

1873

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP 29 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Forest Home  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number near intersection of Johns Rd & Johns Gin Rd.  N/A not for publication  
city, town Four Forks  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo Parish code 017 zip code 71046

3. Classification

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

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin September 29, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Helene Bryan 10/30/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_roof asphaltother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Forest Home (c. 1858) is a monumental single story frame Greek Revival plantation house located in rural southern Caddo Parish. The house has been little altered since construction and hence retains its National Register eligibility.

The house is elegantly proportioned, featuring a high raised basement, a main floor sixteen feet in height, a fairly massive entablature, and a large all-encompassing hip roof. The roof culminates in a two bay lantern which at one time was surmounted by a balustrade. The gallery, which runs along three sides of the house, has an unusual articulation. On the side elevations, thin square posts with molded capitals run from the gallery floor to the entablature. By contrast, the facade features more massive tapered octagonal pillars which stand upon brick pedestals independently of the gallery floor. These pillars are surmounted by complex drip molded capitals. The front gallery balustrade, which stands approximately a foot behind the octagonal pillars, is enriched with free-standing pedestals supporting turned urns. Other noteworthy exterior details include the denticular architrave above the gallery, the windows with their ear-molded frames with pediment shaped tops, and the front entranceway. This doorway is set in a massive aedicule motif with pilasters enriched with fretwork cuts. The transom and sidelights have unusual lozenge shaped panes.

The interior is anchored by a central hall which runs to a depth of three rooms. Principal rooms are linked to the gallery by means of paneled jib doors. Two of the front rooms connect by means of sliding pocket doors. One might conclude that this area was a double parlor, but the family story asserts that these were always bedrooms. This assertion is borne out by the fact that the mantels here are plain aedicule style, and the dado features a plain board wainscot without bolection moldings. In addition, one of the rooms has a built-in closet adjacent to the chimney flue. Behind these two rooms is a stairhall with two narrow staircases, one leading to the unfinished basement, the other to the attic. The principal parlor culminates in an unusual aedicule style mantel with fretwork enriching both the pilasters and the entablature. This room also features a paneled dado. Other rooms feature plainer mantels but have bolection molded wainscotting. The central hall echoes this feature. Drip molded cornices are another noteworthy interior feature.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Assessment of Integrity

In about 1900 the gallery ceiling was fitted with ornamental pressed metal. This is a historic alteration and should not be regarded as a loss of integrity.

Since that time other changes have been made, which are as follows:

- (1) In about 1940 the rear portion of a side gallery was enclosed for an additional room.
- (2) As previously mentioned, the lantern balustrade has been lost. In addition, some of the lantern windows have been covered.
- (3) A wooden awning has been added over the rear entrance.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, these alterations should be regarded as minor when one considers how impressive and intact the house is overall.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c. 1858

Significant Dates  
c. 1858

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Probable Builder: M. Robbins (see note below)

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

Forest Home is of local significance in the area of architecture as far and away the finest example among a very limited number of Greek Revival buildings in Caddo Parish.

Although Forest Home is related architecturally to the outstanding collection of Greek Revival buildings in DeSoto Parish, it actually stands just inside adjacent Caddo Parish. Even within the context of DeSoto Parish, it would be considered a superior example of the Greek Revival. Within Caddo Parish, it is by far the largest, grandest, and most richly styled Greek Revival building. This is important because Caddo Parish contains one of the state's richest and most varied collections of historic structures. But, because the present Caddo Parish patrimony is largely the result of a late nineteenth century railroad boom and an early twentieth century oil boom, there is very little pre-Italianate material extant. In fact, although no complete survey has ever been done, Caddo Parish is thought to contain only about five or six Greek Revival buildings, based upon staff knowledge of the area. All but one of these are galleried cottages with rectangular posts and molded capitals. The only exception to this is Forest Home which, in contrast to its fellows, would stand as a Greek Revival plantation house of the first rank along the Great River Road. Its importance can be seen in its impressive three sided gallery which culminates in a free-standing octagonal pillared front, its noteworthy fretwork ornamented central entrance, its considerable size, and its rich interior detail, including what is certainly the parish's only fretwork ornamented Greek Revival mantel.

