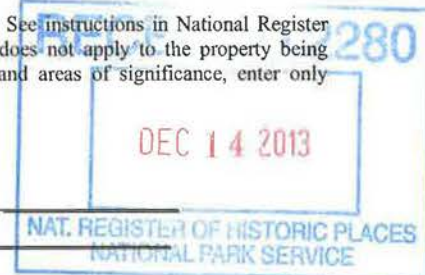


1129

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Williams, James Hugh, House

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 401 N. St. Charles

City or town: Abbeville State: LA County: Vermilion

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Pam Breaux 12-2-13

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**

Louisiana Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

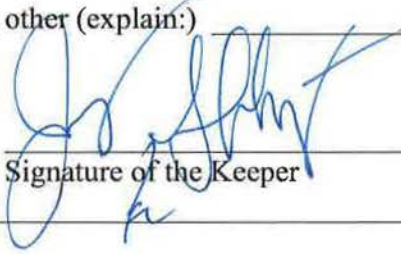
Williams, James Hugh House
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

1.29.2014
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Louisiana galleried cottage

Bungalow / Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: brick piers; Walls: weatherboard; Roof: stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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Summary Paragraph

Located in Abbeville, the Vermilion Parish seat, the James Hugh Williams House (1897) is a one-and one-half story dwelling of frame construction. Surrounded by mature vegetation, it stands beside a heavily travelled thoroughfare a few blocks east of the town's central business district. Stylistically, the house is a Louisiana galleried cottage with some Craftsman ornament attached. Despite a rear addition and some interior losses, the candidate retains enough integrity to qualify for National Register listing.

Narrative Description

The James Hugh Williams House is located one-half block from the Abbeville Residential Historic District and three blocks from the Downtown Abbeville Historic District. The house was, at one time, part of a subdivision, but when Highway 82 was widened, a two-lane, one-way street was constructed, placing the current location of the house on the north-bound side of a divided highway. The house was constructed as a Louisiana galleried cottage with a roof ridge paralleling the street. Unfortunately, no historical photographs showing its original exterior or interior decoration have been uncovered. Williams expanded and remodeled the dwelling using elements of Arts and Crafts style sometime between the purchase of the property in 1915 and the end of the style's popularity in the 1930s. Thus, the home's somewhat hybrid appearance has been in place much longer than its original as-built appearance. It is the former, the appearance most associated with Williams, which will be described.

The Arts and Crafts style (1860-1910), which was a reaction to the superfluous and intricate detail of the Victorian era, was part of a movement out of England that embraced simplicity and nature. Decoration was more often than not part of the mechanics of the structure, rather than purely for ornament. Its primary characteristics include simple architectural features, focusing on craftsmanship as opposed to ornament.

Many owners of galleried cottages like this house remodeled them by adding such Craftsman details to make them look more up-to-date and stylish, as with the tapered columns on brick piers and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The Williams house is not a pure Arts and Crafts House, but a Louisiana Galleried Cottage renovated in the Arts and Crafts style by Williams.

Façade (eastern elevation)

The main block of the house features a slate gable roof with ridge paralleling the street. The exposed rafter tails here are covered by a gutter. An attached front porch roof, also paralleling the street, joins with the main roof at an angle, creating a double pitch roof. Additionally, there is a front-facing gabled dormer with four, two over two windows and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. A five bay gallery wraps around the left side of the house and has brick central steps with wing walls covered by stucco. The wrap around porch, with its tongue-and-groove ceiling and floor, is adorned by a simplistic lattice railing and supported by tall tapered

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wooden columns atop stucco brick covered brick supports in the Craftsman style. The latter rise from squat two-and-a-half to three foot long square piers made of stucco. The façade walls are clapboard and feature full height shuttered windows (2) centered on the front gallery. The raised six panel wooden front door is topped with a single lite transom. Part of the façade projects on the left side.

The foundation consists of brick pillars original to the house, each measuring 8” deep x 18” across. In other words, there are 2 brick widths for each of the pillars, 9” each.

Right side (northern elevation)

On the first side of the home (right side when facing the building from the street), there exists a projecting bay, whose shed roof has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The foundation piers supporting this element, as well as the rest of the foundation piers on this side, are no different from those on the main house. The bay is pierced by paired two over two windows and a smaller two-over-two window. To the left of the bay, one of the front porch’s tapered columns and stucco piers, as well as the decorative latticework, are visible. To the rear of the bay, there is a section with paired, two over two windows. To the right of these windows is a blank wall, which encloses this side of a former rear gallery. Moving further back, and set back several feet from the plane of the main block, is the wall of a small shed-roof addition. It has paired two over two windows and modern shutters. To the right of this addition and stepped in is a windowless clapboard wall. The entablature continues on both setbacks. The entire home is covered in clapboard siding and there are paired, two over two windows in the gable peak at the second floor. All windows on this elevation are flanked by modern shutters and have simple one over one storm windows on them that allow the original windows to be clearly seen (all windows on the house have these same storm windows). There is also a smooth wooden entablature above the gallery, at the top of the bay and along the rear portion. The slate roof includes overhanging eaves.

Rear (western elevation)

The rear elevation consists of three planes, each projecting outward more than the section to its left. The left-most section consists of the enclosed rear gallery mentioned above. There is a small window with shutters on this wall. The next plane consists of a door with a large glazed panel. The door is surmounted by a canvas canopy and reached by concrete steps (see Photo 4). The original rear back porch was enclosed many years ago to create a utility room and pantry. The current wooden back porch has a shed roof with latticework decorating the top on two sides. The porch also includes a railing with latticework and wooden steps with milled decorative posts at the right side. Much of the porch is obscured by vines (intentionally grown). The foundation is treated wood and indigenous vegetation and latticework hides most of the construction in this area. Also included is a steep gable and this area is covered with clapboard covering.

Left side (southern elevation)

The second side of the house (left side when facing the building from the street) is difficult to photograph due to lack of space within the lot. It consists of four distinct planes. The first (projecting the most) is the rear of the wraparound gallery mentioned in the discussion of the façade. A side door of the home on this elevation opens onto this gallery. Part of the gallery’s

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roof features exposed rafter tails. When the gallery wrapped around to this elevation, the roof of the gallery was finished in a side gable facing south.

