

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fischer House

AND/OR COMMON Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 15 Lake Street

CITY, TOWN Lake Providence VICINITY OF 5th - Jerry Huckaby
STATE Louisiana CODE 022 COUNTY East Carroll CODE 035

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brown

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 709

CITY, TOWN Lake Providence STATE Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. East Carroll Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lake Providence STATE Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1979
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge STATE Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fischer House is set on a large well treed lot on the western shore of Lake Providence.

The house is a broad spreading, hip-roofed Colonial Revival structure which is surrounded by a gallery, and raised a full story above the ground on brick piers.

The floor plan is largely open with a great corner room connecting to a rear hall which takes up over a third of the floor plan area. This room features elaborate board and batten stained pine wainscoting, a parquet floor, a heavy milled cornice, and large wainscotted ceiling panels. Some years after the house was built, a massive brick segmental arch fireplace was added with a heavy brick mantel shelf and a tapering medieval style flue. This fireplace, together with the dark wood walls and thirteen-foot ceiling gives the room the character of a medieval hall.

Apart from this large room, the main story is occupied by bedrooms and a kitchen. Most of the rooms have plate glass windows which go to the floor. The sixty- and seventy-foot galleries are composed of catalogue ordered, machined, Ionic columns of a type similar to those used in furniture of the period.

Some years ago the present owners enclosed the lower level of the house so as to form a ground story. Appropriate landscaping has been installed so as to obscure this work as much as possible. Originally there was a front staircase, but this has been removed due to decay.

Adjacent to the house is a ca. 1920 frame garage and to the rear is a tennis court.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph L. Fischer, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fischer House is significant in the areas of architecture and social/humanitarian.

The main living space, with its dark wood wainscoting and massive fireplace, is one of the most impressive interiors in the area. It also occupies an important place in the history of Louisiana architecture because it represents the culmination of a late 19th and early 20th century tendency towards openness of floor plan. In Queen Anne houses, large sliding doors were frequently used to open living rooms, halls, and parlors onto one another, so as to unify public areas. The Fischer House went beyond this, eliminating the walls entirely, and creating a truly open floor plan. Since this is a development for which the modernist movement has often claimed credit, it is significant to find an example of it in a small Louisiana town in 1905.

The house was built about 1905 by Joseph L. Fischer, the owner of a local lumber company. He purchased the site in 1904 from the Providence Land Company. Fischer and his family resided in the house until 1920, when due to business reverses he sold it to Walter Pittman. It remained in the hands of his family until 1929, when they sold it to the Lake Providence American Legionnaires. For the next nine years, the house was the scene of many of the community's social gatherings, including Legion functions, Rotary meetings, wedding receptions, bachelor dinners, and dances. In 1938 the Pittman family reacquired the home and retained it until 1968, when James Stewart Pittman, Jr. sold it to some local developers. Soon after, the Fischer house was purchased by its present owners.

Recollections of the older citizens of Lake Providence indicate that during the early part of this century, Fischer house played an important role in the life of the town. This was as a social center for the community. To begin with Mrs. Norce Fischer entertained frequently in the house. In 1929 the house was bought by the American Legion. The large open space upstairs was used for Rotary meetings, wedding receptions, bachelor dinners, lovely dances complete with name orchestras and was, in general, the city social center. The lake front was made into a public swim area and a pier was constructed for public fishing. The Red Cross gave swim lessons and provided a life guard during the summer months.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Gayle, Research Report on Fischer House, located in National Register file on Fischer House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.
 Pinkston, Georgia P. D., A Place to Remember: East Carroll Parish, La., 1832-1976 (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1977), pp. 48-49.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 669340 3631420
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brown

ORGANIZATION _____

DATE _____

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER _____

TELEPHONE _____

P. O. Box 709

CITY OR TOWN _____

STATE _____

Lake Providence

Louisiana 71254

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donald Lanier

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/5/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shell

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-11-80

ATTEST:

