

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

APR 10 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Stribling House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number U. S. Hwy. 84 N/A not for publication
city, town Mansfield X vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county DeSoto code 031 zip code 71032

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 | <u>1</u> | _____ objects |
| | | | <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.
W. Edwin Martin, LA Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer April 4, 1989
Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Shelore Byan 5/11/89
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Italianate

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stribling House is an 1860s one story frame Greek Revival-Italianate galleried cottage located about ten miles west of Mansfield on U. S. Highway 84. Although the setting is rural, the house is fairly close to the highway. The front gallery is a reproduction of the original and there have been alterations at the rear; however, the house still retains its local architectural significance within DeSoto Parish.

The core of the present house is a two room log cabin that was on the site when Dr. Milton Oliver Stribling purchased it in 1854. The property has remained in the family, and is currently owned by Stribling's grandson, Milton Baker. According to family history, Dr. Stribling began remodeling and adding to the cabin in the 1860s, with the aid of an itinerant German craftsman. The end product of this major renovation was a new house that engulfed the older cabin. The log walls remain encased within the present structure, but nothing is actually visible to indicate this earlier period.

The house has a central entrance hall that extends back about two-thirds of the main block. On the west side is a large parlor and on the east, a large bedroom. The central hall ends in double doors opening into an area that was perhaps originally an open porch but is now enclosed. To the left of this room is what was originally a small bedroom (now converted to a bathroom). To the right is a bedroom with another bedroom behind it. The latter forms an ell wing.

At first glance the Stribling House appears to be a standard galleried Greek Revival cottage with a fairly conventional Italianate balustrade. However, closer inspection reveals unusual "carpenter Italianate" woodwork, making the house very much the personal statement of the German craftsman hired by Dr. Stribling. The front doorway in some respects is fairly typical, with its pediment shaped top, two sets of pilasters, transom and sidelights. The carpenter's "signature" is found on the smaller pilasters framing the double doors. Instead of a standard capital, there is an elongated superimposed decorative block. This ornamentation is echoed at the bottom of each pilaster. The front gallery windows feature a similar molded block treatment, a cornice with several layers of molding, and a richly molded panel below each window.

This unusual woodwork is if anything more pronounced on the interior, with all door and window surrounds in the hallway and two front rooms featuring elongated superimposed decorative blocks supporting a heavy entablature with a richly molded cornice. As on the front gallery, the molded block design is

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Continuation Sheet

Stribling House, Mansfield vic., DeSoto Parish

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repeated at the base. Many of these doors and windows also have a curious shoulder mold formed of a separate molding strip framing the surround and continuing down to become a baseboard molding. It is interesting to note that the woodwork on the house is not standardized. For example, although they may look similar, two surrounds in the same room can be slightly different in their various molding profiles.

Other noteworthy interior features:

- (1) The heavily molded mantel in the west front room has paneled pilasters and panels in the entablature that read as pilaster capitals. The mantel is Greek Revival in its overall shape, but the rich and heavy molding reflects the Italianate taste.
- (2) The mantel in the east front room is more atypical. It has no entablature. Tall, narrow paneled pilasters extend above the point where the entablature should normally begin, but not as far as the heavily molded mantel shelf.
- (3) The original hand planed ceiling boards remain in all of the rooms. The walls of the central hall are also sheathed in hand planed boards.
- (4) The woodwork in the rear rooms is simpler than that previously mentioned and none of it is consistent. One room has one door surround with a pediment shaped top and the carpenter's "signature" decorative blocks at the base and another much plainer frame that flares outward at the top. Yet another rear room has more typical shoulder molding with a slight pediment shaped top.

Windows on the main block are six over six. The elaborate woodwork on the front gallery windows has already been described. The frames on the west elevation feature shoulder molds and a pediment shape top, while those on the east elevation are plain.

Alterations since the 1860s remodeling:

- (1) The front gallery columns, denticular cornice, and balustrade are a recently completed reproduction of the originals. The current owner's mother had removed the original gallery details in the 1920s or '30s and installed bungalow style columns. The Division of Historic Preservation staff visited the house in 1987 and advised the owner that his Register prospects would be enhanced if he restored the gallery. There were several good historic photos to go by, as well as surviving pilasters. The owner, himself a master carpenter, did all the work himself, having special knives made to execute the moldings. It should be noted that

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the reproduced column capitals do not exactly match the original pilaster capitals. The owner indicates that close inspection of the photos in his possession shows that his reproductions are correct. Given the rest of the house's woodwork, it is possible that the column and pilaster capitals never matched exactly. In any event, the slight difference would only be noticeable to a trained observer, and is only mentioned in this submission to make the written record as complete as possible.

- (2) An original linear free-standing kitchen/dining room building located to the rear has been modernized and linked to the house by a connecting wing.
- (3) The two rear bedrooms on the eastern side were fitted with double windows in the early twentieth century.

Assessment of Integrity

The house's significance rests upon its unusual "carpenter Italianate" woodwork, which survives completely intact.

NB: The tiny shed shown in Photo 6 was not counted as a non-contributing element because it is not "substantial in size and scale."

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
1860s

Significant Dates
1860s

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

The Stribling House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it features a rare and distinctive treatment within the context of DeSoto Parish.