Behind the gallery is a projecting bay (it does not project as much as the porch) whose shed roof features exposed rafter tails as well. One two over two window with shutters is on this projection. Further down, in the third plane, there is one set of paired two over two windows with shutters. A modern HVAC duct runs in between the two windows. The gable peak is also set within this plane and contains paired two over two windows with shutters to match those on the right (northern) elevation. The rear and final plane is the setback wall of the enclosed rear porch. It is pierced by small, paired, two-over-two windows located near the corner where this plane connects to the adjacent plane. The windows are flanked by modern shutters. The rest of this clapboard wall is blank. The previously mentioned entablature is also visible along this side. The foundation is identical to that on the other side; it is mostly hidden by vegetation.

Interior

The home offers nearly 3,000 square feet of living space. From the wide wraparound porch, one enters the front door, which opens to a central hallway. The stairway is several feet back from the door. Flanking the hallway are two bedrooms and two bathrooms (on the right), and the living and dining rooms (on the left). This completes the original portion of the home's plan. However, a modern kitchen, den, utility area and covered porch are located behind the original building. The upstairs is one large, open area bisected by the stairwell. There was originally no bathroom on this upper floor.

Alterations

Alterations to the home appear to have occurred in three phases: those done by James Hugh Williams himself, those resulting from a 1960s era fire, and those done by the current owner.

Williams' Changes

Research indicates that Williams remodeled the galleried cottage he originally purchased into the Arts and Crafts style dwelling it is today. Thus, Williams was responsible for the home's stuccoed piers and tapered columns, the large gabled dormer with exposed rafter tails, the part of the front gallery that wraps around the left side of the house, and the projecting bays with shed roofs and exposed rafter tails on each side. He also had the front gallery's brick steps and wing walls constructed and enclosed at least one side of the former back porch. At some point he also reversed the main stairway, which originally ran from the back of the house to the second floor (versus its current orientation running from the front of the house to the second floor), closed off the original central rear door, and added the rear addition. This area includes the kitchen, den, the pantry, and the service area. Finally, he had the back porch demolished due to wood rot.

1960s Era Changes

The house was renovated in the 1960s after a small fire and was stripped of its fireplace mantels, as well as some of its molding and other period details. The rosettes and door plinths were destroyed, as was the ceiling molding. All other period details were untouched by the fire. The fire was limited to the dining and living rooms areas and did not damage the other interior spaces

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on the first floor or the second floor. The fire also did not damage any of the exterior of the building.

Current Owner's Changes

Dianna Ducote purchased the property in 1992 and spent the first two years of ownership rehabilitating the building and removing inappropriate alterations made to the house in the 1960s. She replaced the woodwork and other features destroyed by the fire or removed in the 1960s renovation. Molds were made from period pediments, ceiling medallions, plinths, and rosettes and installed in the home. These included handmade plaster replicas from a mold from an old hotel from the same period. A transom was replaced by Ducote on the existing double cased opening between the dining and living room and dentil moldings, fluted pilasters, and rosettes to match the house were added. Antique doors and hardware replaced hollow core doors from the 1960s renovation. Museum documented wallpaper replaced the dark plywood paneling in the living room and dining rooms that had been installed in the 1960s. Shag carpet and linoleum also installed during this time were removed to reveal the original oak and pine floors, which were then refinished. Bathrooms were renovated with antique bathtubs, pedestal sinks, and period mirrors. The upstairs room, previously used as a dormitory, was converted to a sitting room and bedroom area. On this floor, a toilet closet, exposed wall lavatory, and a bathtub nook line the right wall so as not to affect the structure of the room or of the house. The present back porch was added by Ducote during the renovations. All of the work done during the rehabilitation was done in a sensitive manner and utilized materials and designs that were appropriate for the house's age and architectural style.

Mitigation and Integrity

The interior losses following the 1960s fire are not, however, significant. The rehabilitation work done actually returned the house to a more historic look than it had between the 1960s and 1992. Prior to the 1960s, all of the other alterations done to the home were done during the period of significance by Mr. Williams (Interview, Maude Williams). The exterior is still virtually intact from Williams' time. Thus, the house retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Although the interior does not retain complete integrity of design, materials and workmanship due to the 1960s fire and 1990s sensitive rehabilitation (with the exception of the floorplan, which does retain integrity to Williams' time), the exterior does. Despite changes made by Ducote, certainly enough integrity survives to allow Williams to recognize the house if he were to walk by it today. In fact, his two granddaughters recently visited the house and noted that it closely resembles the house they visited as children.

Non-Contributing elements:

The shed is made of rustic cypress and was moved to the property from another home in Abbeville. When that house was moved, Ms. Ducote moved the shed to the Williams House. It is a non-contributing element because it was not here during the period of significance. The shed is located in the far left corner of the back yard (see Photo 7).

The office is a small metal building used for the owner's businesses and is located in the far right corner of the back yard (see Photo 5).

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The playhouse was created as a place for her young nieces and nephews to enjoy and is located at the back left side of the house (See Photo 10).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Education

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Period of Significance

1915-1949

Significant Dates

1915-1949

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

James Hugh Williams

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The James Hugh Williams House is locally significant under Criterion B (Association with a Significant Individual) in the area of Education. Williams provided strong and far-sighted leadership of the Vermilion Parish school system over a period of 36 years (34 of them while living in the candidate). His policies and approach to education for Vermilion Parish students made that system an example of excellence toward which other school systems in Louisiana could strive. Additionally, his fiscal policies provided a stable financial basis from which the school system continues to benefit today in a time when education has experienced many financial problems.

