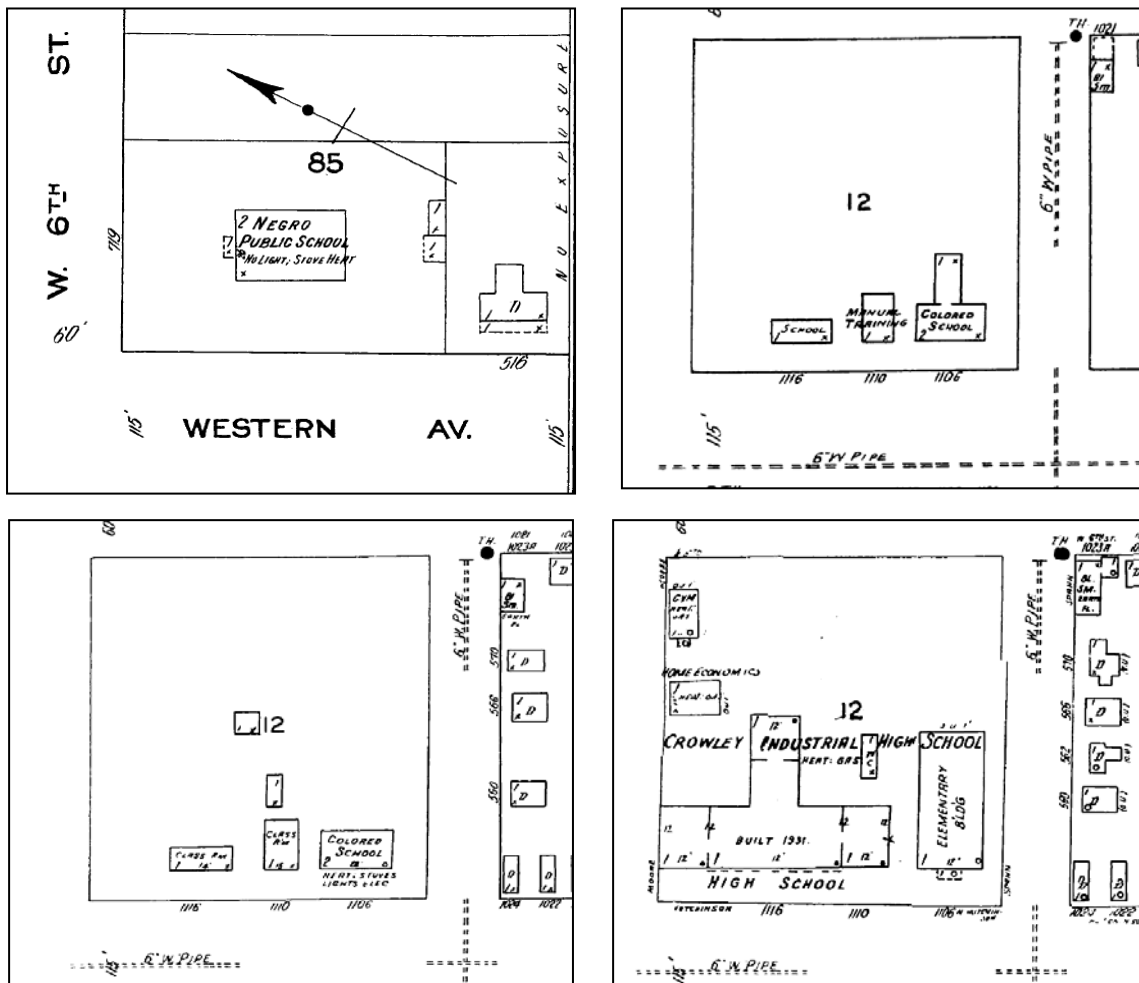
<sup>12</sup> Interview with David and Jeanette Ross May, 1984. Acadia Parish Library. Transcribed by Jessica Richardson, September 2018.

<sup>13</sup> "With our Colored People." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Saturday, October 3, 1942.

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War II) effort. The article also mentions that they are missing one of its real leaders – David May – as he had reported for service in the army and was headed for officers training school.<sup>14</sup>



TOP LEFT: 1915 Sanborn Map showing a previous two story black school. Interestingly enough, that lot is the exact lot that the nominated May House would be built c. 1935. TOP RIGHT: 1925 Sanborn map showing the school moved to its current location on the 700 block of N. Western Ave. BOTTOM LEFT: 1931 Sanborn map showing the same school with two new buildings constructed. BOTTOM RIGHT: The Crowley Industrial Training School/Ross School as seen on the 1931 Sanborn map showing it was constructed that year. Looking at the current building, used as a head start program, it retains a similar shape to the building seen in 1931, but the architectural details point to either a newer building constructed in the 1950s or updates done in the 1950s with metal windows, etc. The elementary building is no longer standing.

Professor Ross's daughter, Jeanette May, was almost destined to go into education. She attended Southern University High School, starting at age 12 and graduating in 1919. After getting her teaching degree at Southern University in 1921, Jeanette returned home to Crowley and began teaching at the Ross School. Jeanette taught several subjects to seventh graders and ninth grade English, history, and algebra. She was also the music teacher and girls' basketball coach. In 1928, Jeanette Ross married David L. May, a fellow teacher at the Ross School. She would later receive a second bachelor's degree in library science in 1931 and became the school's first librarian. She also provide library services for other schools in the area on Saturdays. Jeanette's choirs became well known throughout the area for their wonderful performances. Mrs.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

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May was fondly remembered by her students and she retired from teaching after 46 years in 1967. In addition to teaching, Mrs. May held many other civic positions including a member of the Eastern Star, the National Association of University Women, the Women's Home Mission, Morningstar Baptist Church, and the American Legion Auxiliary.<sup>15</sup> Like her father before her, she also was heavily involved in the Peoples Investment Company. She was an avid member of the Retired Teachers Association as well.

David L. May was born in 1899, the same year Professor Ross arrived in Crowley. He served in the US Army during World War II and helped organized Miller Legion Post 504, serving as its first commander. After teaching at Crowley Industrial for a number of years, he was appointed principal in 1942 by Professor Ross. A 1944 *Crowley Daily Signal* article states that Principal May was leading a Red Cross donation drive at the Crowley Industrial Training School. He took part in a district meeting in 1953 with other principals of black schools in the 7<sup>th</sup> district held at Ross High School. Principals and teachers from the district participated in panel discussions and open forums to recognize and meet the needs of youths. Panel discussions focused on if schools were meeting the imperative needs of students and if not, how could they meet those needs. Principals and teacher came from DeRidder, Lake Charles, DeQuincy, and Allen Parish Training School among others.<sup>16</sup> Later that same year, another article was published honoring 22 seniors who earned diplomas at Ross High School. The president of Southern University, Dr. Felton Clark, spoke at the ceremony and Principal May handed out scholarships to five students.<sup>17</sup> David May would go on to be principal at Ross High School until 1967.

During their tenure as teachers and community leaders, the Mays regularly held meetings and gatherings at their house. The house's location one block from Ross High School made it intrinsically an extension of the school. Students fondly remember coming to the May House for luncheons, activities related to school fundraisers, and general meetings. It truly was an extension of Ross High School due to its location and its owners.

While David May's time as an educator and principal were extremely important, he was also significant as one of the first two African American aldermen ever elected to office in the state of Louisiana in 1954, along with Joseph Pete. Together, they were Louisiana's first black councilmen since Reconstruction, over 70 years earlier. At the time, prior to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case which ruled that segregation in schools was unconstitutional, all political power rested in the hands of whites. During the election, there were four men running for District 3, two whites – Russell Chachere and Frank Schenkel – and two blacks – Joseph Pete and David May. District 3 was predominantly black but had always been represented by a white councilman as most blacks were not registered to vote (or permitted to under Jim Crow era laws). In 1948, 765 black residents in Crowley were registered to vote – this is just a couple hundred more than the entire student population at Ross High School and was clearly a small percentage of the population.

During the campaign, Russell Chachere passed away unexpectedly. State election laws would not allow for someone else to take his place and it was clear now that at least one African American would be elected to office (the top two candidates in a district would earn seats on the council). A few days after Chachere's death, Mr. Schenkel withdrew from the race due to health. David May and Joseph Pete were now the only candidates left and would both be sworn in on July 1, 1954. This was a huge accomplishment in the city and state as most other comparable cities in the state would not elect blacks to office for another 1-2 decades. At the swearing in ceremony, Mr. May stated,

“I accept the charge given to me as councilman of our great city of Crowley. In carrying out that charge, I pray to discharge my duty as God has me to interpret it. I sense very keenly my

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<sup>15</sup> Mary Alice Fontenot. “Jeannette R. May, A Lady of Ninety-One Summers. *Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, August 1, 1993, pg. 12A.

<sup>16</sup> “District Negro School Heads in Crowley Meet.” *Church Point News*. February 24, 1953, pg. 11.

<sup>17</sup> “22 Negro Seniors Win Diplomas at Acadia Program.” *Church Point News*. June 9, 1953, pg. 4.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

responsibility to the people of this city. They are looking to us to make this city a better place in which to live. They are looking to us to provide growth for our city. They are looking to us to be broadminded and understanding. They are looking to us to be alert and discreet. In carrying out my duty, my actions will be identified with integrity, with fairness, and with a sense of responsibility and justice.”<sup>18</sup>



Image taken from a 1985 *Crowley Daily Signal* honoring David May (left) and Joseph Pete showing their 1954 swearing in ceremony.

That same election, a fellow councilman, Edwin Edwards, was also elected. He would later go on to be a four time governor of the state. Edwards would later appoint David May as the first black member of the Board of Examiners and Nursing Home Administrators in 1975.<sup>19</sup> David May would serve as alderman from 1954 through 1962.<sup>20</sup> Mr. May made his office as alderman at the May House on N. Western Avenue. He served on many committees through the years including the finance, fire, public building, city beautification, and industrial expansion committees in 1958.<sup>21</sup> As this was his office during his terms as alderman (and beyond), the house itself is significant under Criterion A.

