

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **APR 17 1986**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Vickers House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Highway 15 N/A not for publication

city, town Alto N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Richland Parish code 083

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Leon Dupeire

street & number P. O. Box 23

city, town Alto N/A vicinity of state LA 71216

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland Parish Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square P. O. Box 119

city, town Rayville state LA 71269

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vickers House (c.1870) is a story-and-a-half frame late Greek Revival residence located in the small rural community of Alto. Although there has been a rear addition, the house itself has been little altered over the years.

The Vickers House is constructed with a pegged frame; however, much of the actual structure is board and batten. The predominant wood is cypress. The plan features a central hall with two rooms each side. An unusual stair ascends from the rear of the hall to the finished garret. The staircase is unusual because it features a continuous wall of tongue and groove boards below the banister rail. The front rooms communicate with the gallery by means of six over six windows with jib doors. Originally there was no rear gallery; the house just ended with a clapboard wall.

Most of the walls and ceilings in the house are exposed board and batten, including the front gallery. The exceptions, of course, are the exterior walls on the sides and rear. Boards average about twelve to thirteen inches while battens average about four inches.

The front gallery has six Tuscan pillars surmounted by a full entablature. At each end of the front wall is a pilaster echoing the columns. The facade has five openings, each of which is framed in a Tuscan aedicule motif. This style is echoed on the four mantels.

An unusual feature of the house is its numerous shallow pointed arches. These occur in the lower third of the front window friezes and in a similar position in two of the four mantels. Pointed arches also occur in the three front dormers. Each dormer has a casement window and a decoratively cut vergeboard gable, both of which appear to be original, contrary to what one might think.

The house has three additional elements worthy of note: (1) The two front rooms feature a chair rail with a dado formed of a single eighteen inch plank. (2) The front door transom and side lights retain their original red and green stained glass panes. (3) Virtually all of the interior woodwork (mantels, doors, etc.) is grained to resemble oak.

Alterations:

Sometime after the house was built, a partial rear gallery was added. Later (c.1930) a rear kitchen wing was added. More recently, a bathroom has been installed, the crumbling chimneys have been cut off at the roofline, and the front gallery floor has been replaced in kind as part of the current rehabilitation project. The wing is not visible from the front and the other changes are minor; hence, in our opinion, there is no question of integrity loss.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1870 **Builder/Architect** Capt. Vickers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Vickers House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is easily the most important historic building known to exist in Richland Parish. No survey exists for the parish, but the State Historic Preservation Office staff is familiar with the area, having tried on and off for several years to find Register eligible properties. (Until recently Richland was the only parish without a Register listing.) The parish's patrimony is characterized almost entirely by ordinary bungalows, plain cottages, and pedestrian commercial buildings. The only known exceptions are two early twentieth century bank buildings and the Vickers House. Taken within this context, the Vickers House is of immense architectural importance on the local level. It is the parish's only intact example of the Greek Revival style. (The only other example is a very plain, greatly altered country Greek Revival church.) The Vickers House is also a noteworthy Greek Revival residence for reasons other than rarity. Its impressive front gallery, aedicule motif fenestration, false graining, and overall intactness would establish it as an important example in any parish in northern Louisiana, and most certainly in Richland Parish.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Records, old photos, etc. at Altus Museum, Alto, Louisiana.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .73 acre

Quadrangle name Mangham, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	6	0	7	2	5	0	3	5	8	0	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary lines follow property lines of the lot on which the house stands, said lot measuring 132.60 feet by 240 feet. See attached property plat map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title State of Louisiana ASSISTED BY OWNER

organization Division of Historic Preservation
National Register Staff date February 1986

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

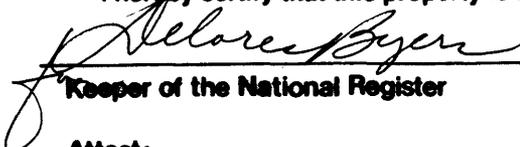
title State Historic Preservation Officer Robert B. DeBlieux date March 27, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/15/86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

Photo
Map

Direction

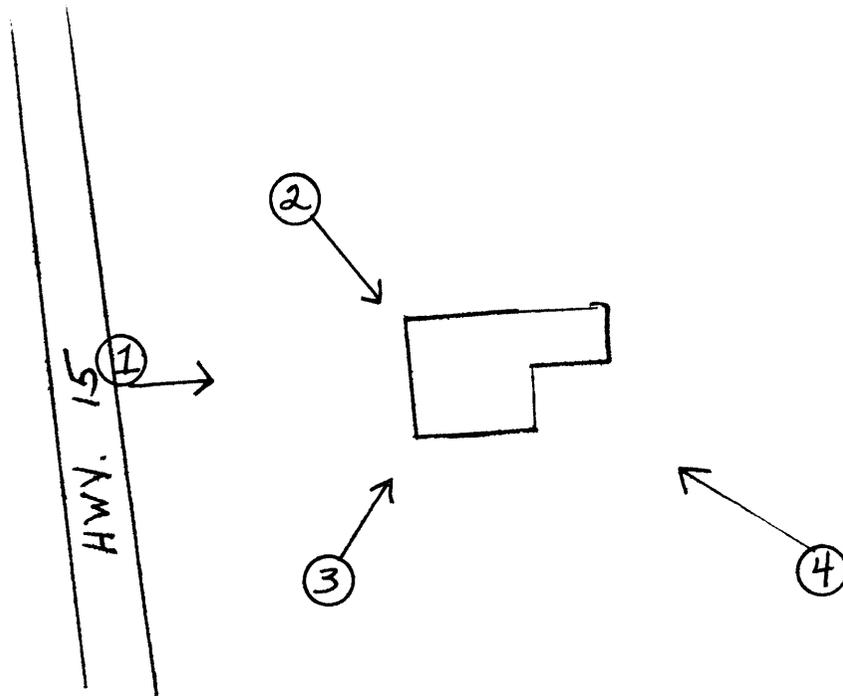
VICKERS HOUSE

Alto

Richland Parish, LA



NOT TO SCALE





L. B. BOONE

Vickers House
Richland Parish
LA

240.00'

HWY. NO 15

132.60'

0.73 Ac.

L. B. BOONE

5221.37' E
132.60'

THIS IS A BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH MRS. VERA THOMASON
AND SHELLY THOMAS (MRS. VERA THOMASON)

240.00

BOUNDARY

VERA B. THOMASON

CERTIFICATE: This is to certify that I have surveyed
above lot with encumbrances shown hereon.

LA HWY NO. 8

SEC. 21, T88N R36E

40.77'

PLAN OF SURVEY



WALTER H. BERRY, INC.
P. O. BOX 210
NAT. VILLAGE, LA 70289

SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

ALL