The period of significance ranges from 1915, the year that James Hugh Williams purchased the candidate, through 1949, the year he retired from his position as Superintendent of the Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, school system. Williams had served as Superintendent for approximately two years when he purchased the candidate in 1915.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: EDUCATION

Originally settled by Native Americans and, in the 1700s, by Acadians during the Great Deportation from Nova Scotia, the entirety of Vermilion Parish, founded in 1844, is named after two main water routes: the Vermilion River and Vermilion Bay and was pared away from Lafayette Parish by the state Legislature. The name "Vermilionville" is the old term for nearby Lafayette, Louisiana, and it, in turn, was named after a local church, St. John du Vermilionville. The parish seat has always been Abbeville, which was founded one year earlier, in 1843, by

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Father Megret, a Capuchin missionary who purchased the land for the town from a Mr. Joseph LeBlanc for \$900. He originally named the site that is now Abbeville for his hometown in France, "La Chapelle." Eventually, because of the influence of Father Megret and the new Abbey he built, the name was changed to "Abbeville," which has long been touted as the "most Cajun place on Earth." The economy in the region has always been based mainly on agriculture, most importantly rice and seafood. From the banning of French language being used in state schools on pain of corporal punishment in 1915 by the State Education Committee— a blow to the small, rural educational institutions in the parish, mainly made up of Cajun French speakers – to the ever threatening presence of storms in the Gulf of Mexico, Vermilion Parish and the town of Abbeville are places where the human spirit continually rises like a phoenix from the ashes. In February of 1903, the Great Concord Fire destroyed most of the buildings in the downtown Abbeville area and, in 1940, the Great Flood left 6 ½ feet of water in its streets. Still, the citizens of the area persevered, continued their agricultural and social pursuits and made Vermilion Parish and Abbeville what they are today – a thriving geographical area where community is paramount and the Cajun people flourish.

James Hugh Williams (1883-1956) was born in Vermilion Parish on a small farm located in Prairie Gregg, Louisiana. Throughout his childhood and adulthood, the majority of which was spent in his home parish, J.H. Williams devoted his life to the pursuit of education – his own and that of others. It is important, therefore, to list all of J.H. Williams's own educational achievements as his own success inspired him to pass on this gift to others in the parish (Theall, et al.).

Unlike most young people living near Henry, Louisiana (in Vermilion Parish), Williams was well-educated. His teachers at Henry High School were interested in his progress as a student and, in 1900, he became the institution's first and only graduate in Vermilion parish. Having received his high school diploma, Williams continued on to Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (now known as Louisiana Tech) in Ruston, Louisiana. He then attended Louisiana State University (in Baton Rouge, Louisiana) where he graduated with honors, receiving his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1907. After the completion of his degree at LSU, Williams sought out a job in his field. However, several educators in Vermilion Parish were able to convince him that his talents lay outside the world of engineering and in the realm of education – they asked him to become the principal of his old alma mater, Henry High, and he accepted the position gladly and with enthusiasm (Theall et al.).

J. H. Williams was unanimously elected as superintendent by the school board on January 1, 1913. Prior to that, public schools in Vermilion parish were in dire shape. They were underfunded, lacked enough physical space, and were remarkably small. Williams worked his entire career to change this – successfully. In fact, he was re-elected a total of nine terms and served the area for 36 years until his retirement in 1949 due to increasingly poor health (Theall et al.).

As Superintendent of the Vermilion Parish School System, J.H. Williams was able to make effective and long-lasting changes to the educational system for the citizens he served. His accomplishments in this arena included: 1) achieving consolidation of schoolhouses that were formerly far too small to educate children properly; 2) obtaining land for new schools; 3)

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creating long-term best practices for school superintendents through his tireless supervision and visitation; 4) vastly improving busing practices for area students; 5) playing an important role in the desegregation of Vermilion Parish schools; 6) increasing and implementing improved disciplinary practices in area schools; and 7) stressing the importance of academic achievement in students' lives (Theall et al.).

First, Williams was able to consolidate the disparate, wooden, one-room schoolhouses that peppered the parish and replaced them with larger, two and three-story educational buildings that served the same student populations. Even in more rural areas, such as Indian Bayou, Louisiana, Williams was able to provide students with better environments that were more conducive to learning. Even when finances ran short on these projects, J.H. Williams would insist that at least a portion of the structure be completed and put to use as quickly as possible. Not only did this strategy work in Vermilion Parish, but other surrounding parishes became inspired by Williams's work to effect the same consolidation in their own school systems. In this way, J.H. Williams's school consolidation plan served as a model for many others in the state, thus extending his formidable legacy (Theall et al.).

When Williams took office as Superintendent, the federal government had already allotted acreage for the purposes of building and maintaining educational institutions in the area. While other superintendents were in the practice of selling off these lands during times of economic crisis (oftentimes for only \$1), J.H. Williams refused to give up even one sixteenth of the lands in Vermilion Parish that had been set aside for education. He did this despite ever-growing pressure from the school board, from friends, and from family members. Because of Williams's efforts in this vein, the Vermilion Parish School System enjoys, to this day, a dependable income from the oil and mineral rights that were so carefully entrusted to his capable hands (Theall et al.).

Third, while Williams was well known for being reclusive when it came to accolades and media coverage of his accomplishments, he was not shy when it came to personally supervising his district. He was a not infrequent visitor to each and every school, making certain to keep abreast of how effective teaching practices were. Many teachers and students alike have vivid memories of Mr. Williams appearing suddenly in the back of their classrooms in order to attend lectures and to maintain a current knowledge of the goings on in his parish school system. Additionally, Williams constantly surveyed each institution, determining when and where improvements were needed – and then acting to make these improvements a reality. His actions improved attendance by students in the parish, but also, and not unimportantly, helped to ensure better instruction (Theall, et al.).

Before J.H. Williams served as Superintendent, bussing of students was nearly impossible. Roads needed to be improved before this could occur. However, as soon as it was feasible, Williams instituted a student bussing scheme that was so innovative and on such a grand scale that he was offered special kudos from Louisiana State Superintendent T.H. Harris during a speech at a state meeting. In this speech, Harris selected Williams as one of the only parish superintendents in the state who was able to recognize the need for student bussing. Furthermore, J.H. Williams even allowed male students from rural areas not accessible by bus to stay in his

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home so that they might attend school and ultimately, so that they would finish high school. The second floor of his home is one large open space, which was treated as a dormitory for these students.

Yet another problematic issue that had to be dealt with during J.H. Williams's tenure as Superintendent was segregation. The first fully integrated school in Louisiana was the LaLaurie House, in use in the 1870s. In a time during which most African Americans were educated in Rosenwald Fund schools, church-run institutions, one-room wooden schoolhouses in rural areas, and old agricultural buildings, J.H. Williams chose to defy the common opinion of Louisianans (Blokker).