In addition to serving as councilman, David and Jeanette May continued to stay active in their community, often using their home as a meeting and gathering place. One organization that Jeanette was very active in, the National Association of University Women, regularly held meetings at the May House including a scholarship tea that was heavily advertised in the local paper in 1979.<sup>22</sup> They also continued to host students and teachers even after they had retired. In 1972, they held a luncheon for the 1954 graduates of Ross High School, including one alumni who now owns the May House.<sup>23</sup>

Together, the Mays were a driving force in the African American community in Crowley, particularly during a

<sup>18</sup> Gene Thibodeaux. "Louisiana's First Black Aldermen Took Office in Crowley." A Fresh Start Online Research Projects. [www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html](http://www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html). Accessed November 3, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> "Swearing In." *Crowley Post Signal*. June 13, 1975, pg. 6.

<sup>20</sup> "Last Minute Touches to Campaigns Being Made, Candidates Hope for Good Weather." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Friday, April 6, 1962, front page; Joseph Pete would go on to serve until 1982. Resources related to Joseph Pete may be eligible for listing on the National Register as well, but at the time, they have not been evaluated.

<sup>21</sup> "Mayor Names Committees." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, July 9, 1958, front page.

<sup>22</sup> "Upcoming Events." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, February 14, 1979. Pg. 3.

<sup>23</sup> "Present at Luncheon." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, December 27, 1972.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

time of segregation and during the integration period. They were longtime educators and leaders who were known throughout the community. Together, they were named Crowley's outstanding Citizens of the Year in 1980. That same year, David May was honored by the Council on Aging Board of Directors for his many contributions to the city, parish, and state. Like his wife, David was very active in other community organizations including the Retired Teachers Association, Acadiana Health Planning Commission, Louisiana Mental Health Association Board of Directors, Council on Aging, Governors Board of Elderly Affairs, Crowley City Recreation Committee, Housing Authority Board, Acadia Parish Library Board, President of the People's Investment Company, 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason, founding member of the Miller Post 504 American Legion, and the Southern University Alumni Federation.<sup>24</sup>

It is clear from the personal and published accounts mentioned above that David and Jeanette May were influential in the African American Community of Crowley from the 1920s through the 1980s as educators, leaders, and civic activists. Their home is significant as a place where many of their civic activities took place including meetings for both of their organizations. Their home contains Mr. May's office from when he served as one of two of the first black aldermen in the state. Their home was an extension of Ross High School where they both taught and served in leadership capacities for over 40 years. The only other resource associated with Mr. and Mrs. May during their productive years is Ross High School. It is still extant and stands on the 700 block of N. Western Ave. The building appears to retain exterior integrity, but its interior integrity is not known. The building is likely eligible on its own for its role in African American education in Crowley should it ever be looked at for listing. The May House though is the strongest candidate associated with the productive lives of both Mr. and Mrs. May. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

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### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

See above.

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## **9. Major Bibliographical Resources**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"District Negro School Heads in Crowley Meet." *Church Point News*. February 24, 1953, pg. 11.

Fontenot, Mary Alice. "Jeannette R. May, A Lady of Ninety-One Summers." *Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, August 1, 1993, pg. 12A.

Interview with David and Jeanette Ross May, 1984. Acadia Parish Library. Transcribed by Jessica Richardson, September 2018.

"Last Minute Touches to Campaigns Being Made, Candidates Hope for Good Weather." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Friday, April 6, 1962, front page; Joseph Pete would go on to serve until 1982. Resources related to Joseph Pete may be eligible for listing on the National Register as well, but at the time, they have not been evaluated.

"Mayor Names Committees." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, July 9, 1958, front page.

Mire, Ann. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A.

National Register of Historic Places. John S. Dawson High School, St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish,

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<sup>24</sup> "David May Ceremonies Held Monday Evening." *Crowley Post Signal*. Tuesday, February 26, 1980.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

Louisiana, National Register #15000348.

“Swearing In.” *Crowley Post Signal*. June 13, 1975, pg. 6.

Thibodeaux, Gene. “Louisiana’s First Black Aldermen Took Office in Crowley.” A Fresh Start Online Research Projects. [www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html](http://www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html). Accessed November 3, 2017.

“22 Negro Seniors Win Diplomas at Acadia Program.” *Church Point News*. June 9, 1953, pg. 4.

“Upcoming Events.” *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, February 14, 1979. Pg. 3.

“With our Colored People.” *Crowley Daily Signal*. Saturday, October 3, 1942.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**     N/A    

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property:** Less than an acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 30.212195                      Longitude: -92.381503

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The house is bounded by N. Western Ave to the west, W 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north N Ave A to the east, and W. Hutchinson Ave to the south. The specific boundaries, as there are other properties on the block, can be seen on the submitted plat map.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
The chosen boundaries are the historic boundaries of the property.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator; Henry Clement  
organization: Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation  
street & number: PO Box 44247  
city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code: 70806  
e-mail: [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov)  
telephone: 225-219-4595  
date: October 2018

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
City or Vicinity: Crowley  
County: Acadia  
State: LA  
Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson  
Date of Photographs: August 2018

- 1 of 30: Façade of house; camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 30: View down N. Western Avenue towards the former Ross High School (building at center with central white front facing gable); camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 30: View of front porch; camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 30: View of southern elevation of house; camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 30: View of southern elevation of house; camera facing northwest.
- 6 of 30: View of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing northeast.
- 7 of 30: View of c. 1948 one car garage's rear elevation; camera facing north.
- 8 of 30: View of western elevation of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing northeast.
- 9 of 30: View of main façade of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 10 of 30: View of more recent post-Katrina two car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 11 of 30: View of eastern elevation of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

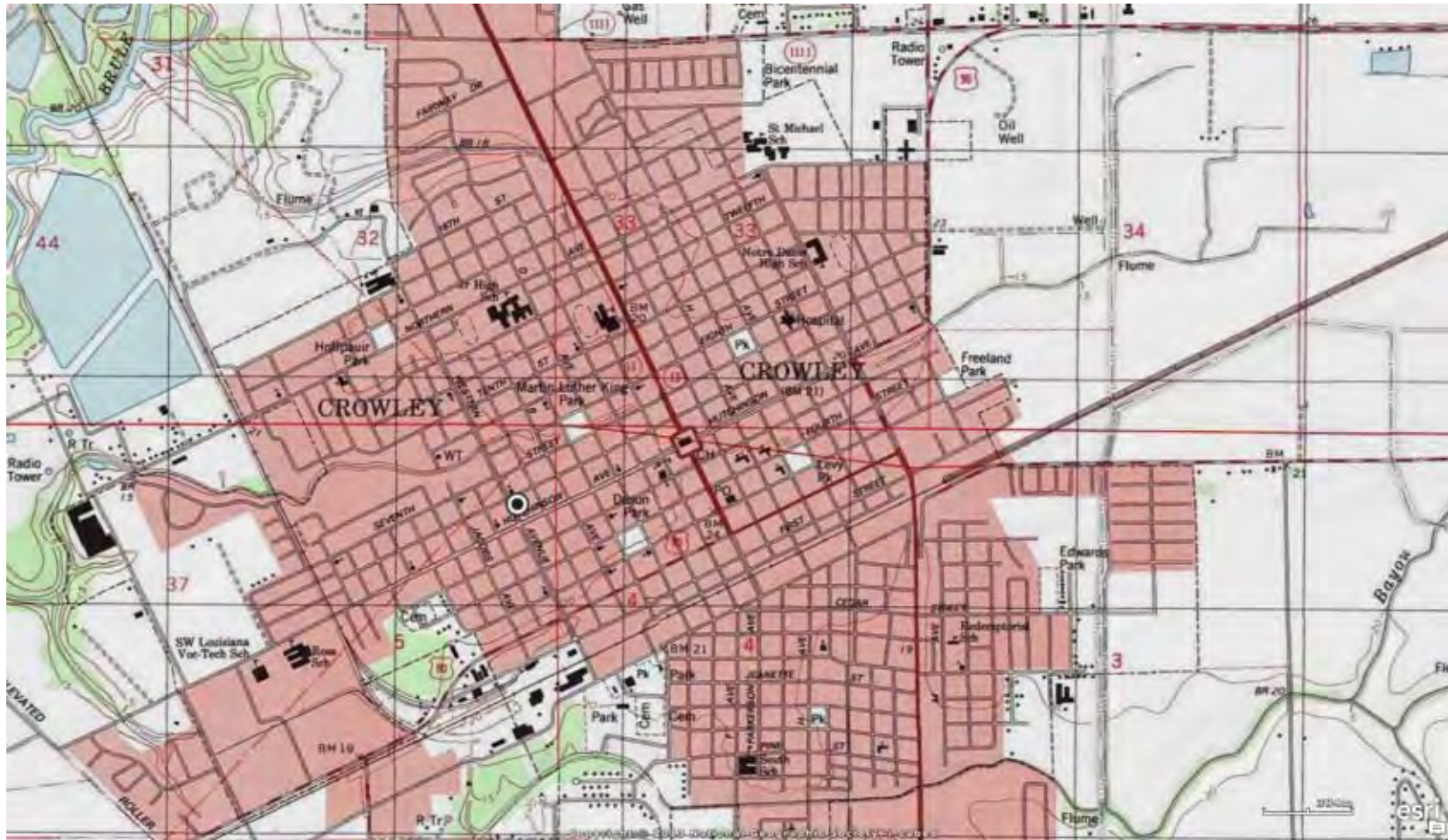
- 12 of 30: View of rear section of house and c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 30: View of northern elevation of house; camera facing southwest.
- 14 of 30: View of northern elevation of house; camera facing southeast.
- 15 of 30: View of living room; camera facing west.
- 16 of 30: View of Mr. May's office; camera facing north.
- 17 of 30: View of Mr. May's office looking towards living room; camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 30: View of dining room into living room; camera facing southwest.
- 19 of 30: View of cabinets within the laundry room; camera facing southeast.
- 20 of 30: View of kitchen; camera facing northwest.
- 21 of 30: View of hall; camera facing southwest.
- 22 of 30: View of front bedroom; camera facing west.
- 23 of 30: View of hall; camera facing northeast.
- 24 of 30: View of original rear door, now leading into den; camera facing north.
- 25 of 30: View of closets and hallway leading into bathroom; camera facing southeast.
- 26 of 30: View of rear bedroom; camera facing west.
- 27 of 30: View of rear bedroom; camera facing east.
- 28 of 30: View of den; camera facing west.
- 29 of 30: View of living room; camera facing south.
- 30 of 30: View of living room looking towards office; camera facing southeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA



Latitude: 30.212195 Longitude: -92.381503



# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA - Plat and Boundary Map



**Parcels**  
  
**Lots**  




MAP ANALYST

POWERED BY



Acadia Parish, CHFA

# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House

Area Map  
Acadia Parish, LA

(Former) Ross High School

May House

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

300 ft



# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House

Site and Exterior Photo Map  
Acadia Parish, LA

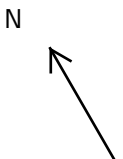
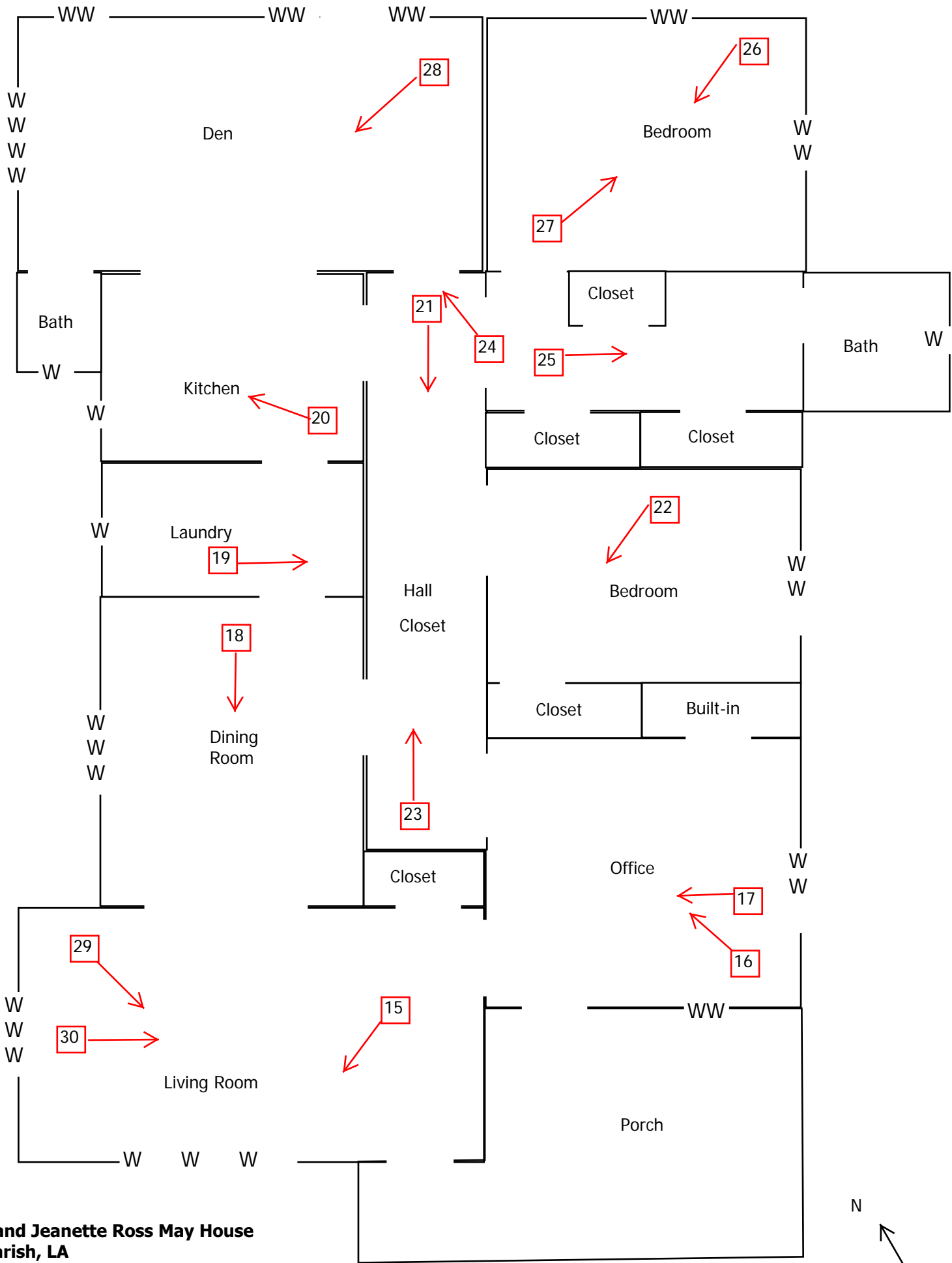


Google Earth

© 2018 Google

100 ft





**David L. and Jeanette Ross May House**  
**Acadia Parish, LA**  
**Interior Photo Key**  
 \*\*\*Not to Scale\*\*\*







Secured by  
**ADT**  
24/7 MONITORING

576



















Big Chief  
Takawaka's  
TEE PEE





Big Child  
Takawaka's  
1988

ADT

366 AEST







$A + 2 = 101$   
 $1 + 8 = 11 - 40 + 20$



H.C. ROSS  
CLASS OF  
1954  
SCHOOL

H.C. ROSS HIGH  
GRAND REUNION 2009  
GRAND MARSHALS  
Henry Clement  
Isaac Mayfield



A wooden desk with a black top, cluttered with books, papers, a pink lamp, a small container, and other items. A chair is tucked under the desk.

A large wooden bookshelf with glass doors, containing books and a television set on a blue cloth.

































National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 2/14/2019      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 4/1/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      2/27/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



BILLY NUNGESSER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 25, 2018

Tony Duhon  
PO Box 1463  
Crowley, LA 70526

Dear Tony:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic resource listed below will be considered by the State National Register Review Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

**David L. and Jeanette Ross May House  
Acadia Parish, LA**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed on the National Register, tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. Listing in the National Register does not place limitations on the property by the federal or state government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The government will not attach restrictive covenants to the property or seek to acquire them. A draft copy of the nomination and attachment is included with this letter.

One of your responsibilities as a Certified Local Government (CLG) is to review pending National Register nominations of properties within your community. This is required, in part, to detect any errors in fact, but also to provide local insight or knowledge concerning the property. I hope that you will consider the nomination for this property at your next meeting. After providing a reasonable opportunity for public comment, the Crowley Historic District Commission shall fill out the attached CLG review form as to whether or not, in their opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Within 60 calendar days of notice from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the chief elected official shall transmit their report to the SHPO. If the SHPO does not receive the report and recommendation within 60 calendar days, the nomination process will continue. All comments received will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the National Register Review Committee for consideration along with the nomination.

We have scheduled the nomination for presentation to the National Register Review Committee on **Thursday December 6, 2018**, and would like to receive your comments by that time in

Tony Duhon  
June 8, 2018  
Page 2

fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period.

You are invited to attend the National Register Review Committee meeting at which the nomination will be officially considered. The location and time have not been confirmed yet, but will be found on our website. Should you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Jessica Richardson at 225-219-4595 or at [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin P. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kristin Sanders  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**CROWLEY DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT FOR:  
DAVID L. AND JEANETTE ROSS MAY HOUSE  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG: City of Crowley  
PROPERTY NAME: MAY, DAVID L. AND Jeanette Ross House  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1576 N. Western Avenue Crowley, LA 70526  
DATE SENT: November 21, 2018  
DATE OF NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING: November 21, 2018  
Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places?  
Yes  No  Criterion: A  B  C  D

Has public comment been included? Yes  No  Explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination (use additional sheets if necessary):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tony Dubon Tony Dubon  
Historic District Commission Chair (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

11-21-18  
Date

Steven Premeaux Steven Premeaux  
Chief Elected Official (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

11-21-18  
Date





BILLY NUNGESSER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: December 13, 2018

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register Documentation for the David L. and Jeanette Ross May House to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact Nicole Hobson-Morris at [nmorris@crt.la.gov](mailto:nmorris@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

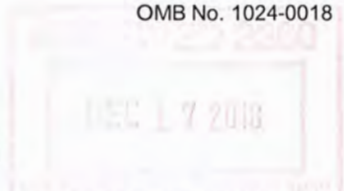
- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- Other:

Comments:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- \_\_\_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Other Names/Site Number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 576 N. Western Ave  
City or town: Crowley State: LA County: Acadia  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Returned

Kristin P. Sanders 12/7/2018  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

**4. National Park Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of the Keeper**

**Date of Action**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Returned

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single Dwelling

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)  
foundation: Brick and Concrete Piers  
walls: Wood and Vinyl  
roof: Asphalt Shingles  
other: N/A