DeSoto Parish is well known for its Greek Revival residential architecture. Although numerous and a vital part of the parish's architectural identity, most are fairly conventional examples of the style. Aside from this architectural flowering, the parish's residential patrimony consists almost exclusively of ordinary examples of the Queen Anne Revival, Colonial Revival, and bungalow styles or nondescript cottages and farmhouses. There is very little in the way of residential Italianate, and the handful of examples that do exist are in the Greek Revival style with the Italianate taste reflected in rich molding profiles and rounded transom windows. The most conspicuous residential Italianate feature in the parish is the broad lantern atop the Mundy-McFarland House (N.R.).

It is against this background that the Stribling House achieves its architectural distinction. It is one of very few residences to reflect the Italianate taste, let alone one to feature such an unusual interpretation. In comparison to its more conventional contemporaries, the Stribling House represents a craftsman's colorful and idiosyncratic statement. Of course, this is evident principally in the distinctive door and window surrounds found on the front gallery openings and in even greater abundance on the interior.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.
Historic photos in possession of owner.

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

Acreage of property _____ less than one acre _____

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

C

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

D

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

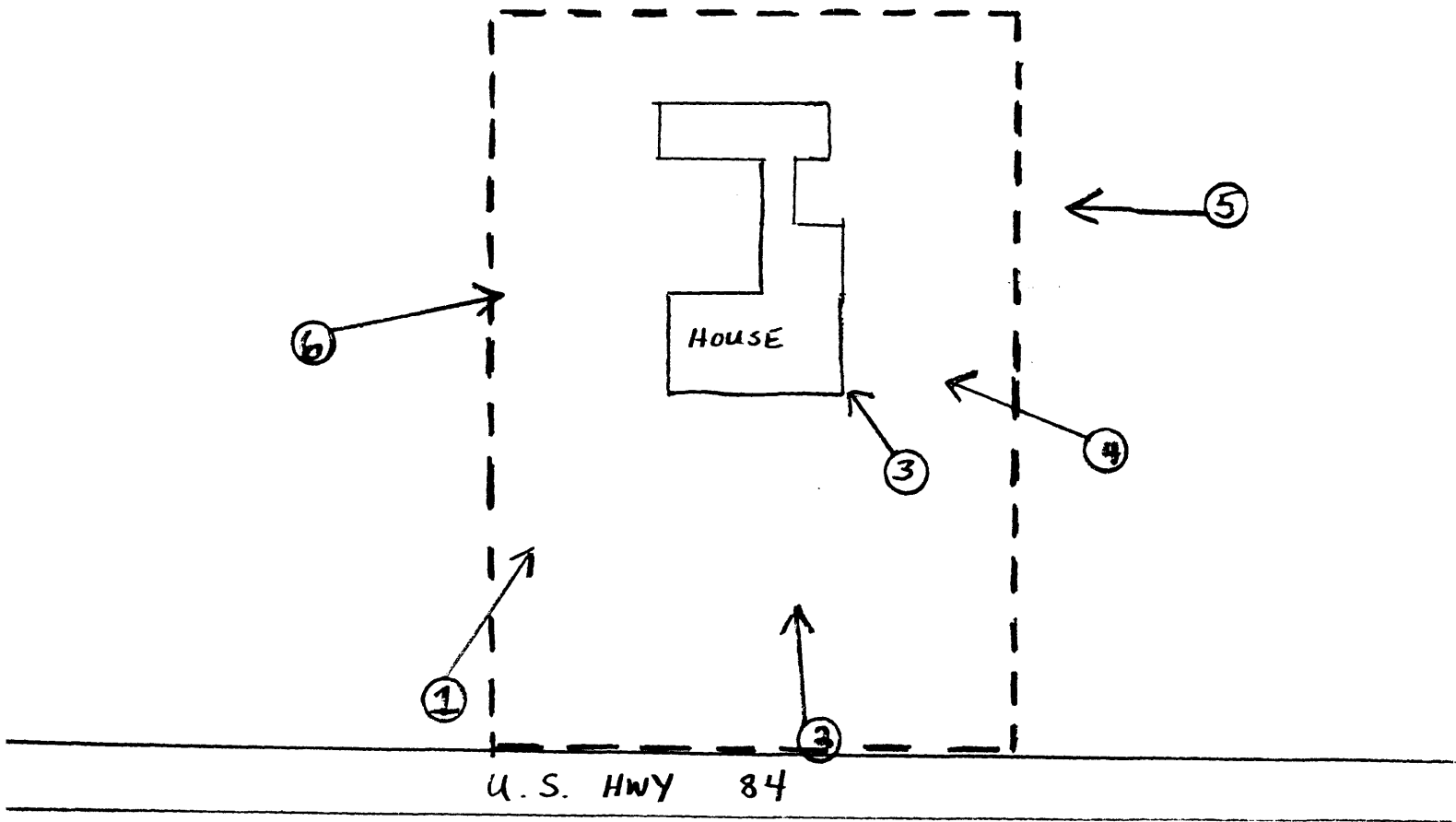
Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. To have followed property lines would have meant including an unnecessarily large acreage (480 acres).

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1989
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Present Owner: Milton M. Baker
Rt. 1, Box 26
Grand Cane, LA 71032



Stribling House
DeSoto Parish, LA

--- BOUNDARY