Historical Note Concerning Probable Builder:

Forest Home bears the distinctive stamp of M. Robbins, who built several large houses in the 1850s for the area's wealthiest planters. No documentation, however, has been uncovered to prove that Robbins built the house, although the architectural evidence is quite strong. The Robbins trademark was columns resting on high brick bases with the gallery floor recessed behind the bases, like at Forest Home. Also, the octagonal columns at Forest Home, which are quite unusual, are almost identical to those at Buena Vista, a documented Robbins

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

On-site inspection by National Register staff of Forest Home and staff knowledge of Caddo Parish's patrimony based upon numerous visits over the years.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property @ 1 1/8 acres

UTM References

A 15 403350 3563700  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were cut to include the significant resource and its immediate setting. To have followed property lines would have meant including hundreds of acres of vacant land.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1989

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

**United States Department of the Interior  
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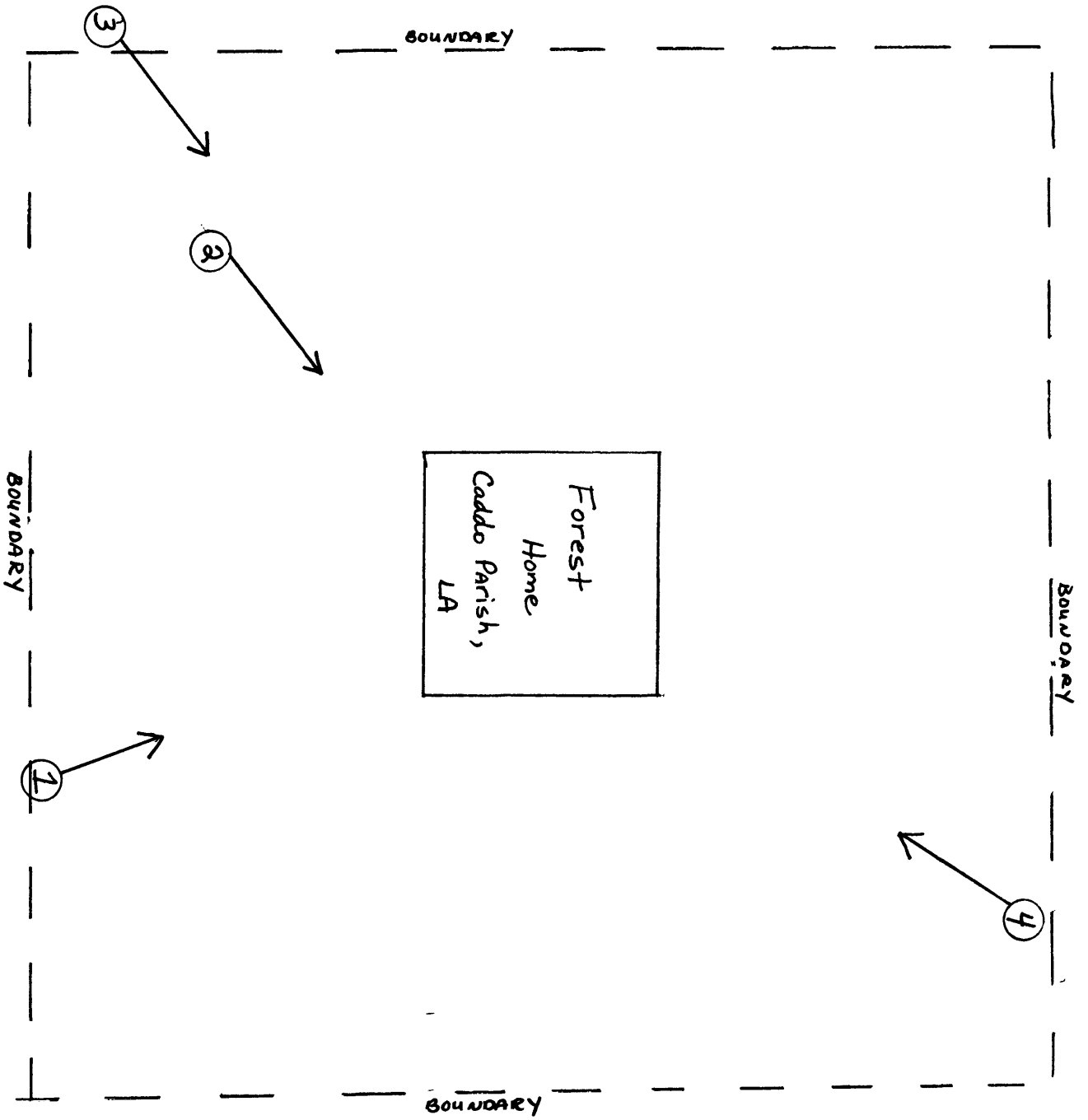
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house. (The ones at Forest Home are more massive.) Because Robbins' gallery articulation is so distinctive, the State Historic Preservation Office feels quite comfortable in assigning authorship of Forest Home to this master builder.



1" = 40'