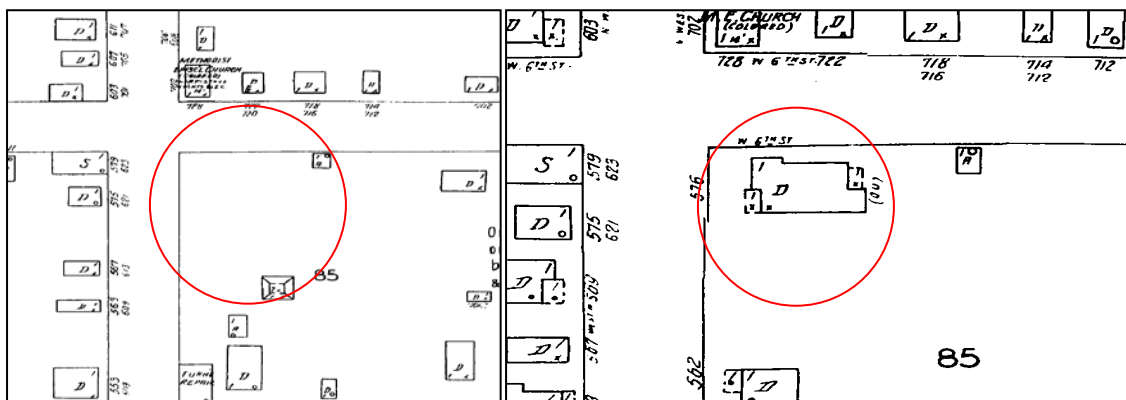
**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House (herein referred to as the May House) is a frame dwelling situated on a large corner lot six blocks from the Acadia Parish Courthouse in downtown Crowley. Built c. 1935<sup>1</sup>, the bungalow style house retains many original features on the exterior and interior including 2/2 and 1/1 wood windows, original half width front porch, multi lite entry doors, wood door and window frames, picture rail, wood floors, built in cabinetry in Mr. May's former office, multi lite french doors, five panel interior doors, terrazzo floors (from a mid-century update done by the Mays), glass door knobs, and several original light fixtures. The only alterations to the house include vinyl siding (with a matching width) over the original siding; interior cosmetic updates of paneling in Mr. May's office and the hallway, and ceiling tiles; and the enclosure of the rear back porch in the 1950s for a den for the Mays. This was done during the period of significance. The house would most definitely be recognizable to Mr. and Mrs. May, as well as anyone from the community who came to the May house for meetings and social gatherings, and thus, the house is eligible for listing on the National Register.

**Narrative Description**



<sup>1</sup> The 1940 US Census notes that David and Jeanette May were living at the same residence as they were in 1935. In the 1930 census, Jeanette and David are married, but residing with her father at a residence on Avenue G in Crowley. Thus the circa date of 1935 is being used for the house. It was built sometime between 1930 and 1935.

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1931 Sanborn Map at left showing no building on the lot save for a garage; 1948 Sanborn on right shows the existing house in place. A few additions to the house have been made post 1948.

As seen on the above Sanborn maps, the May House was built between 1931 and 1948. Based on the details found throughout the house, a circa date of 1935 is being used for its construction date. The May House sits on a large corner lot with a wide lawn located to the southeast of the house. In addition to the house, there is a historic one car garage located to the northeast of the house as well as a modern two car detached garage, which is considered non-contributing. The house is located one block from the former Ross High School, where Mrs. May was a teacher and librarian and Mr. May was a teacher and principal. The integrity of setting is evident here.

#### **Façade (Southwest elevation) - Photos 1, 3, 4, and 14**

The façade faces N. Western Avenue and features a large picture window flanked by 1/1 wood windows on the left side of the elevation. The main entry into the living room of the house is to the right of this picture window and features a multi lite door and screen door. The front porch is inset on the right side of the façade and there is a second multi lite door providing direct access into Mr. May's former office. A set of two 2/2 windows is located to the right of this door. Two wrought iron columns support the overhanging front gable. Vinyl siding has been installed over the original siding to match the reveal. The exposed rafter tails have also been boxed in, but the overall bungalow form is most definitely intact. The roof line features a second front facing gable as well as a cross side gable. The ceiling of the porch is wood painted blue. There are decorative metal awnings along the façade and other elevations that likely date to the 1940s or 1950s. The current owners have stated they have been there as long as they can remember (they attended Ross High School and were close with the Mays throughout the 1950s and 1960s).

#### **Southeast elevation – Photos 4-7**

The porch is located at the far left under the first front gable. There are two sets of double 2/2 windows on the main part of this elevation. A bathroom addition projects from the elevation with its own gable roof. A shed roof has been connected to the rear of this elevation providing cover between the main house and the one car historic detached garage.

#### **Northeast elevation – Photo 9**

This elevation features a set of double 2/2 windows at the far left. The rest of the elevation is the former rear porch, which was enclosed in the 1950s/1960s for a den. There are two windows, a door, three more windows, and then two more 2/2 wood windows at the far right. A projecting rear facing gable projects out over the entry door and features a 4 lite fixed window in the gable end. This projection also has exposed rafter tail so this is likely an original construction to the building that was part of the former rear porch. Today, the former porch floor has been lowered to ground level and it is used as a carport. A more modern roof was constructed connecting this roof to the one car garage to continue the covering for protection from weather. When the den was created, the original 2/2 wood windows were all used for the new exterior wall.

#### **Northwest elevation – Photos 12-14**

At the far left of this elevation, there is a bank of four 2/2 windows, three smaller windows (in the kitchen area), a set of three 2/2 windows (in the dining room), and a final set of three 2/2 windows that are located at the front corner. The roof on this elevation features two front facing gables at each end with the side of the side gable in between.

#### **Interior – Photos 15-30**

Upon entering the house via the main entry, one enters the living room. The overall floorplan of the house has not changed since the Mays last lived in the house (Mr. May passed away in 1987 and Mrs. May passed away in 1997). The room is wallpapered and has a picture rail, wood floors, and acoustic tile ceiling. A simple ceiling molding is also in the room. A five panel wood door leads to Mr. May's office at the right side of the room. There is a small closet adjacent to this door. A double width opening leads to the dining room. The doors

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themselves are original multi lite Craftsman style doors (see Photo 18). The dining room has matching wallpaper to the living room, and has the same architectural details previously mentioned. A butler's pantry attaches to the dining room as one enters into the kitchen. The kitchen fixtures all date to the 1940s and only the appliances have been updated. An opening has been cut into the rear wall of the kitchen, formerly the rear wall of the house, to connect to the den that the Mays put in (see Photo 28). The den is finished with wood paneling and an acoustic tile ceiling with a slight marbled pattern. A small half bath was added in the den and the room features walls of original 2/2 windows, moved here when the porch was infilled and former exterior wall altered, and a tile floor. The original exterior door seen in Photo 24 is still in place leading to the den. All interior doors, both those that are paneled and multi lite, have original glass door knobs.

The den is accessed via the main hallway, which has a terrazzo floor, mid-century wall paneling like the den, and an acoustic tile ceiling (see Photo 21). Multiple original five panel wooden doors open off the hallway. The doors open onto bedrooms and to a walk in closet and bathroom. The door at the front of the hallway, closest to the living room, opens to Mr. May's office. The office is finished in paneling and a ceiling matching the den so it can be inferred that this room, the hallway, and perhaps the living and dining room ceilings, were all updated in the early 1950s. The office has a picture rail and all of the woodwork, including a wonderful building in cabinet (see Photo 16) are stained a dark wood color. It is clear that when this house was built, it was designed with this room to be used as an office based on the door that opens directly to the porch and how it can be closed off from the rest of the house.

**One Car Detached Garage (Contributing)** – Photos 6-8, 11-12

The one car garage is not shown on the 1949 Sanborn map, but it had to have been built very soon after based on the historic wood siding, multi lite windows, and exposed rafter tails. The southeast elevation features a single multi lite entry door and three double hung windows. They are replacement aluminum windows. There is one multi lite single sash wood window on this elevation too. The northwest elevation has four windows with the same replacement aluminum windows. The main façade of the garage has had the former car opening has been infilled with two modern doors and sidelights. There have been some additions and alterations made to the garage, but it is still clearly recognizable as a historic detached garage. Two roofs have been attached to the main garage roof to connect to the rear of the house and a second one northeast side of the building for a covered porch. Fortunately, both roofs are clearly recognizable as new and have closed eaves to distinguish from the exposed rafter tails on the garage roof.

**Two Car Detached Garage (Non-contributing)** – Photos 7 and 12

This building is a simple, detached two car garage with a double garage door on the front, a set of double doors on the rear elevation, and a few modern windows and doors on the side elevations. It does not attach to any of the other structures with roofs.

**Integrity**

The only changes made to the May House are primarily cosmetic. The den addition was completed more than 50 years ago by the Mays. Any other updates have been cosmetic and include wall paneling, acoustic ceiling tiles, and vinyl siding. Even though these do impact the integrity of materials slightly, the home still retains integrity of location, setting, design, craftsmanship, feeling, and association. It would definitely be recognizable to Mr. and Mrs. May as well as any of their former students, peers, and anyone who may have visited the home for business or social purposes.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
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<b>X</b>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:**

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Ethnic Heritage: Black

**Period of Significance:** 1935-1968

**Significant Dates:** N/A

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): David L. and Jeanette Ross May

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification):** The period of significance covers the years that the Mays resided at the house. It ends with 1968, the 50 year guideline, but the Mays did continue to live in the house until 1997.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage: black as it was the home of two of the most significant African American educators and leaders in Crowley at a time when segregation was alive and well. David and Jeanette May were longtime educators and were involved in many other organizations related to African American education as well as social organizations supporting the African American community in Crowley. The house was not only their home, but it was also Mr. May's office. He was one of the first two African American alderman elected in the state in 1954 and his home served as his office during his terms as alderman and beyond. The period of significance for the house is 1935-1968, encompassing the years the Mays lived in the house through the 50 year guideline. The Mays continued to live in the house until their respective deaths in 1984 and 1997.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Crowley

Crowley was founded in 1886 by C.C. Duson and W.W. Duson. Incorporated in 1887, W.W. Duson, General Manager of Southwest Louisiana Land Company, plotted and developed Crowley. W.W. Duson's daughter, Maime Duson, married Percy Lee Lawrence, who founded the First National Bank of Crowley. The 7-story building was once the tallest building between Houston and New Orleans. They lived with their three children, P.L. Jr., Pattee, and Jack at 219 East 2nd Street. The house is now on the historic register. The town was named after Pat Crowley, an Irish railroad man who brought the railroad depot to W.W. Duson's land. Descendants of founder W.W. Duson, continue to live in Crowley.

