

1874

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 27 1989

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 Wildwood
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number off LA HWY 15 N/A not for publication
city, town Sicily Island X vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Catahoula Parish code 025 zip code 71326

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	1 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 28, 1989
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date
Officer, 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.
 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:)

Alonzo Egan _____ 10/30/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Eastlake

foundation brickwalls weatherboardroof asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Wildwood is a one-and-one-half story frame cottage, with Eastlake and Italianate details, located near the Tensas River in rural Catahoula Parish. Built in about 1850, the house was significantly remodeled in the 1890s. Despite some more recent alterations, Wildwood retains its National Register eligibility.

The house began as a central hall cottage, two rooms deep. There is some evidence that at one time it had an open dogtrot corridor. Surviving mid-nineteenth century features include the fairly massive interior chimneys, the floorboards, the nine over nine windows, and the pegged frame. It appears that in the late nineteenth century the dogtrot was enclosed with double leaf doors under a transom at each end. Also, at that time much of the siding was replaced and a new gallery was added consisting of square posts, low-key Italianate brackets, and rows of Eastlake spindles. In addition, the interior was fitted with new heavily molded doors and presumably with new mantels as well, although these have subsequently been lost. The present attic windows appear to date from about 1930. Also in about 1930 the rear gallery was enclosed and extended.

When the present owners acquired the house, it had been abandoned for some time and was deteriorated. The house was extensively repaired and the following modern alterations were made:

1. The rear elevation was fitted with picture windows which gave a newly remodeled kitchen a view out to Hoover Lake.
2. The mantels having been lost, the chimneys were treated so as to provide massive exposed brick mantels.
3. Two walls were removed in the south parlor, thus exposing the chimney on all four sides.
4. A new modern style staircase was installed in the central hall.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these changes, the house retains its historic (late nineteenth century) exterior appearance on all but the rear elevation. Because the styling and articulation of the facade is the source of Wildwood's architectural significance, it can be said to retain its National Register eligibility.

There is a modern garage immediately adjacent to the house. Of course, it is listed as a non-contributing element. See continuation sheet

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
1890s

Significant Dates
1890s

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.

Wildwood is of local significance in the area of architecture as a landmark in the somewhat depleted architectural heritage of Catahoula Parish.

This large rural parish was created in 1803, but despite its age, it contains a relative paucity of historic structures. Efforts to document the remaining older buildings culminated in a comprehensive historic structures survey of the parish conducted in 1986. The survey identified some 418 50+ year old structures, most of which are bungalows or post 1930 residences or commercial buildings. The parish also contains ten mid-nineteenth century cottages, of various levels of pretention, and twenty-seven c.1870 to c.1900 cottages, along with thirteen relatively plain Queen Anne Revival houses.

Of course, Wildwood must be judged as an example of late nineteenth century architecture. It occupies a special niche in this regard, being the only period cottage to feature fashionable ornamentation -- i.e., the low-key Italianate brackets and the rows of Eastlake spindles. All other cottages from this period are plain. Thus Wildwood stands as a local landmark being a relatively distinguished member from among the parish's second oldest body of surviving historic architecture.

The State Review Committee asked that the following historical note be appended to the nomination:

In 1872, the site of Wildwood, Louisiana was approved for a post office. The building housing the post office was either the nominated house or some other building on the same site. Frank Bowman was the first postmaster. Other postmasters during the following years were Henrietta Bowman, Charles O. Bowman, and Mary E. Bowman. In December, 1893, an application was made and approved to move the post office a few miles south along the Tensas River to the Greenville Station of the railroad. The post office name remained Wildwood, Louisiana.

The nominated house is remembered by elderly people of the area as a place of large weekly social gatherings of people from many miles around.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Catahoula Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

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 approx. 5 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary lines follow property lines, per the attached plat map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow property lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

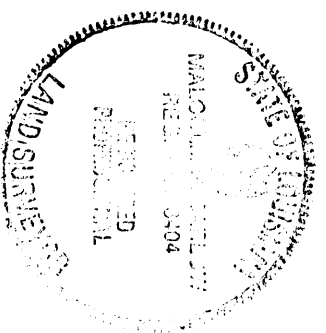
name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date August 1989
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Scale: 1" = 200'

Wildwood
Catahoula Parish, LA

Map of Portion of
DAVIS ESTATE
Situated in
Section 29, TION-R9E
Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

November 1985



JORDAN, KAISER & SESSIONS
Civil Engineers - Natchez, Miss.

