

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 23 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Earl Roberts House  
other names/site number Kennedy House

2. Location

street & number 253 Second Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Colfax N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Grant code 043 zip code 71417

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	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<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.

Leslie Tassin March 17, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, State Historic Preservation Officer 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. Entered in the National Register 4/20/89  
 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:)

fa Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - Single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - Single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

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walls weatherboard

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roof asphalt

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Roberts House (1907) is a one-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne style residence with Eastlake ornamentation included on its porch and gables. Located on a main thoroughfare in the parish seat of Colfax, the house stands on a large, shaded rectangular lot which adjoins the Red River levee at the rear. The home's only significant alterations include the early addition of a small sunroom on the rear elevation, construction of a side projecting, screened sleeping porch which was later enclosed, and the installation of an interior stairway when the attic was converted to living space.

The house consists of a main block with the sleeping porch addition on the south side. Inside the primary space, the lower floor is arranged in a somewhat symmetrical floorplan with banks of rooms on either side of a central hall. To the north of the hall is a parlor with two projecting bays, a dining room with a curving wall which causes the rear portion of the central hall to narrow, and a kitchen at the rear of the house. An enclosed well house adjoins the kitchen but can only be entered from outside the home. To the south of the hallway is found a front facing bedroom with a small side projecting bay. Next to the bay, a door opens into a small back hallway which leads to the enclosed sleeping porch and a modern bath. Beside the bath and behind the bedroom is a narrow den which opens into the rear sunroom. A utility room opens off the narrowed portion of the central hall and connects to the kitchen. With the exception of a small bath on the south side, the upstairs has been finished as a series of open spaces clustered around the stairwell.

The house's one large and two small semi-hexagonal bays, its wraparound veranda, and its truncated hipped roof with four large cross gable dormers and rear gabled kitchen clearly mark the structure as an example of the Queen Anne Revival style. Raised several feet above the ground on brick piers, the cypress clapboarded exterior is pierced by floor to ceiling windows on its facade. Entrance to the house is gained through a large door displaying an elaborate etched glass window above a lower paneled portion. The single door is surrounded by a three light transom and sidelights consisting of tall, narrow, single panes above wooden panels. The gallery roof attaches to the building slightly below the main roof. It is supported by Eastlake columns with scroll sawn ornamental brackets. Other elements of Eastlake ornamentation include the porch's balustrade, the spindlework which highlights the roofline of the large parlor bay, and the spindlework and scrolled motifs found in all five gable peaks.

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The woodwork inside the Roberts House is superior. Original stained tongue and groove vertical wainscoting remains in place on the walls of the central hall and bedroom, and the bedroom's small bay is paneled entirely in tongue and groove boards. The original pine floors are visible in the central hall. Two large paneled pocket doors separate the hallway and parlor; they are still in working order. Heavily molded door surrounds with unusual cornerblocks frame the main entrance as well as major interior doorways. Similar strips of molding separate the sidelights from the main door. Each pie-shaped cornerblock is carved with a motif displaying three stalks of leaves. The pieces of baseboard beneath the entrance surround's four vertical molded strips are also carved in an unusual design; this one resembling a snowflake. All this decorative carving was done by master craftsman Marceland Ferrier, who built the house. A small built-in china cabinet with leaded glass doors stands beside the fireplace in the dining room. This fireplace, with its slender Ionic columns rising from tall pedestals and its overmantel with mirror, carving, and leaded glass cabinet supported by short reeded Tuscan colonnettes, is also noteworthy.

Assessment of Integrity

Since construction the most notable changes to the building's exterior appearance have been the addition of a side screened sleeping porch later enclosed by subsequent owners, the construction of a sunroom on the home's rear elevation, and the glazing of an original screened porch adjacent to the sunroom in order to create a utility room. The deck opens into a summerhouse and spa which do not connect directly to the main house. Other exterior changes include the reglazing of the south dormer window with one large pane and the cutting of a door connecting the sleeping porch to the wraparound veranda.