Although he had no freedom to forcibly desegregate the school system (this would have been illegal at the time), Williams did believe that everyone, regardless of skin color or social status, had a right to the same quality education as anyone else. In fact, due to his influence in the parish, Herod High School was built in Abbeville, Louisiana. Herod High was an educational institution to which any African American student in the parish could be bussed if they so desired. Herod High (now an elementary school) is no longer a segregated school, but this attempt at reducing the effects of discriminatory practices remains a mainstay of the creed and mission of the Vermilion Parish school system (Theall et al.). When Williams later became the President of the Vermilion Parish Library, he made certain that African American children were allowed into those hallowed halls of knowledge. As the President, he alone had the power to make this decision – and he chose wisely.

Though J.H. Williams believed in strict discipline in schools, even going so far as to hire athletically built individuals for principalships so that order might be maintained, he did not believe in violence or brutality. Instead, though 'paddling' and 'whipping' were in place in Vermilion Parish schools well into the 1970s, and perhaps beyond, Williams heavily monitored these then commonplace state practices himself. In fact, he was known to become quite irate upon discovering that any mark had been left on a child after that child had been disciplined. Though this may seem a strange contribution to mention, one need only remember that corporal punishment in the Vermilion Parish school system was both brutal and rampant before Williams took office (Theall et al.).

The pervasiveness of corporal punishment was due to a series of laws put in place by both federal and local governments aimed at the suppression of languages other than English in the United States (mainly to eradicate Native American languages). The first of these was the 1811 Louisiana Enabling Act, signed by James Madison, which provided that Louisiana could only become a state if it were to conduct all governmental business in English alone. This led to an attempt to completely repress the Cajun French language in Louisiana schools by the Louisiana State Board of Education. The second of these movements was a 1916 mandatory attendance act, which stated that all children in Louisiana would be required to attend a state-approved educational institution, as opposed to the mainly rural home-schooling practices that existed. In Vermilion Parish, Williams had already addressed this issue by consolidating smaller schools and making it easier for students to be bussed to institutions in their areas. When, in 1921, the new Louisiana State Constitution was created, any language besides English was prohibited

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within school walls. This led to a rash of violence and brutality within the school system toward those students who only spoke Cajun French; many of them were severely punished for speaking French on school grounds. Certainly, J.H. Williams did not condone this and made sure that administrators in Vermilion Parish were vigilantly watched so that no child was punished by an individual schoolteacher, principal, or administrator (Theall et al.).

In sum, the Vermilion Parish educational system would not have continued to be a role model for other systems in the state if J.H. Williams had not served as its Superintendent for many long years. His dedication to an ethos of education for all, no matter their creed, skin color, or social status, has left behind an important legacy – that of educational opportunity and quality.

There are no other surviving buildings directly associated with James Hugh Williams. Thus, his home where he resided during his illustrious career as superintendent of the Vermilion Parish School System serves as the most appropriate candidate for National Register listing. This was not only the house where he lived, but Williams also utilized his home in order to help further the policies that he enacted, including ensuring that children who lived rurally could attend school by housing them in the “dormitory” on the second floor of his home. This house is eligible for listing on the National Register for its association with Mr. James Hugh Williams, a man who was significant for the role he played as superintendent of the Vermilion Parish School System and was revered throughout Abbeville and Vermilion Parish. His impact on the school system can still be seen today.

Historical Note:

The house has had only four owners: the builder, the Williams family, one other post-Williams owner who added storm windows, and Dianna Ducote.

After J.H. Williams’ death, the old high school became a middle school and was named in his honor – J.H. Williams Middle School.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blokker, Laura Ewen. “The African American Experience in Louisiana.” Prepared for the State of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation.

Theall, Gary, Clara Erath Ellison, Una Broussard Evans, et. al *History of Vermilion Parish, Louisiana*. Abbeville, Louisiana: Vermilion Parish Historical Society, 1983.

Interview, Fall 1993. Maude Williams (J.H. Williams’ daughter-in-law). Interview conducted by Dianna Ducote.

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Powell Jane, & Swendsen, Linda. Bungalow Details Exteriors. Gibbs Smith Publisher. Salt Lake City, 2004.

Stickley, Gustav. "Craftsman Homes & Bungalow". Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. 2009.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than an acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 29.977556 | Longitude: -92.133765 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

Williams, James Hugh House
Name of Property

Vermilion Parish, LA
County and State

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 7 and a portion of Lot 12, Marbury Addition, 91 ft by 143 ft as seen on the attached plat map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen include those of the existing property lines on the attached plat map encompassing the house and the three non-contributing structures (office, playhouse, and shed).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Andrea D. Conque with Dianna Ducote
organization: N/A
street & number: 912 Azalea Street / 401 N. St. Charles
city or town: Lafayette / Abbeville state: LA zip code: 70506 / 70510
e-mail aconqu2@tigers.lsu.edu / relax @ducotewilliams.com
telephone: 337-739-5482 /
date: Summer and Fall 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Williams, James Hugh House
Name of Property

Vermilion Parish, LA
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Williams, James Hugh House

City or Vicinity: Abbeville

Parish: Vermilion State: Louisiana

Photographer: Cheryl V. Jeanfreau

Date Photographed: August 29, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 16: Front façade (east) elevation, camera facing west.

2 of 16: View of right (north) elevation and front porch, camera facing southwest.

3 of 16: View of right (north) elevation, camera facing south.

4 of 16: View of right (northwest) rear corner, camera facing southeast.

5 of 16: View of non-contributing office building at rear right corner of property, camera facing northwest.

6 of 16: View of rear (west) elevation, camera facing east.

7 of 16: View of non-contributing shed, located at rear of property, camera facing south.

8 of 16: View of left (southwest) rear corner, camera facing northeast.

9 of 16: View of left (southeast) front corner, camera facing northeast.

Williams, James Hugh House
Name of Property

Vermilion Parish, LA
County and State

10 of 16: View of non-contributing playhouse, camera facing southwest.

11 of 16: View of left (southeast) front corner including wraparound portion of the front porch, camera facing northeast.

12 of 16: Interior view, front hall; camera facing northwest.

13 of 16: Interior view, master bedroom; camera facing north.

14 of 16: Interior view, second bedroom; camera facing south.