African American Education in Louisiana and Crowley

\*\*\*The following educational context is taken from the National Register nomination for John S. Dawson High School in West Feliciana Parish.\*\*\*

*At the beginning of the twentieth century, public education in Louisiana was in a terrible state of affairs. The state constitution of 1898 had legally mandated the already status quo segregation of schools by race, and at that time students of all races were severely underserved.<sup>2</sup> The state's public school system was characterized by crude, deteriorating school houses and abysmally low attendance. During the first two decades of the century, great improvements were made in school house construction, curriculum standardization, and attendance through transportation advances and consolidation. However, these developments generally applied only to the white schools. In Louisiana's underfunded dual school system, African-American schools received little to no investment from their parish school boards. The disparity this created between the two separate and supposedly equal school systems was blatant.*

*The few schools that did exist for African Americans in rural areas were typically taught in churches or associated buildings on church property. High school education, which was being so improved for white students, remained non-existent for black students in Louisiana until the second decade of the twentieth century. It is indicative of the statewide circumstances that in 1900, the school board of the relatively progressive city of New Orleans officially reduced education for African Americans to just five grades.<sup>3</sup> Throughout the state, particularly in rural areas like West Feliciana Parish, there had never been much opportunity for secondary education for African Americans and the sentiment against it by parts of the white population was strong. A compromise between the demand of African Americans for secondary education and the reluctance of certain whites to provide it was found in the concept of "county training schools." An African-American educator, Professor A. M. Strange of Louisiana's Tangipahoa Parish, first proposed the idea of a school that would emphasize agricultural training and home economics in 1910. Through his efforts, the Tangipahoa Parish Training School was opened in 1911. Many others across the south were soon to follow, but over a decade later, in the 1923-24 school year, just sixteen of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes had a parish training school.<sup>4</sup>*

*During the following decades, secondary education for African Americans in Louisiana slowly but steadily expanded. In 1929-30, there were still thirty-seven parishes without state approved black high schools. In 1944-45, the number of black four-year high schools had grown to eighty and one was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, but thirteen parishes remained without approved*

<sup>2</sup> Rodney Cline, *Education in Louisiana – History and Development* (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1974), 34.

<sup>3</sup> Donald E. Devore and Joseph Logsdon, *Crescent City Schools: Public Education in New Orleans, 1841-1991* (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1991), 118.

<sup>4</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Tangipahoa Training School Dormitory, Kentwood, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, National Register #79001091.



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high schools for African Americans.<sup>5</sup> Among them was West Feliciana Parish. Until the 1950s, West Feliciana Parish African Americans who completed the seventh grade and wished to continue their education had to look beyond their parish. Those who could manage the travel and accommodations went to schools such as Baton Rouge's McKinley High School (NR 1981), which opened in 1927 and is nearly thirty-five miles to the southwest of St. Francisville<sup>6</sup>

The quality of Louisiana school buildings for African Americans saw some improvement in the early twentieth century, mostly through the support of the Rosenwald Fund, a national philanthropic foundation. Four schools were constructed in West Feliciana Parish with partial funding from Rosenwald: Independence, a three-teacher school built before 1920; Afton Villa, a two-teacher school built in 1920-21; Polk, a two-teacher school built in 1921-22; and Solitude, a two-teacher school built in 1925-26.<sup>7</sup> These wood-frame schools were based on Tuskegee and Rosenwald Fund plans that were carefully designed to provide an effective learning environment through details such as good daylighting. None of these school buildings remain. The historic Independence Baptist Church is the only associated building of this period to survive. Each of the other churches has been replaced and a later Polk school building has been converted into a residence.<sup>8</sup>

In the 1950s, further strides were made in the construction of quality school buildings for African Americans. By this time, the wide disparity between the number and quality of public school buildings for African Americans versus those for whites was undeniable. The 1950s were ushered in by the filing of multiple lawsuits across the country challenging the constitutionality of "separate but equal" schooling and calling for the integration of schools. In 1952, New Orleans attorney, A. P. Tureaud filed *Earl Benjamin Bush et al. v. Orleans Parish School Board for the integration of New Orleans schools*. A suit was also filed for the integration of schools in St. Helena Parish, which lies two parishes west of West Feliciana. In the meantime, suits from other states were coming before the Supreme Court. Five became consolidated as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. As the case awaited review by the Supreme Court, some states, like South Carolina and Mississippi made a last ditch effort to protect segregation by implementing programs of school equalization.

Louisiana did not institute such a statewide program, but whether individual districts attempted to hold off integration by improving black schools is unclear. New modern facilities constructed for African Americans in the 1950s in Louisiana appear to have been derived from African American demands for equal facilities and from acknowledgement by school officials that new buildings were truly needed, even if white voters didn't always agree. Regardless of the impetus behind it, the construction of new modern schools in the 1950s provided African Americans with long awaited quality learning environments and were a source of pride for communities. Ross High School was the equalization era school for Crowley as it was constructed in 1954 and opened for the 1955 school year.

### History of African American Life and Education in Crowley and the Ross/May Families

The first African Americans who came to Crowley after the Civil War worked as maids, cooks,

<sup>5</sup> J. B. Cade, "The Education of Negroes in Louisiana," in *The African American Experience in Louisiana: Part B*, ed. Charles Vincent (Lafayette: University of Southwestern, LA, 2000), 232, first published in the *Louisiana Colored Teacher's Journal*, 27 (1948): 7-11; Minns Sledge Robertson, "Development of the High-School Program," in *Education in Louisiana*, ed. Michael G. Wade (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1999), 272, first published in Minns Sledge Robertson, *Public Education in Louisiana After 1898* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Department of Education, n.d.g.), 55-82.

<sup>6</sup> Joyce Scott Baskin, Randy Butler, Ken Dawson, Mattie Dunbar, Gloria Duncan, Henry L. Hardy, Yvonne Jackson, Annette Keith, Rosie Lee Lindsey, Rufus McKnight, Myrtle Minor, Samuel Mitchell, Calvin Miller, Sr., Nathan Price, Willie Stevens, Roosevelt Wilkerson, and Vincent Smith, interview by author, St. Francisville, LA, October 11, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Fisk University, "Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database," [http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search&school\\_county=West%20Feliciana&school\\_state=LA&button=Search&o=0](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search&school_county=West%20Feliciana&school_state=LA&button=Search&o=0) (accessed February 23, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> West Feliciana African American Heritage Task Force Oral History Project. <http://www.wfpsb.org/education/staff/staff.php?sectiondetailid=16994&> (accessed February 23, 2014).

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gardeners, and laborers. As years went by, more blacks came to Crowley and served as nurses and teachers, like David and Jeanette May and Jeanette's father, Henry Ross. In 1900, there were 1500 blacks in Crowley, a population increase related mostly to the growing rice industry. Many were also employed as laborers with the railroad.

Prominent black Crowley citizens included Jake Johnson, who owned a skating rink in a Benevolent Hall; George Chapman, who had an ice cream stand; George Barker and Alex Johnson who had retail stores; and "Aunt Sally" Bias who had a coffee shop at the parish courthouse. The People's Investment Company, which was founded in 1902 and was an all-black undertaking of 34 leaders in the community, focused on loaning money to other blacks who needed money for an emergency. Many loans were made to those who otherwise would have not been qualified at other banks due to segregation. One of its first stockholders was Jeanette May's father, Henry Clay Ross. His future son-in-law, David May would later be involved in this same organization, a testament to the leadership qualities of the Ross and May families.<sup>9</sup>

Henry Clay Ross was born near Thibodaux in 1871 and moved to Crowley c. 1899, where he began his longtime career as an educator and minister<sup>10</sup>. He was always a strong proponent of education for blacks in Crowley and established a one room school on Avenue C where he had 18 students and one teacher. In 1908, Mr. Ross moved to a bigger school, which was called the Crowley Industrial School. He was principal there for over 40 years and the school eventually became known as the "Ross School" in his honor. He also had Ross Avenue named after him while he was still alive. He was often referred to as "Professor Ross" due to his commitment to education and civic activities for blacks in Crowley. Other locals even called him the "local Booker T. Washington."<sup>11</sup> As part of Mr. Ross's educational goals, he was able to invite, along with a couple other prominent leaders in Crowley, Booker T. Washington himself to come to Crowley on April 14, 1915 for a four hour speech.

As part of the day's activities, a lunch was served at the Ross School and then a parade was led from the school to the park where the speech was held. Jeanette May remembers the day as a beautiful spring day and that people stood all around the park and a stand was built especially for Mr. Washington to speak from. Professor Ross's daughter, Jeanette, got to participate in the event by playing music for Mr. Washington's program. She remembers that Mr. Washington told those in attendance, "The world doesn't owe us anything. We have to make our way. And we have to, so to speak, let our buckets down where we are at." He also emphasized how honest work is important, how one should work for everything they get and that, "in this day and time (1915), there are certain opportunities that we don't have, but we must prove ourselves and later on in life, things will fall into place." Mr. Washington gave Mr. Ross a copy of a book of his speeches as a gift for inviting him to Crowley.<sup>12</sup>

In 1942, an article in the *Crowley Daily Signal* stated that the Crowley Industrial Training School/Ross School had an enrolment of 531 students consisting of 264 girls and 265 boys. Principal Ross stated that he was concerned that while there was a large number of pupils enrolled, there were still too many students on the street that needed to be in school. "A truant office is necessary to round them up and too, parents should be held responsible for the failure of their children to be in school. It is far more worthy and valuable to educate, train, and build character in the boys and girls than to feed and prosecute violations and criminals."<sup>13</sup> The school at the time was organizing scrap metal drives to gather iron, steel, rubber, copper, brass, bronze, aluminum, zinc, lead, and old rags for the war (World

<sup>9</sup> Ann Mire. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A.