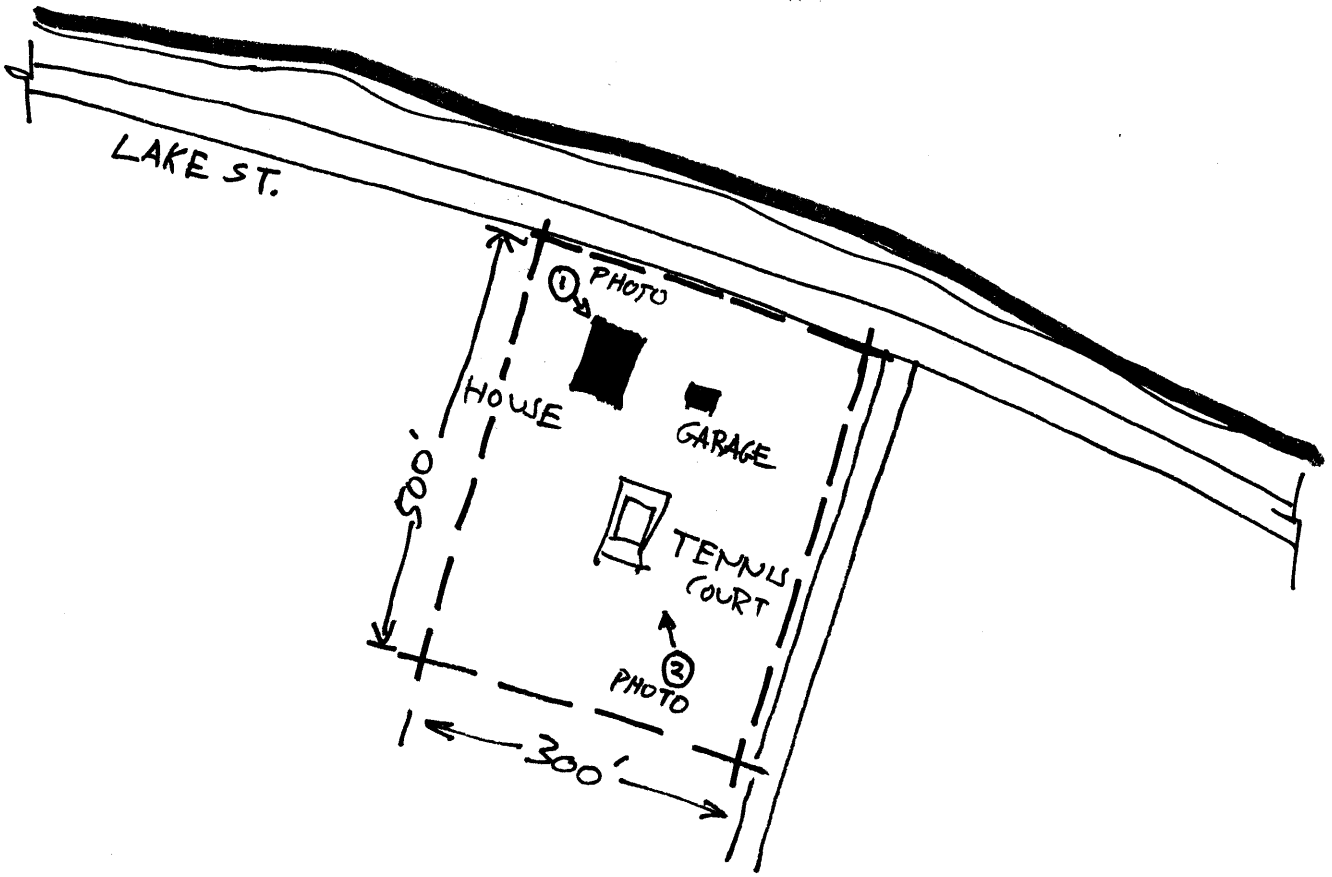
Seth Grosvenor

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

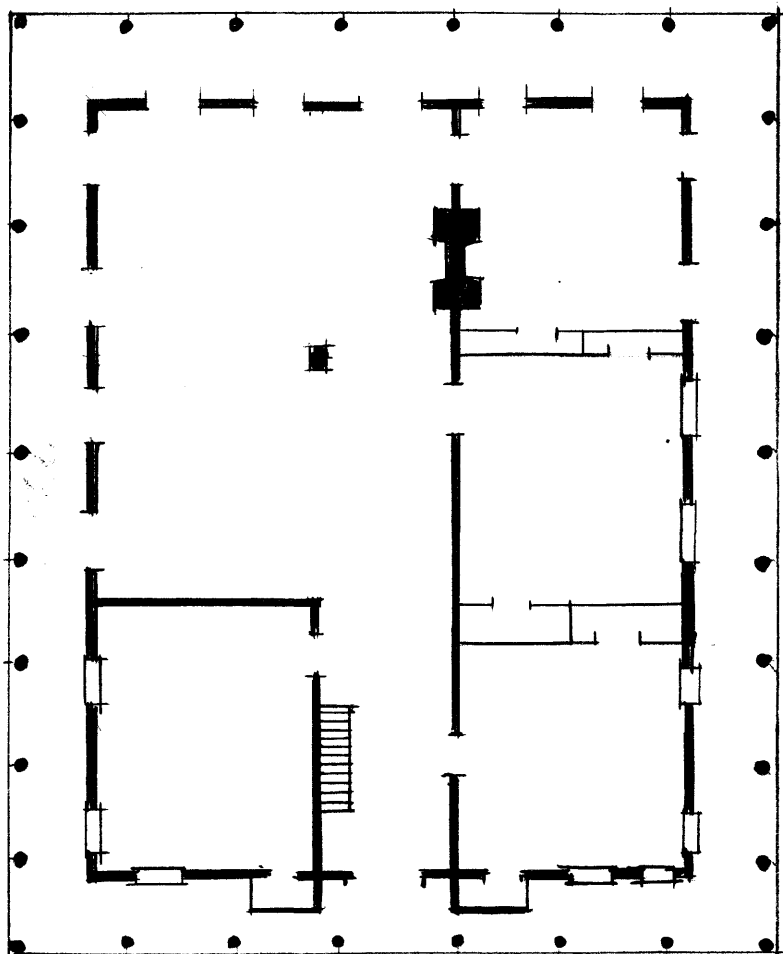
DATE

1/7/80

LAKE
PROVIDENCE



LAKE PROVIDENCE



FISCHER HOUSE