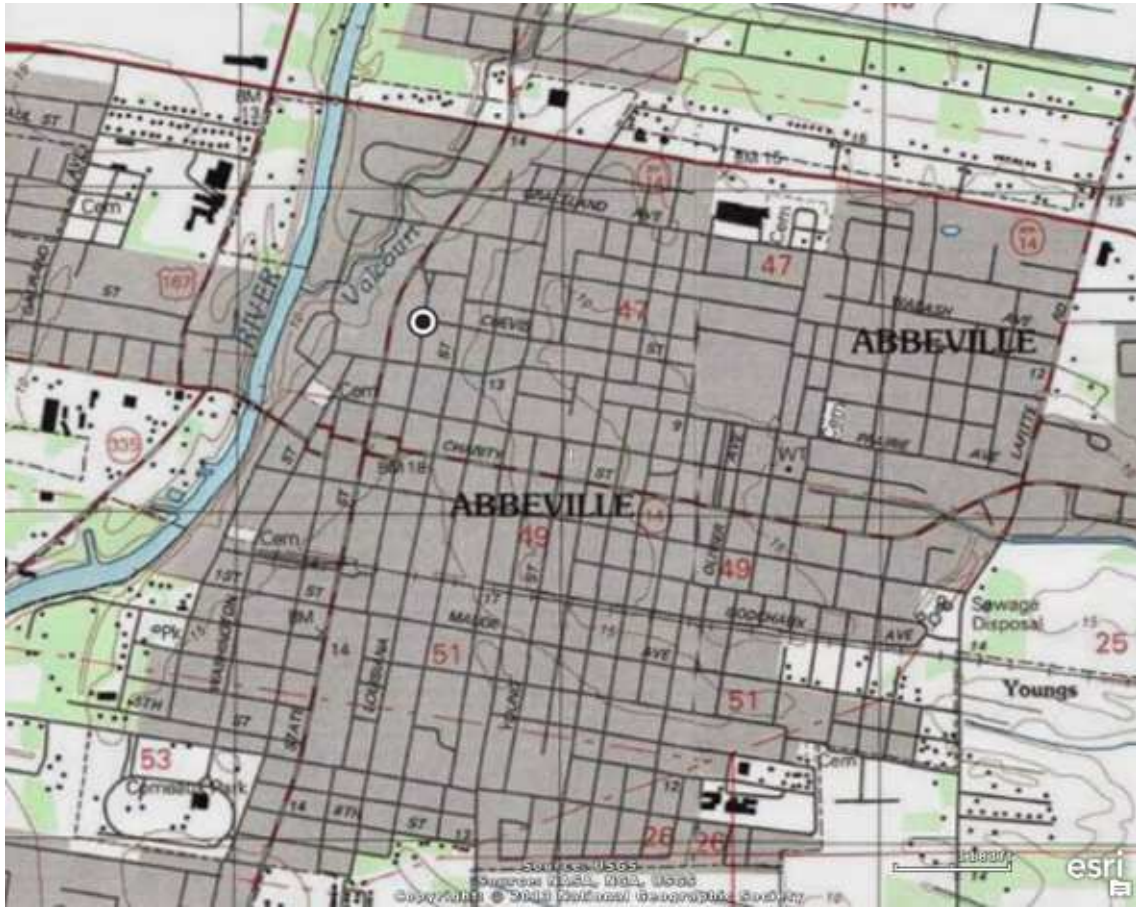
15 of 16: Interior view, second bedroom; camera facing southwest.

16 of 16: Interior view, dining room; camera facing southeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

James Hugh Williams House, Vermilion Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.977556

Longitude: -92.133765

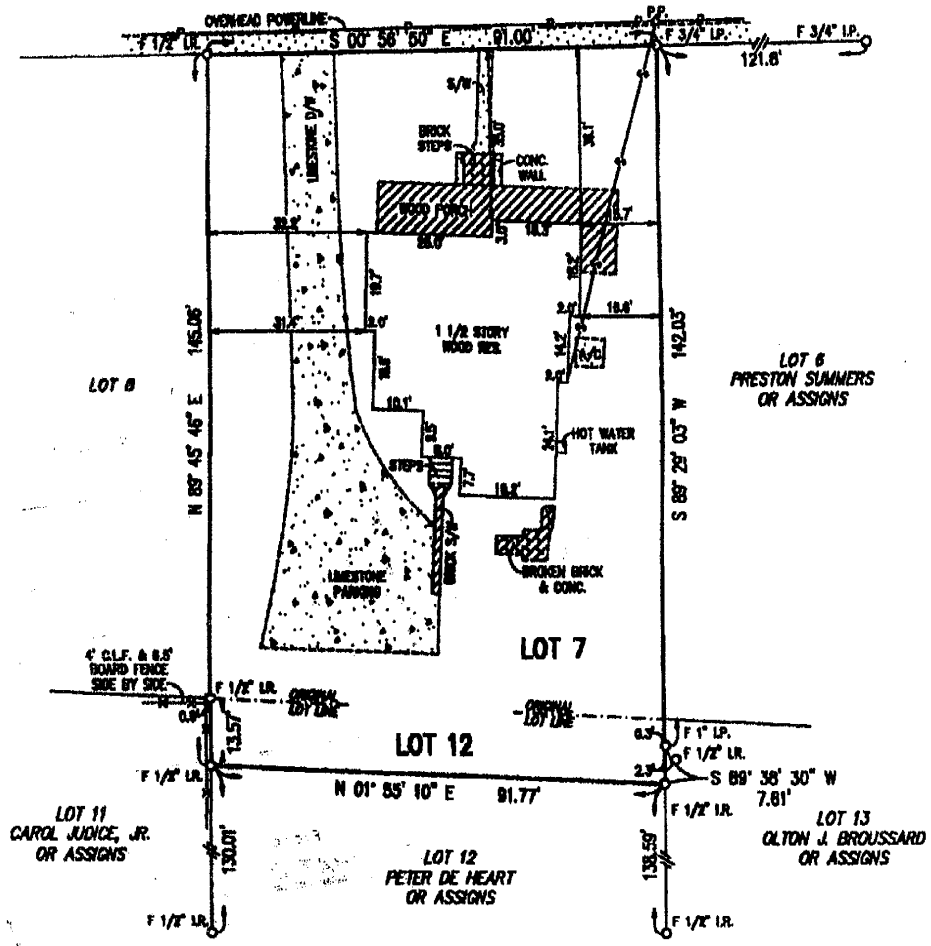
James Hugh Williams House, Vermilion Parish, LA



Latitude: 29.977556

Longitude: -92.133765

N. ST. CHARLES STREET



James
Hugh
Williams
House

Vermilion
Parish, LA

I hereby certify that this plat represents an actual ground survey and that no visible encroachments exist either way across any of the property lines except as shown.