<sup>10</sup> Mr. Ross was minister at Morningstar Baptist Church from 1910 until his death in 1945.

<sup>11</sup> Ann Mire. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A

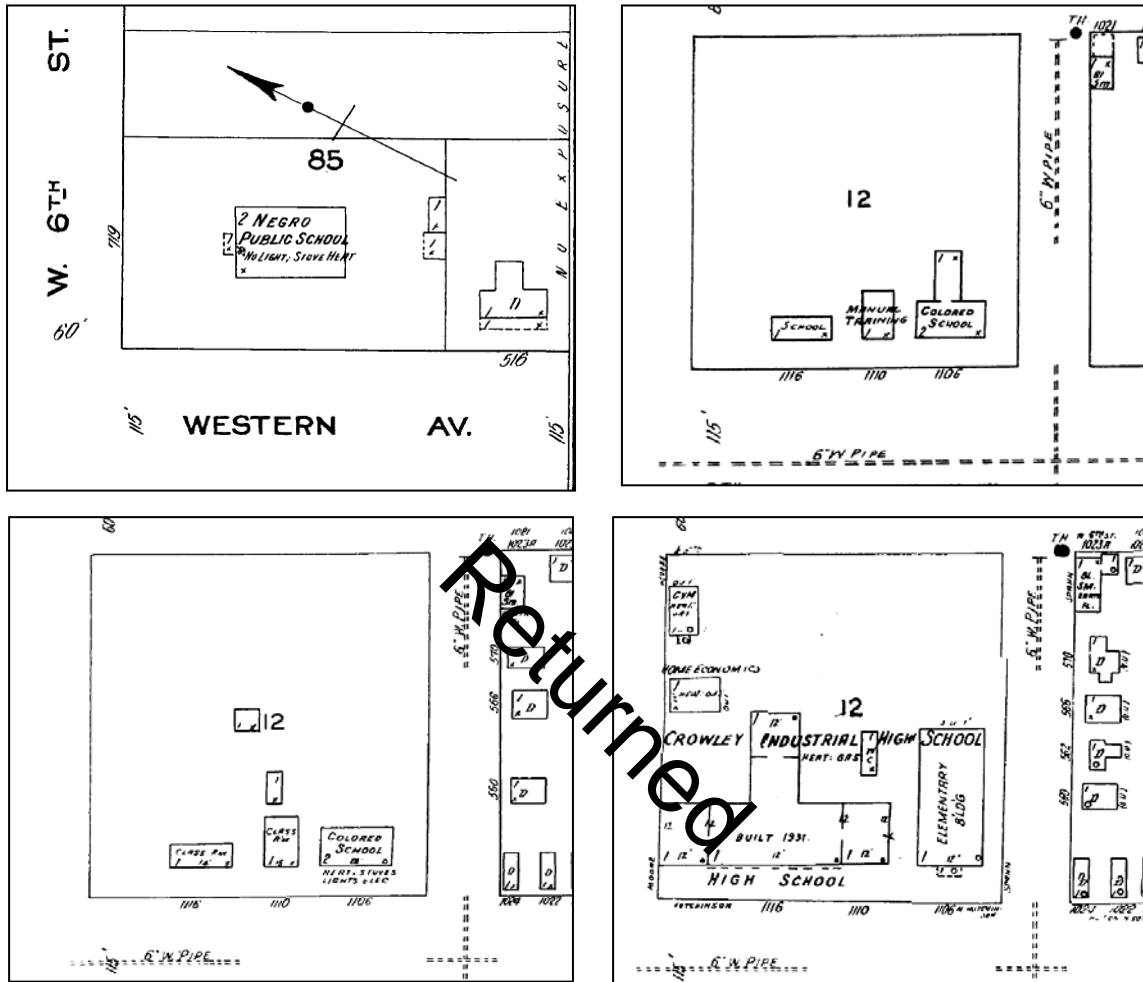
<sup>12</sup> Interview with David and Jeanette Ross May, 1984. Acadia Parish Library. Transcribed by Jessica Richardson, September 2018.

<sup>13</sup> "With our Colored People." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Saturday, October 3, 1942.

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War II) effort. The article also mentions that they are missing one of its real leaders – David May – as he had reported for service in the army and was headed for officers training school.<sup>14</sup>



TOP LEFT: 1915 Sanborn Map showing a previous two story black school. Interestingly enough, that lot is the exact lot that the nominated May House would be built c. 1935. TOP RIGHT: 1925 Sanborn map showing the school moved to its current location on the 700 block of N. Western Ave. BOTTOM LEFT: 1931 Sanborn map showing the same school with two new buildings constructed. BOTTOM RIGHT: The Crowley Industrial Training School/Ross School as seen on the 1931 Sanborn map showing it was constructed that year. Looking at the current building, used as a head start program, it retains a similar shape to the building seen in 1931, but the architectural details point to either a newer building constructed in the 1950s or updates done in the 1950s with metal windows, etc. The elementary building is no longer standing.

Professor Ross's daughter, Jeanette May, was almost destined to go into education. She attended Southern University High School, starting at age 12 and graduating in 1919. After getting her teaching degree at Southern University in 1921, Jeanette returned home to Crowley and began teaching at the Ross School. Jeanette taught several subjects to seventh graders and ninth grade English, history, and algebra. She was also the music teacher and girls' basketball coach. In 1928, Jeanette Ross married David L. May, a fellow teacher at the Ross School. She would later receive a second bachelor's degree in library science in 1931 and became the school's first librarian. She also provide library services for other schools in the area on Saturdays. Jeanette's choirs became well known throughout the area for their wonderful performances. Mrs.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

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May was fondly remembered by her students and she retired from teaching after 46 years in 1967. In addition to teaching, Mrs. May held many other civic positions including a member of the Eastern Star, the National Association of University Women, the Women's Home Mission, Morningstar Baptist Church, and the American Legion Auxiliary.<sup>15</sup> Like her father before her, she also was heavily involved in the Peoples Investment Company. She was an avid member of the Retired Teachers Association as well.

David L. May was born in 1899, the same year Professor Ross arrived in Crowley. He served in the US Army during World War II and helped organized Miller Legion Post 504, serving as its first commander. After teaching at Crowley Industrial for a number of years, he was appointed principal in 1942 by Professor Ross. A 1944 *Crowley Daily Signal* article states that Principal May was leading a Red Cross donation drive at the Crowley Industrial Training School. He took part in a district meeting in 1953 with other principals of black schools in the 7<sup>th</sup> district held at Ross High School. Principals and teachers from the district participated in panel discussions and open forums to recognize and meet the needs of youths. Panel discussions focused on if schools were meeting the imperative needs of students and if not, how could they meet those needs. Principals and teacher came from DeRidder, Lake Charles, DeQuincy, and Allen Parish Training School among others.<sup>16</sup> Later that same year, another article was published honoring 22 seniors who earned diplomas at Ross High School. The president of Southern University, Dr. Felton Clark, spoke at the ceremony and Principal May handed out scholarships to five students.<sup>17</sup> David May would go on to be principal at Ross High School until 1967.

During their tenure as teachers and community leaders, the Mays regularly held meetings and gatherings at their house. The house's location one block from Ross High School made it intrinsically an extension of the school. Students fondly remember coming to the May House for luncheons, activities related to school fundraisers, and general meetings. It truly was an extension of Ross High School due to its location and its owners.

While David May's time as an educator and principal were extremely important, he was also significant as one of the first two African American aldermen ever elected to office in the state of Louisiana in 1954, along with Joseph Pete. Together, they were Louisiana's first black councilmen since Reconstruction, over 70 years earlier. At the time, prior to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case which ruled that segregation in schools was unconstitutional, all political power rested in the hands of whites. During the election, there were four men running for District 3, two whites – Russell Chachere and Frank Schenkel – and two blacks – Joseph Pete and David May. District 3 was predominantly black but had always been represented by a white councilman as most blacks were not registered to vote (or permitted to under Jim Crow era laws). In 1948, 765 black residents in Crowley were registered to vote – this is just a couple hundred more than the entire student population at Ross High School and was clearly a small percentage of the population.

During the campaign, Russell Chachere passed away unexpectedly. State election laws would not allow for someone else to take his place and it was clear now that at least one African American would be elected to office (the top two candidates in a district would earn seats on the council). A few days after Chachere's death, Mr. Schenkel withdrew from the race due to health. David May and Joseph Pete were now the only candidates left and would both be sworn in on July 1, 1954. This was a huge accomplishment in the city and state as most other comparable cities in the state would not elect blacks to office for another 1-2 decades. At the swearing in ceremony, Mr. May stated,

“I accept the charge given to me as councilman of our great city of Crowley. In carrying out that charge, I pray to discharge my duty as God has me to interpret it. I sense very keenly my

<sup>15</sup> Mary Alice Fontenot. “Jeannette R. May, A Lady of Ninety-One Summers. *Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, August 1, 1993, pg. 12A.

<sup>16</sup> “District Negro School Heads in Crowley Meet.” *Church Point News*. February 24, 1953, pg. 11.

<sup>17</sup> “22 Negro Seniors Win Diplomas at Acadia Program.” *Church Point News*. June 9, 1953, pg. 4.

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responsibility to the people of this city. They are looking to us to make this city a better place in which to live. They are looking to us to provide growth for our city. They are looking to us to be broadminded and understanding. They are looking to us to be alert and discreet. In carrying out my duty, my actions will be identified with integrity, with fairness, and with a sense of responsibility and justice.”<sup>18</sup>



Image taken from a 1985 *Crowley Daily Signal* honoring David May (left) and Joseph Pete showing their 1954 swearing in ceremony.

