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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 19 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Swearingen House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number LA HWY 5 N/A not for publication
city, town Keachi N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county DeSoto code 031 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	1	_____ 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	1	_____ objects
			0 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 P. Tassin Oct 13, 1988
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation & 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. 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:)

Adams Byrum Entered in the National Register 11/17/88
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)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Swearingen House (c.1840) is a single story frame Greek Revival cottage located on the outskirts of the rural crossroads community of Keachi. Despite some alteration, the house easily retains its Greek Revival character.

The galleried cottage is one room deep with a wide central hall and a galleried rear "L" wing. The original configuration of the rear wing was rather unusual. It began with a single room appended to the back of the cottage followed by an open dogtrot passageway which in turn was followed by two more rooms. In the late nineteenth century the dogtrot opening was enclosed and the rear wing acquired its present configuration with four more or less equally sized rooms set along a chamfered post gallery. The rear gallery details probably date from the late nineteenth century.

Most of the noteworthy architectural features of the house are in the front portion. The interior doors feature pairs of long vertical panels, a very standard treatment for the mid-century Greek Revival. Two of the three original mantels are in the conventional Greek Revival aedicule style. The third features an unusual abbreviated cornice which terminates in an upward mitre. The front and rear doorways of the central hall feature unusual corner windows located at the intersection of the transom and side lights.

The flushboard front of the house has end pilasters which match the front gallery columns. Unlike the columns on the rear gallery, these are not chamfered. They feature fairly heavy capitals with unusually low necking. The front gallery culminates in a full entablature with gable end returns on the side elevations. The gallery ceiling has a panel-coffer treatment, which is the most refined feature of the house. The front doorway has a pediment-shaped top.

Recent changes in the Swearingen House include the replacement of some of the rear siding and a fairly sizable addition to the rear wing. These are not visible from the front and hence have little impact upon the house's architectural style and identity. The only change which has affected the front has been the removal of the front gallery cornice and its replacement with a flat fascia board. This was evidently done as part of a re-roofing job. Although regrettable, this change has had only a very minor impact and is noticeable only to someone with a trained eye.

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.1840

Significant Dates
c.1840

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 Swearingen House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage of DeSoto Parish.

Northern Louisiana parishes such as DeSoto were settled between roughly 1830 and the 1850s by individuals from Alabama, Georgia, and other nearby states. Of course, Greek Revival was literally the rage at the time, and DeSoto settlers embraced it with a vengeance. Although many examples from this architectural flowering have been lost, including the impressive Keachi Female College, an astounding number survive. Excluding New Orleans, DeSoto is one of three parishes considered to be major centers of Greek Revival architecture in the state. Whereas other parishes average about a half dozen Greek Revival residences, DeSoto boasts at least twenty, not to mention four churches, a temple fronted store, and a Masonic hall. Although a few of DeSoto's Greek Revival houses are impressive two story examples, none are grand "Gone With the Wind" piles. The one or one-and-a-half story examples tend to be galleried cottages (often with a hipped roof), although a few have a pedimented portico. It is also important to note that the Greek Revival in DeSoto was a rural phenomenon guided by local builders and carpenters who interpreted the style in their own way. This special heritage really represents the parish's architectural apogee. With the exception of a few landmarks, there has not been an architectural flowering in the parish since then.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, all surviving examples of the style are significant because they contribute to the parish's architectural identity as a center of Greek Revival architecture. Except for the five two story examples, it would be arbitrary to separate the other roughly comparable residences into gradations of importance. Distinguishing features of the Swearingen House are its Greek Revival gallery, mantels, pediment-shaped front doorway, and the unusual paneled treatment on the gallery ceiling. The latter is occasionally found on Greek Revival houses in Louisiana, and is a particularly refined feature.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Structures Survey, DeSoto Parish.

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 less than an acre

UTM References

A

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

C

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries highlighted in blue.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. They do not follow property lines because of the extensive acreage involved.