According to Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Community Panel No. 220264 5B, having an effective date of August 3, 1981, City of Abbeville, this property is located in Flood Zone C.

A Plat of Survey showing property and improvements to be acquired by

DIANNA DUCOTE

being
Lot 7 & A Portion of Lot 12
Marbury Addition
401 N. St. Charles Street
Abbeville, Louisiana 70510
Vermilion Parish

Scale: 1"=30' Date: April 26, 1994

prepared by
Michael J. Breaux & Associates, Inc.
Professional Land Surveyors
Lafayette, Louisiana

NOTE: Reference to Survey by Randall J. Hebert, Titled Property of C. W. Williams, dated May 15, 1986.

BY: _____
M.J. BREAUX, P. L. S.

Q3HS

← 7

WILLIAMS, JAMES HUGH HOUSE
VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA

N →

8 ↘

9 ↑

Office

play house

10 ↘

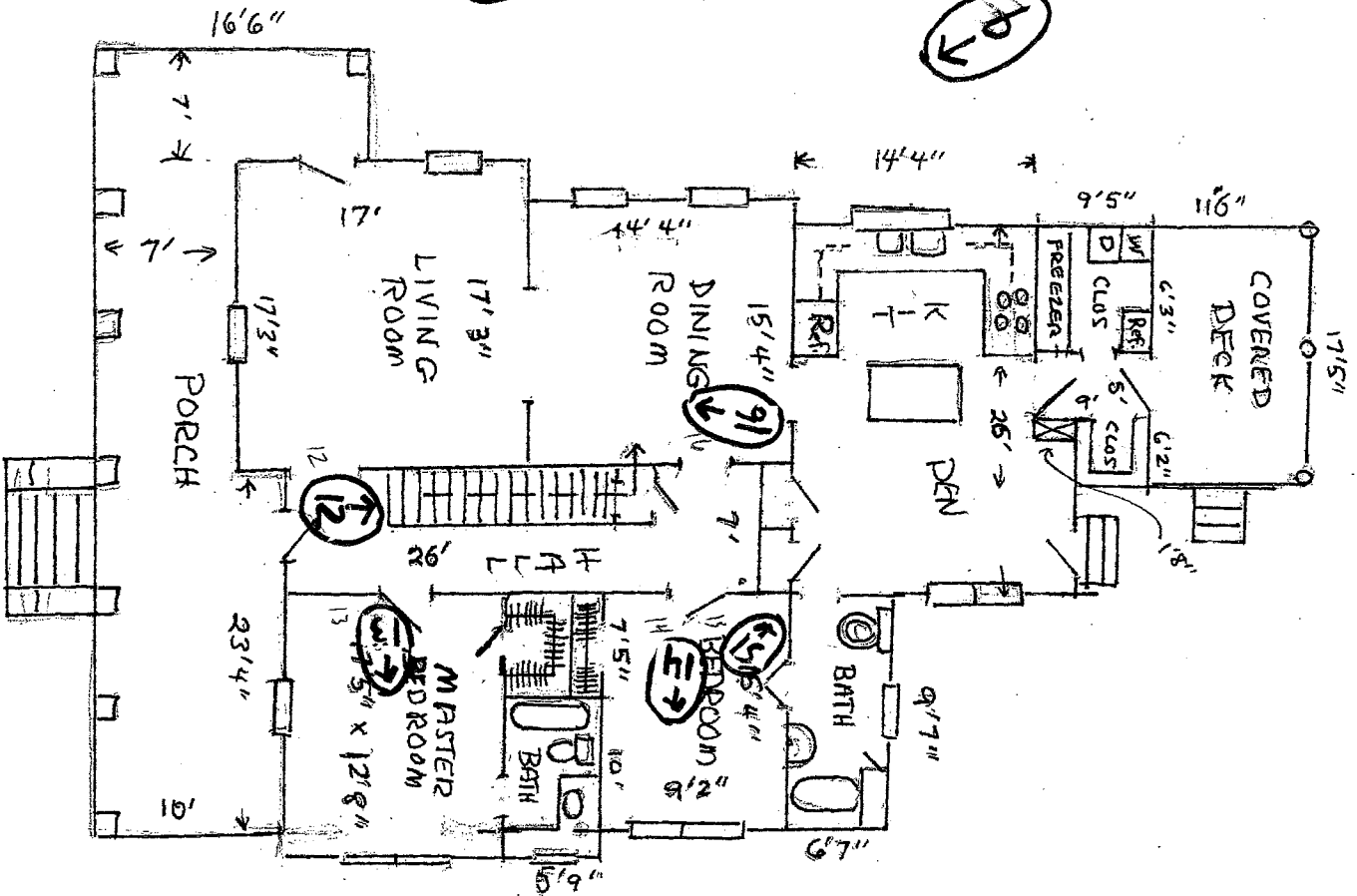
15 ↘

15 ↘

11 ↘

10 ←

← 3



N. ST. CHARLES STREET

↑ 1

← 2



401

DUCOTE
WILLIAMS HOUSE







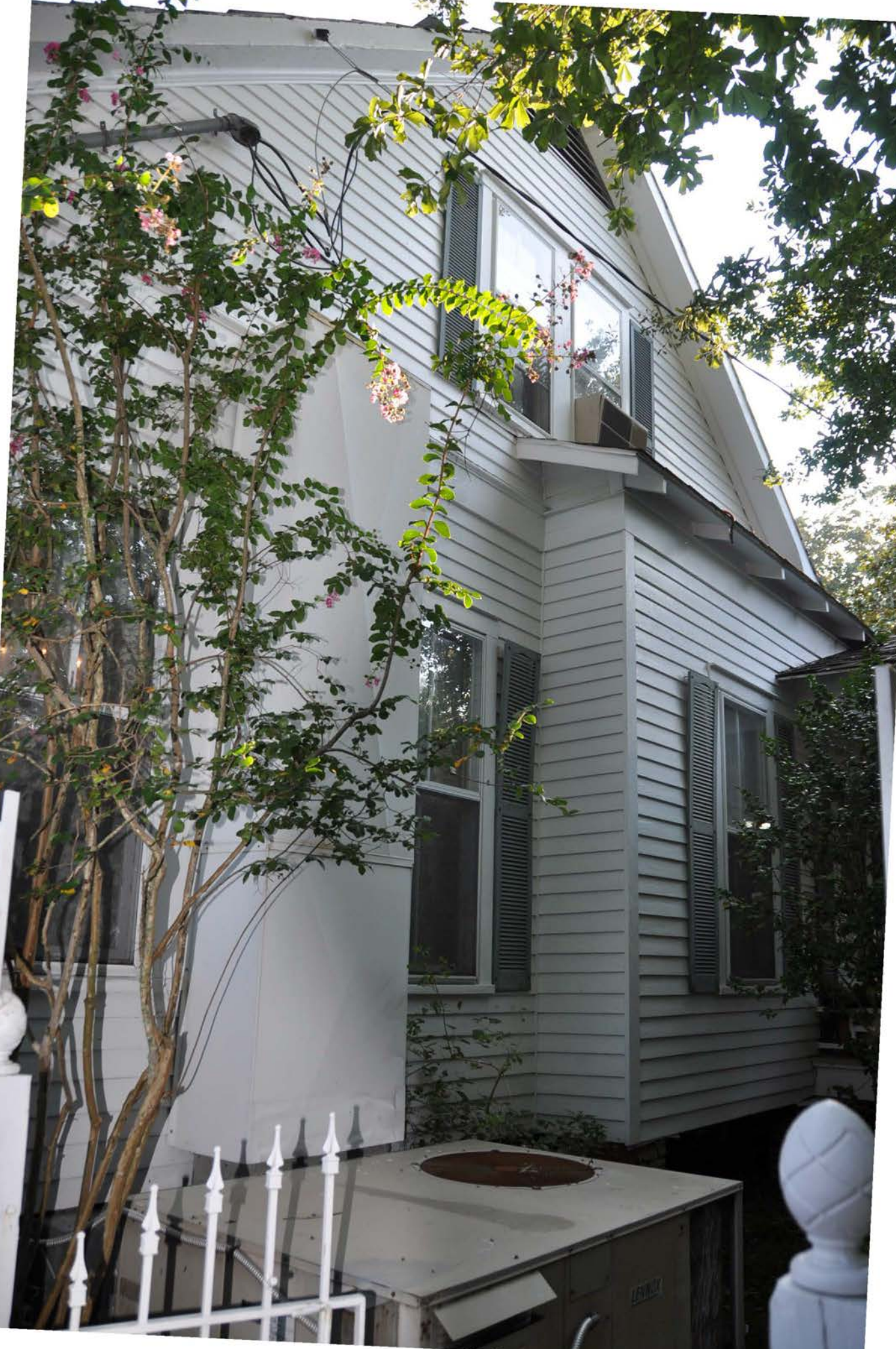


ABBEVILLE
HEARING & SPEECH
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Dianna Ducote, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Pathologist

