

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

For NPS use only

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

received **DEC 22 1987**
date entered **JAN 21 1986**

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

1. Name

historic Kirby House

and or common

2. Location

street & number Corner of Spencer & Pearl Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Trinity N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Catahoula code 025
~~county~~

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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A 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 Myrtle Ann Fairbanks Collins

street & number 1505 North Park Street

city, town Jonesville N/A vicinity of state LA 71343

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Catahoula Parish Courthouse

street & number Fourth St. (no specific address) P. O. Drawer 198

city, town Harrisonburg state LA 71340

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1987 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kirby House is a story-and-a-half late Greek Revival frame cottage located on a large lot in the small village of Trinity, which is on the outskirts of the town of Jonesville. Conveyance records indicate that a house existed on the property in 1862, but the architectural evidence (i.e., the column capitals and complex moldings) suggests a late 1870's date. Because neither the archival or architectural evidence is conclusive and because 1862 is not totally impossible, we have chosen the earlier date as the official one for this submission. Although the house has received several alterations since construction, it is important enough within its local context to merit listing on the National Register.

The Kirby House has a central entrance with a central hall which gives way to an open rear gallery set between large cabinets. At each end of the hall is a giant set of double doors with transoms and side lights. Chimneys are set between the front and rear walls. The rear gallery contains a primitive staircase which leads to the large but unfinished attic. The attic is lit by two forward facing gabled dormers. The front gallery columns are Greek Revival, but with unusual details. The capitals feature a narrow drip mold circumscribed over an inverted cyma recta molding. In addition, the necking is formed of a nail head molding. The front entrance is set within a massive shoulder molded frame. The mantel in the principal parlor has a Greek Revival shape, but with curious brackets, complex panels, and an elaborate molding pattern. Clearly this mantel could not date from 1862. If the house does indeed date from 1862, then the mantel is obviously a c.1880 alteration. The other surviving mantel is in one of the cabinets and is very plain. Other decorative features include chair rails and four panel doors with bolection moldings.

Alterations:

In the early twentieth century the rear gallery was enclosed, many of the original six over six windows were replaced with two over two windows, and beaded boarding was installed below the chair rails. In addition, a false gallery was added which displaced the original modillion cornice. Later on one of the chimneys was taken out, two mantels were removed, a new rear porch was added and asbestos siding was installed on the side and rear elevations. Still later a carport was added onto the side of the house. The present porch balustrade dates from sometime in the twentieth century. Appearances to the contrary, the present drop siding on the front elevation is in fact original.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the above admittedly noteworthy alterations, the Kirby House still retains its Greek Revival styling, which is the source of its local architectural significance. The principal features in this regard are the unusual columns and the shoulder molded front doorway. Other surviving character-defining elements include the house's basic form and fenestration pattern, the unusual parlor mantel, and a considerable amount of decorative molding. In addition, the Kirby House represents a type so rare (indeed unique) within its local context that even a compromised example is still very significant.

To the rear of the house is a modern non-contributing dependency, as shown on the enclosed sketch map.

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.1862 **Builder/Architect** Builder: uncertain

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Kirby House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the architectural landmark of the greater Jonesville-Trinity area. It is significant within this context because of its Greek Revival styling.

The village of Trinity and the town of Jonesville are adjacent to each other and are essentially a single entity. Although it is older, Trinity is now basically a suburb of Jonesville. Jonesville is by far the largest town in Catahoula Parish and one of only three incorporated municipalities. It was platted in 1871 and incorporated as a village in 1903. Trinity was platted in 1837, and because of its location at the confluence of the Tensas, Ouachita and Little Rivers, it grew to be a prosperous river town prior to the Civil War.

The Jonesville-Trinity area was recently surveyed as part of the State Historic Preservation Office's comprehensive historic structures inventory. The survey identified 344 buildings in the greater Jonesville area that were fifty years old or older. Almost all of these are humble unornamented cottages and shotguns. There are also a few Queen Anne Revival houses and bungalows along with a handful of plain commercial buildings. Taken against this background, the Kirby House is clearly the architectural landmark. It is the only building with Greek Revival features, and hence represents the earliest architectural heritage of the Jonesville-Trinity area. In fact, it is the only building with pre-Queen Anne Revival styling.

Historical Note:

The house is known as the Kirby House because it has been owned by the Kirby family since December 18, 1902.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Catahoula Parish.
Comprehensive Historic Structures Survey, Catahoula Parish.
1905 photograph of Kirby House.
Jonesville Through the Mirror of Time. Volume 1, December 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 2 acres
Quadrangle name Jonesville North, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	1	2	6	6	0	3	5	0	0	0	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries follow the property lines of the block on which the building stands, said block bounded by Pearl Street, Wall Street, Spencer Street, and Main Street.

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 National Register Staff ASSISTED BY THE OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date August 1987

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 Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 16, 1987

For NPS use only

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

included in the
National Register

date 1-21-88

Keeper of the National Register

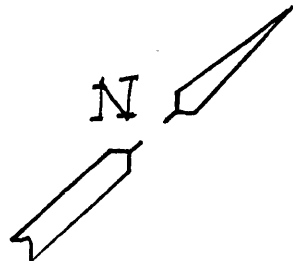
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

SCALE 1" = 50'

WALL ST.



NON-CONTRIBUTING
DEPENDENCY

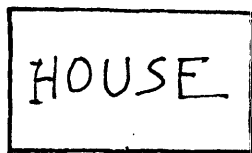
KIRBY
HOUSE

CATAHOULA
PARISH, LA.

SPENCER ST.

MAIN ST.

BOUNDARY



PEARL ST.