Inside the house, the most important changes have occurred in the kitchen/dining area and in a space which was probably once a rear bedroom. The wall and accompanying butler's pantry which originally stood between the dining room and kitchen have been replaced by waist-high kitchen cabinets. On the opposite kitchen wall, a former door to the wellhouse is blocked by additional cabinets. A small pantry opening into the glazed utility room has been converted to a powder room. A large room in the southwest corner was subdivided when the adjoining sleeping porch was added. The subdivision created a bath and small hallway between the sleeping porch and the narrow rectangular room (now the den) which remains.

The original gas fixtures remain throughout the house, but electricity now lights the building. Although the original pine floors remain in place in the bedroom and parlor, wall-to-wall carpeting now hides them from view. As mentioned earlier, the attic has been finished as living space and a staircase added to the central hall. However, the original wainscoting was moved out from

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the wall and used to line the stairway, so the hall still retains much of its 1907 appearance.

Because the building's Queen Anne/Eastlake facade remains intact, the Roberts House retains its National Register eligibility.

NB: The open latticework "summerhouse" covering the spa (see photos 5 & 6) is not noted as a non-contributing element because it is an insubstantial largely open covering for a hot tub.

**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

1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Marceland Ferrier, builder  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Roberts House is locally significant in the area of architecture chiefly as a superior example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the context of the parish seat of Colfax. It also features relatively elaborate Eastlake ornamentation when compared to the town's other period residences.

A windshield survey of the parish seat of Colfax in 1988 by the Division of Historic Preservation identified five residences as possible National Register candidates, among them the Roberts House. There are about a dozen Queen Anne Revival cottages in the small town, but only the Roberts House and one other stand above the norm, due chiefly to their more complex massing. Whereas the typical example has two gabled projections, the Roberts House has four prominent cross gable dormers on the facade, not to mention a gabled bay at the rear. The Roberts House is also the only example to feature a gablet in the gallery roof, adding further to the irregular massing. The gablet, four cross gable dormers, steeply pitched hip roof, and prominent semi-hexagonal side bay create the complex, irregular massing that is a hallmark of the Queen Anne style. Secondly, the house's Eastlake ornamentation is fairly elaborate, taken within the context of Colfax. Although eclipsed by two other examples, it is still well above the norm. Almost all other period houses feature simple Eastlake gallery columns and little else, while the Roberts House has fairly elaborate scrollwork/spindlework ornamentation in the peaks of the four cross gable dormers, in the peak of the rear gable, and marking the corners of the side bay.

Historical Note

The house at 253 Second Street, Colfax, LA was built for Mr. Earl Roberts in 1907. Mr. Roberts was a banker, owned timber land, and established Earl Roberts Insurance Company in Colfax. He hired an Alexandria architect (name unknown) to plan the house and well-known contractor Marceland Ferrier built it for him. The year the house was completed Mr. Roberts married Claudia McNeely and they raised

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Site visit and windshield survey of Colfax by Division of Historic Preservation staff.  
Historical sketch submitted by 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**

Acreeage of property approximately .5 acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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5	2	7	3	4	0
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3	4	8	6	4	2	5
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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

See Continuation Sheet for legal boundaries.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines of the lot on which the building stands.

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: Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Kennedy  
253 Second Street  
Colfax, LA 71417

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three children there. Miss "Claud" died in 1937 and Mr. Earl in 1964. After their death, the children sold the house to Louis Earle Stevens. He and his family lived in the house a short period of time and sold it to Norman Childers, an educator in Grant Parish. The Childers sold the house to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Kennedy, in 1978.

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LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

A certain parcel or tract of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and all rights, ways and privileges thereto belonging, situated in the Town of Colfax, Grant Parish, Louisiana, and being more particularly described as Block Twenty-eight (28) of said Town of Colfax, as seen on plat of survey thereof as made by G. S. Johnson, Parish Surveyor, on file in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Grant Parish, Louisiana, said block being 148.5 feet square and bounded by Second Street, North by "H" Street, South by "I" Street, in rear by Red River Levee, subject, however, to any easement or servitude by reason of the construction or use of the Red River Levee, less road improvements.