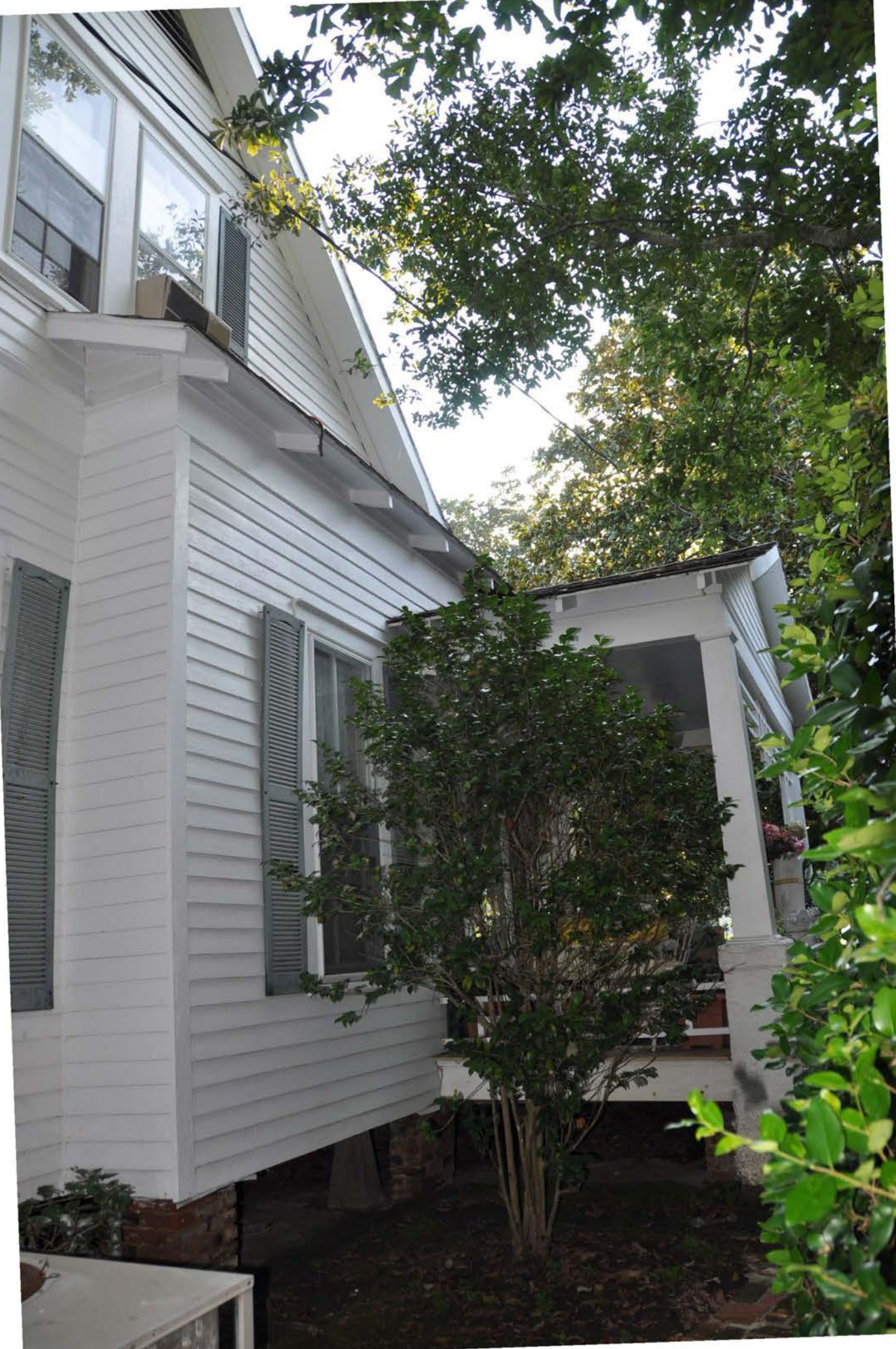


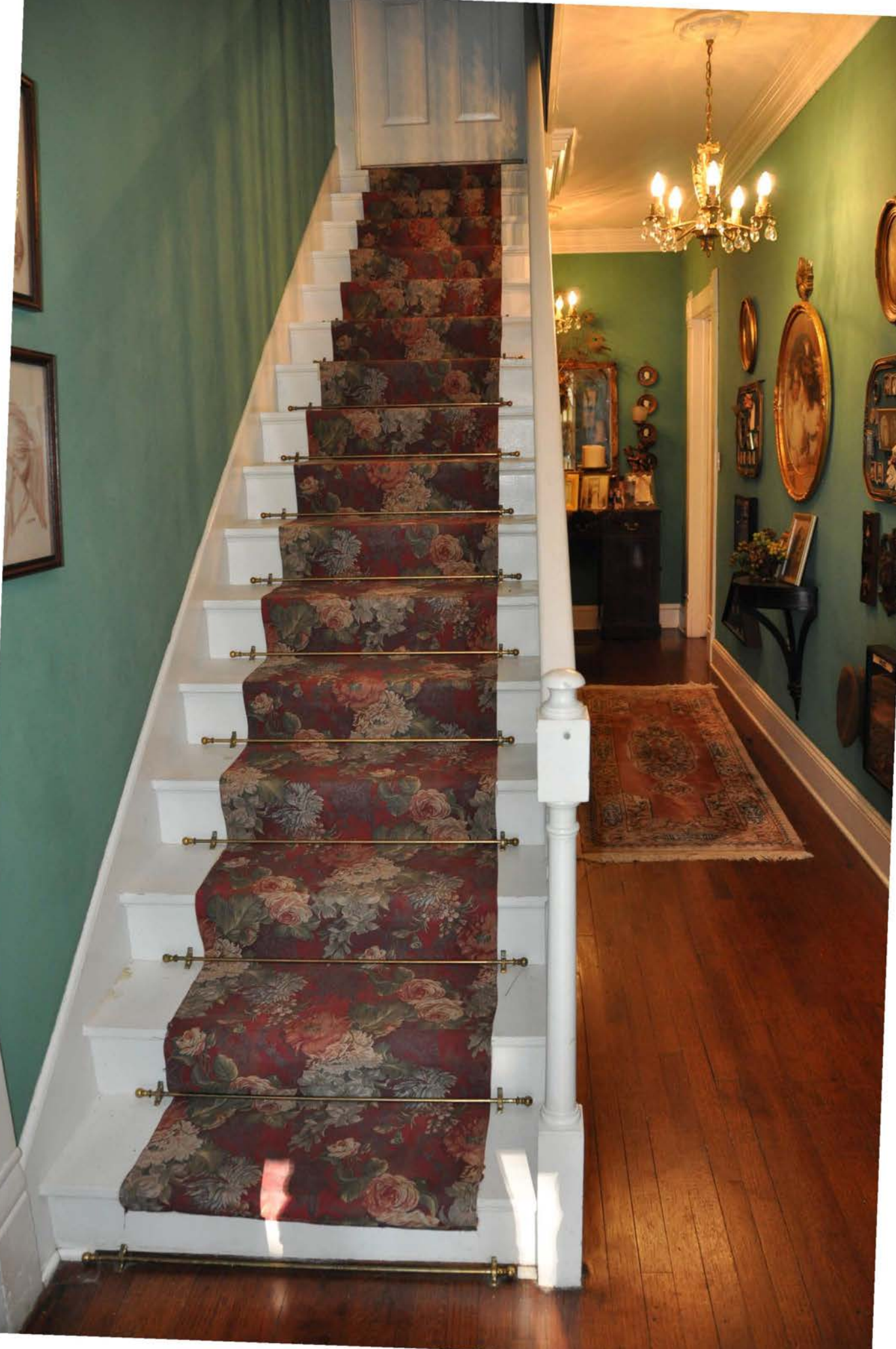




















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams, James Hugh, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Vermilion

DATE RECEIVED: 12/13/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/14/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/29/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/29/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001129

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Williams was an important figure in the
development & modernization of Education
in Area.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B

REVIEWER J. Hubert

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

December 10, 2013



TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: James Hugh Williams House, Vermilion Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the James Hugh Williams House to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica 

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tif format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- Other:

Comments:

- Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other:

OWNER'S WAIVER

September 23, 2013

Charlene Beckett
101 N. State St
Abbeville, LA 70510

Dear Ms. Beckett:

This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to object to the proposed listing of my property by a notarized, written statement. If I am the sole owner and I object, my property will not be listed. If there are multiple owners of this property and a majority of the owners object, the property will not be listed.

Following is the address of my property:

401 N. St. Charles St
Abbeville, LA 70510

I hereby waive my right to object to the proposed listing and notify you that I request my property be listed in the National Register at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,




Notary Public

JANICE R. MORVANT
Notary Public I.D. #053131

LOCAL OFFICIAL'S WAIVER

DATE

Charlene Beckett
101 N. State St
Abbeville, LA 70501

Dear Ms. Beckett:

This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to comment on the proposed listing of property within my jurisdiction.

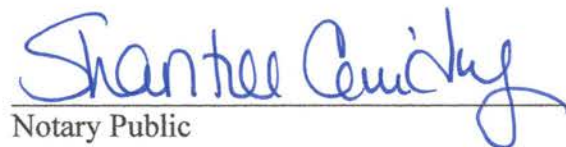
Following is the address of the property within my jurisdiction that is currently under consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

James Hugh Williams House
401 N. St. Charles St
Abbeville, LA 70501

I hereby waive my comment period for the nomination as provided for in the National Park Service's regulations (36 CFR Part 60).

Sincerely,





Notary Public