See continuation sheet

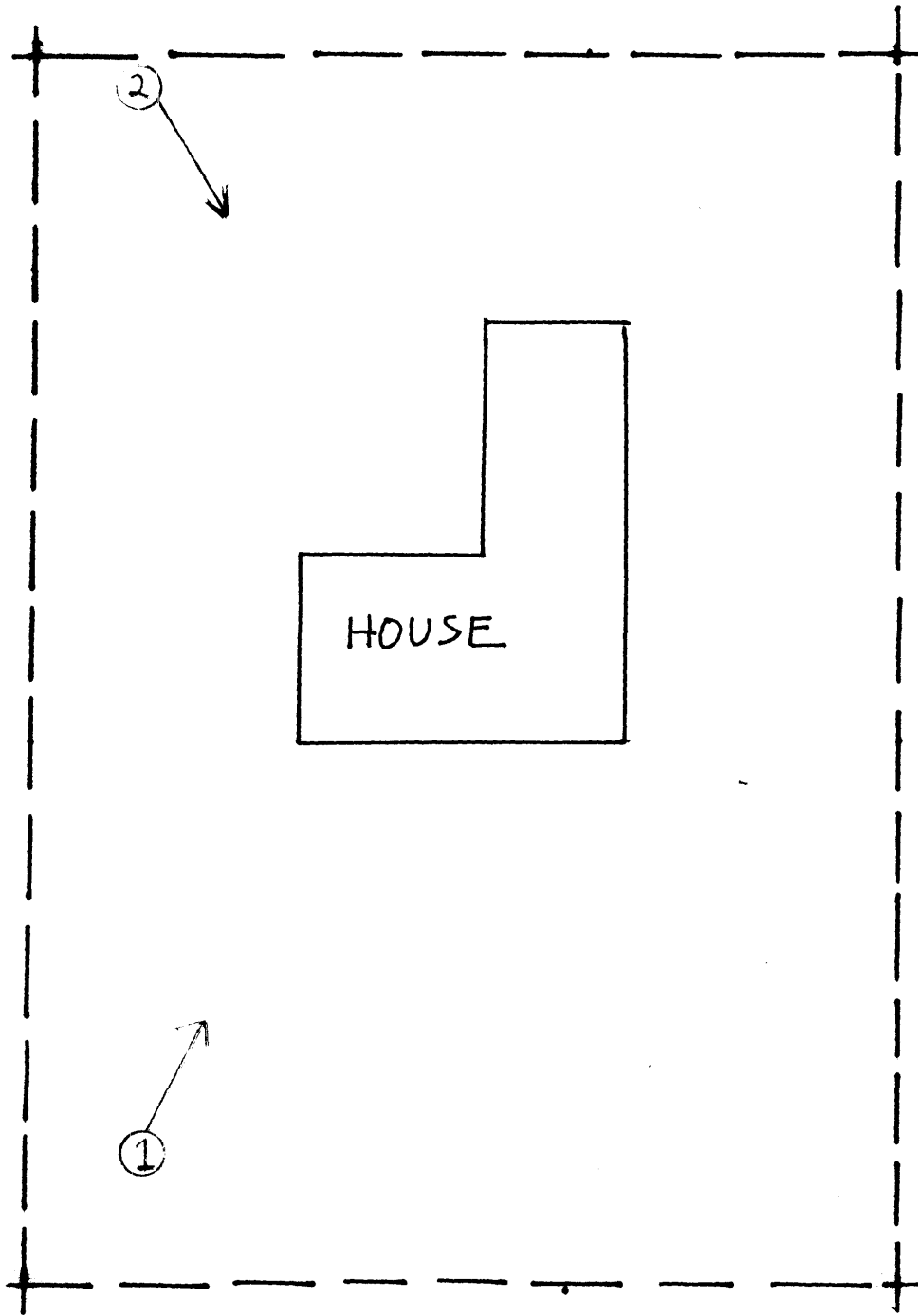
11. Form Prepared By

Assisted by Keachi Heritage Foundation

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1988
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Current owner: Mrs. Robbie Elizabeth Peyton (Davis) Gildemeister
239 Belvidere Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212

SWEARINGEN HOUSE
KEACHI, DESOTO PARISH, LA.



SCALE 1"=25'

BOUNDARY