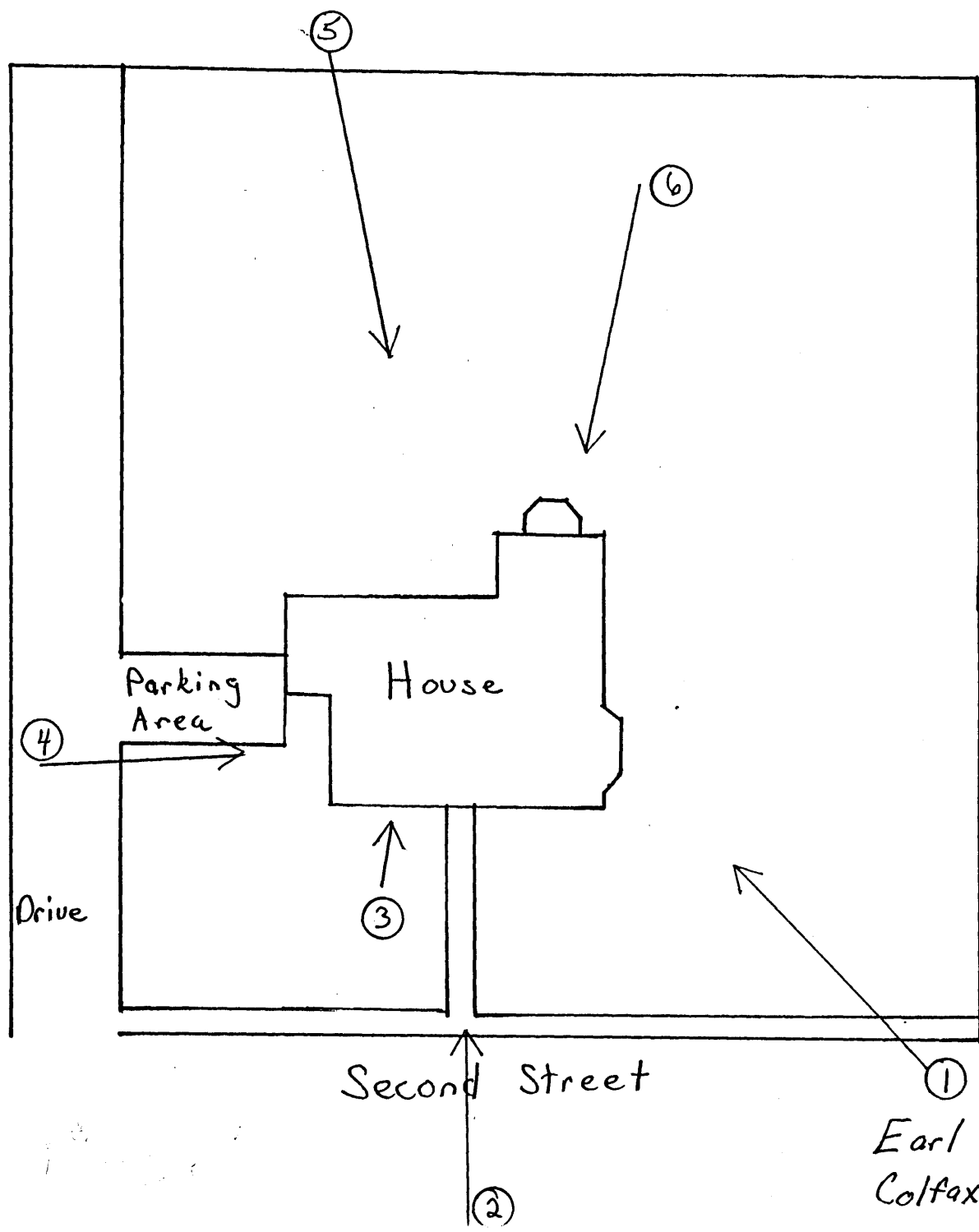


Photo  
Direction  
Map Only  
(See continuation  
sheet for  
legal boundary  
description.)

Earl Roberts Home  
Colfax, Grant Parish, LA