That same election, a fellow councilman, Edwin Edwards, was also elected. He would later go on to be a four time governor of the state. Edwards would later appoint David May as the first black member of the Board of Examiners and Nursing Home Administrators in 1975.<sup>19</sup> David May would serve as alderman from 1954 through 1962.<sup>20</sup> Mr. May made his office as alderman at the May House on N. Western Avenue. He served on many committees through the years including the finance, fire, public building, city beautification, and industrial expansion committees in 1958.<sup>21</sup> As this was his office during his terms as alderman (and beyond), the house itself is significant under Criterion A.

In addition to serving as councilman, David and Jeanette May continued to stay active in their community, often using their home as a meeting and gathering place. One organization that Jeanette was very active in, the National Association of University Women, regularly held meetings at the May House including a scholarship tea that was heavily advertised in the local paper in 1979.<sup>22</sup> They also continued to host students and teachers even after they had retired. In 1972, they held a luncheon for the 1954 graduates of Ross High School, including one alumni who now owns the May House.<sup>23</sup>

Together, the Mays were a driving force in the African American community in Crowley, particularly during a

<sup>18</sup> Gene Thibodeaux. "Louisiana's First Black Aldermen Took Office in Crowley." A Fresh Start Online Research Projects. [www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html](http://www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html). Accessed November 3, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> "Swearing In." *Crowley Post Signal*. June 13, 1975, pg. 6.

<sup>20</sup> "Last Minute Touches to Campaigns Being Made, Candidates Hope for Good Weather." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Friday, April 6, 1962, front page; Joseph Pete would go on to serve until 1982. Resources related to Joseph Pete may be eligible for listing on the National Register as well, but at the time, they have not been evaluated.

<sup>21</sup> "Mayor Names Committees." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, July 9, 1958, front page.

<sup>22</sup> "Upcoming Events." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, February 14, 1979. Pg. 3.

<sup>23</sup> "Present at Luncheon." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, December 27, 1972.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

time of segregation and during the integration period. They were longtime educators and leaders who were known throughout the community. Together, they were named Crowley's outstanding Citizens of the Year in 1980. That same year, David May was honored by the Council on Aging Board of Directors for his many contributions to the city, parish, and state. Like his wife, David was very active in other community organizations including the Retired Teachers Association, Acadiana Health Planning Commission, Louisiana Mental Health Association Board of Directors, Council on Aging, Governors Board of Elderly Affairs, Crowley City Recreation Committee, Housing Authority Board, Acadia Parish Library Board, President of the People's Investment Company, 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason, founding member of the Miller Post 504 American Legion, and the Southern University Alumni Federation.<sup>24</sup>

It is clear from the personal and published accounts mentioned above that David and Jeanette May were influential in the African American Community of Crowley from the 1920s through the 1980s as educators, leaders, and civic activists. Their home is significant as a place where many of their civic activities took place including meetings for both of their organizations. Their home contains Mr. May's office from when he served as one of two of the first black aldermen in the state. Their home was an extension of Ross High School where they both taught and served in leadership capacities for over 40 years. The only other resource associated with Mr. and Mrs. May during their productive years is Ross High School. It is still extant and stands on the 700 block of N. Western Ave. The building appears to retain exterior integrity, but its interior integrity is not known. The building is likely eligible on its own for its role in African American education in Crowley should it ever be looked at for listing. The May House though is the strongest candidate associated with the productive lives of both Mr. and Mrs. May. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

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#### Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical Resources

#### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"District Negro School Heads in Crowley Meet." *Church Point News*. February 24, 1953, pg. 11.

Fontenot, Mary Alice. "Jeannette R. May, A Lady of Ninety-One Summers." *Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, August 1, 1993, pg. 12A.

Interview with David and Jeanette Ross May, 1984. Acadia Parish Library. Transcribed by Jessica Richardson, September 2018.

"Last Minute Touches to Campaigns Being Made, Candidates Hope for Good Weather." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Friday, April 6, 1962, front page; Joseph Pete would go on to serve until 1982. Resources related to Joseph Pete may be eligible for listing on the National Register as well, but at the time, they have not been evaluated.

"Mayor Names Committees." *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, July 9, 1958, front page.

Mire, Ann. "The history of Crowley's black community." *The Crowley Post Signal*. Sunday, February 17, 2013, pg. 7A.

National Register of Historic Places. John S. Dawson High School, St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish,

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<sup>24</sup> "David May Ceremonies Held Monday Evening." *Crowley Post Signal*. Tuesday, February 26, 1980.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

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County and State

Louisiana, National Register #15000348.

“Swearing In.” *Crowley Post Signal*. June 13, 1975, pg. 6.

Thibodeaux, Gene. “Louisiana’s First Black Aldermen Took Office in Crowley.” A Fresh Start Online Research Projects. [www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html](http://www.revempete.us/research/blackaldermen.html). Accessed November 3, 2017.

“22 Negro Seniors Win Diplomas at Acadia Program.” *Church Point News*. June 9, 1953, pg. 4.

“Upcoming Events.” *Crowley Daily Signal*. Wednesday, February 14, 1979. Pg. 3.

“With our Colored People.” *Crowley Daily Signal*. Saturday, October 3, 1942.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**     N/A    

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property:** Less than an acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 30.212195                      Longitude: -92.381503

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The house is bounded by N. Western Ave to the west, W 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north N Ave A to the east, and W. Hutchinson Ave to the south. The specific boundaries, as there are other properties on the block, can be seen on the submitted plat map.

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
The chosen boundaries are the historic boundaries of the property.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator; Henry Clement  
organization: Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation  
street & number: PO Box 44247  
city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code: 70806  
e-mail: [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov)  
telephone: 225-219-4595  
date: October 2018

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
City or Vicinity: Crowley  
County: Acadia  
State: LA  
Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson  
Date of Photographs: August 2018

- 1 of 30: Façade of house; camera facing northeast.
- 2 of 30: View down N. Western Avenue towards the former Ross High School (building at center with central white front facing gable); camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 30: View of front porch; camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 30: View of southern elevation of house; camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 30: View of southern elevation of house; camera facing northwest.
- 6 of 30: View of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing northeast.
- 7 of 30: View of c. 1948 one car garage's rear elevation; camera facing north.
- 8 of 30: View of western elevation of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing northeast.
- 9 of 30: View of main façade of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 10 of 30: View of more recent post-Katrina two car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 11 of 30: View of eastern elevation of c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.



May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
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County and State

- 12 of 30: View of rear section of house and c. 1948 one car garage; camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 30: View of northern elevation of house; camera facing southwest.
- 14 of 30: View of northern elevation of house; camera facing southeast.
- 15 of 30: View of living room; camera facing west.
- 16 of 30: View of Mr. May's office; camera facing north.
- 17 of 30: View of Mr. May's office looking towards living room; camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 30: View of dining room into living room; camera facing southwest.
- 19 of 30: View of cabinets within the laundry room; camera facing southeast.
- 20 of 30: View of kitchen; camera facing northwest.
- 21 of 30: View of hall; camera facing southwest.
- 22 of 30: View of front bedroom; camera facing west.
- 23 of 30: View of hall; camera facing northeast.
- 24 of 30: View of original rear door, now leading into den; camera facing north.
- 25 of 30: View of closets and hallway leading into bathroom; camera facing southeast.
- 26 of 30: View of rear bedroom; camera facing west.
- 27 of 30: View of rear bedroom; camera facing east.
- 28 of 30: View of den; camera facing west.
- 29 of 30: View of living room; camera facing south.
- 30 of 30: View of living room looking towards office; camera facing southeast.

Returned

May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House  
Name of Property

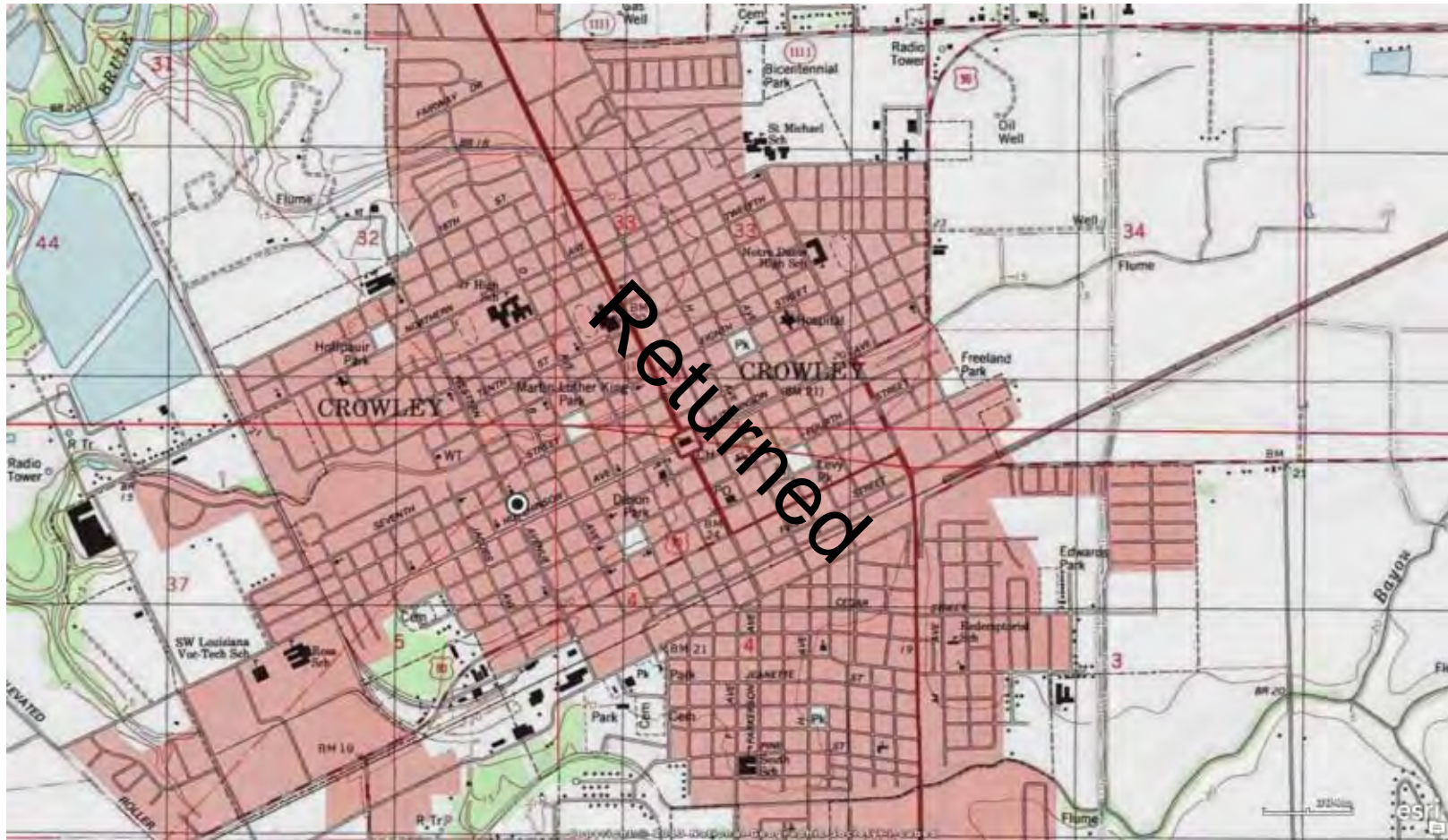
Acadia Parish, LA  
County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Returned

David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA



Latitude: 30.212195 Longitude: -92.381503



# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA - Plat and Boundary Map



Returned

**Parcels**  
  
**Lots**  




MAP ANALYST

POWERED BY



Acadia Parish, CHFA

# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House

Area Map  
Acadia Parish, LA

(Former) Ross High School

Returned

May House

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

300 ft



# David L. and Jeanette Ross May House

Site and Exterior Photo Map  
Acadia Parish, LA



- 14
- 13
- 12
- 11
- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1

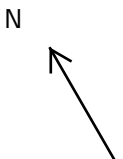
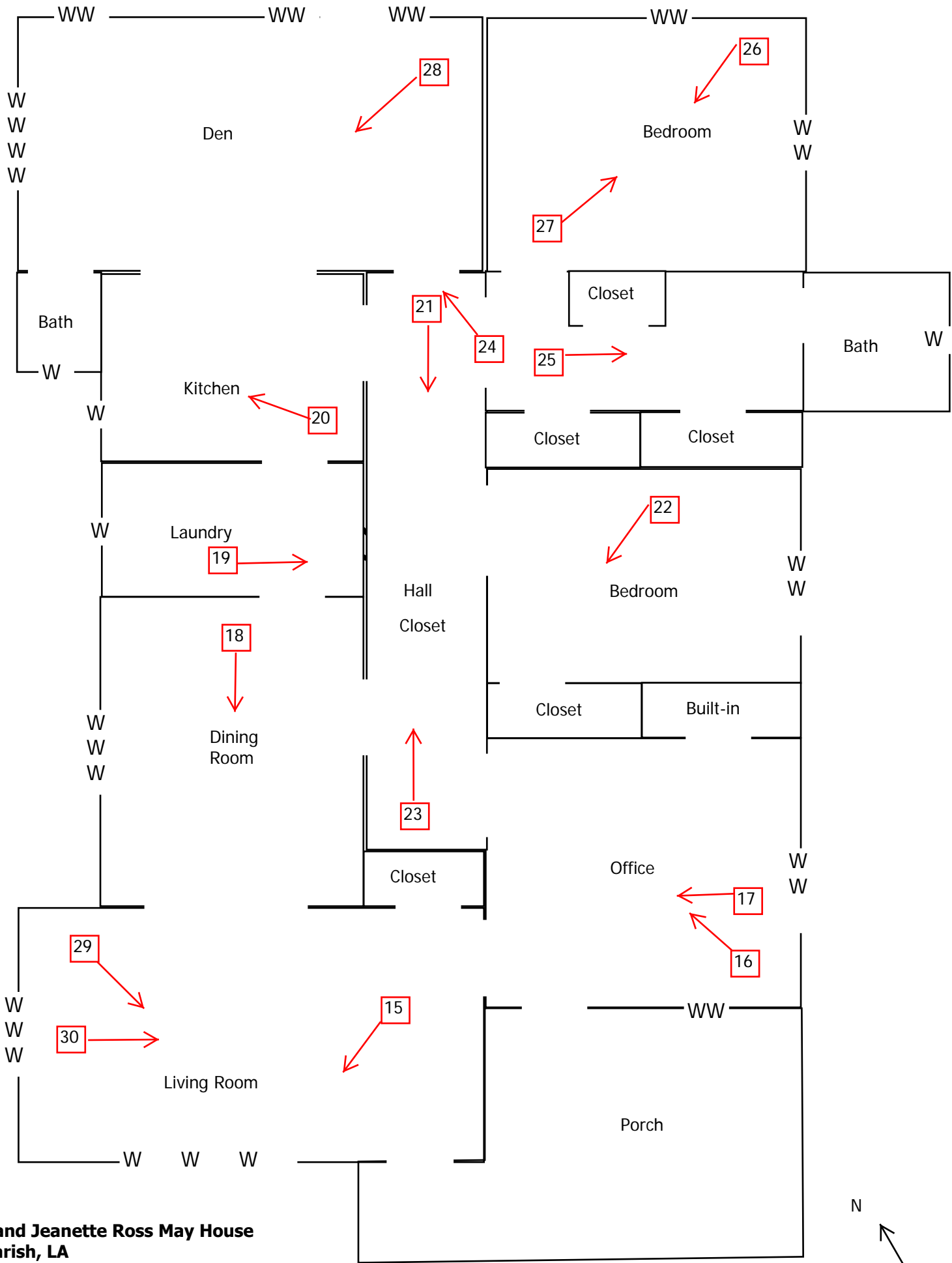
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Non-cont.

Review





**David L. and Jeanette Ross May House**  
**Acadia Parish, LA**  
**Interior Photo Key**  
 \*\*\*Not to Scale\*\*\*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/17/2018      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG  |   |

Accept     Return     Reject    1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date 1-31-2019

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

## The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Return/Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: May, David L. and Jeanette Ross, House, Acadia Parish, LA

Reference Number: 100003380

The nomination for the David L. and Jeanette Ross May House is being returned for technical revision

The nomination is marked in Section 3 as meeting Criteria A and B, then in Section 8 as Criterion B, then in the summary paragraph as Criterion A. The area of significance is Ethnic History: Black.

Based on the narrative that describes the importance of the Mays, I think that Criterion B is the most appropriate criterion to cite. I also believe that Ethnic History is not necessarily the appropriate area of significance – the Mays importance collectively is in education at the local level. David L. May also has independent significance for his political life. While both are African Americans, and their important roles in local society are highlighted because of their race, “Ethnic heritage” just does not seem to be the best fit.

I suggest changing the significance to Education and Politics. Both of the mays had an important local impact in education, and despite the existence of the Ross school nearby, I believe that the house is a good representative of this important role. And, since David May broke a number of barriers in his political career, this strengthens the case for the house.

Please feel free to contact either me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at [James\\_Gabbert@nps.gov](mailto:James_Gabbert@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Jim Gabbert, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
1/31/2019



BILLY NUNGESSER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 25, 2018

Tony Duhon  
PO Box 1463  
Crowley, LA 70526

Dear Tony:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic resource listed below will be considered by the State National Register Review Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

**David L. and Jeanette Ross May House  
Acadia Parish, LA**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed on the National Register, tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. Listing in the National Register does not place limitations on the property by the federal or state government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The government will not attach restrictive covenants to the property or seek to acquire them. A draft copy of the nomination and attachment is included with this letter.

One of your responsibilities as a Certified Local Government (CLG) is to review pending National Register nominations of properties within your community. This is required, in part, to detect any errors in fact, but also to provide local insight or knowledge concerning the property. I hope that you will consider the nomination for this property at your next meeting. After providing a reasonable opportunity for public comment, the Crowley Historic District Commission shall fill out the attached CLG review form as to whether or not, in their opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Within 60 calendar days of notice from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the chief elected official shall transmit their report to the SHPO. If the SHPO does not receive the report and recommendation within 60 calendar days, the nomination process will continue. All comments received will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the National Register Review Committee for consideration along with the nomination.

We have scheduled the nomination for presentation to the National Register Review Committee on **Thursday December 6, 2018**, and would like to receive your comments by that time in

Tony Duhon  
June 8, 2018  
Page 2

fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period.

You are invited to attend the National Register Review Committee meeting at which the nomination will be officially considered. The location and time have not been confirmed yet, but will be found on our website. Should you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Jessica Richardson at 225-219-4595 or at [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin P. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kristin Sanders  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**CROWLEY DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT FOR:  
DAVID L. AND JEANETTE ROSS MAY HOUSE  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG: City of Crowley  
PROPERTY NAME: MAY, DAVID L. AND Jeanette Ross House  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1576 N. Western Avenue Crowley, LA 70526  
DATE SENT: November 21, 2018  
DATE OF NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING: November 21, 2018  
Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places?  
Yes  No  Criterion: A  B  C  D

Has public comment been included? Yes  No  Explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination (use additional sheets if necessary):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tony Dubon Tony Dubon  
Historic District Commission Chair (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

11-21-18  
Date

Steven Premeaux Steven Premeaux  
Chief Elected Official (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

11-21-18  
Date



BILLY NUNGESSER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD H. HARTLEY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: February 12, 2019

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



FROM: Nicole Hobson-Morris, Director *nm*  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contain the true and corrected copy of the National Register Documentation for the David L. and Jeanette Ross May House to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. The information has been corrected per your comments for technical revisions. Should you have any questions, please contact me at [nmorris@crt.la.gov](mailto:nmorris@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Nicole

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- Other: Correspondence on CD

Comments:

- Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property)
- Other: