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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Twitchell House

other names/site number Andrus House

2. Location

street & number 803 Cary Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Jennings N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Jefferson Davis code 053 zip code 70546

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy 3/1/93  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri Hobdy, Date  
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Deborah Byers 4/1/93

**Entered in the National Register**

Twitchell House  
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA  
County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**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)

Queen Anne Revival

Eastlake

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboards

roof asphalt

other shingles

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Twitchell House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Twitchell House is a c.1895 frame two story Queen Anne Revival residence located on a corner lot in a historic neighborhood near downtown Jennings. Alterations have been relatively minor.

The house has a prominent gable on each elevation. The one on the southern side surmounts a polygonal bay. A one story Eastlake gallery with turned columns, spindlework and a shingled skirting roof curves around the side to connect with the polygonal bay. The corner of the house on the ground story is cut at a forty-five degree angle to correspond to the curve in the gallery. The main entrance opens into a stair hall, with a secondary entrance at the end of the curving gallery. Both have their original Eastlake doors. Scrollsawn ornamentation is found in the peak of three of the gables, and all are shingled. The larger front-facing gable, of course, is the most elaborate, featuring two types of shingles applied in a repetitive pattern and a panel of boards cut in a curved design. The overall effect, combined with the clapboards immediately below, is a richly textured surface. At the rear an original one story hipped roof section with a simple porch fills the space between the side and rear gables.

The floor plan is two rooms wide and three rooms deep. Noteworthy interior features include pocket doors with decoratively cut panels, richly molded door and window surrounds with prominent Eastlake cornerblocks, and a simple staircase with turned balusters and a heavy newel post. The upstairs has a narrow hall with rooms off of it; the woodwork is the same as downstairs.

Alterations have been relatively minimal, especially on the exterior. The house has a small shed roof bathroom addition on the secondary side elevation (near the rear) and modern wrought iron railings on the steps. Interior alterations include acoustical tile ceilings and a modern floor covering of tiles resembling wood. Finally, the chimney and fireplace have been removed.

These alterations are minor in terms of the National Register eligibility of the house. Its identifying Queen Anne Revival features are all intact.

Non-contributing Elements:

There are two frame dependencies on the property (a garage and wash house). One suspects that they date from the 1920s. Because they are not contemporaneous with the main house and do not contribute to its architectural significance, they are being counted as non-contributing elements.

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

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1895  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1895  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Twitchell House  
Name of Property

Jefferson Davis Parish, LA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than an acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>532780</u>	<u>3343880</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date January 1993

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Joseph L. Andrus, Jr. Myrtle Devall Andrus

street & number 512 Woodvale Avenue 803 Cary telephone Mr. Andrus 318-232-8858 (0)  
Ms. Andrus 318-824-3855

city or town Lafayette Jennings state LA zip code Lafayette 70503  
Jennings 70546

**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. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Twitchell House, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Twitchell House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it contributes to the distinctly Queen Anne Revival architectural heritage of the town of Jennings.

The State Historic Preservation Office considers Jennings to be one of three centers of Queen Anne Revival architecture in the state outside New Orleans. The other two are the nearby towns of Lake Charles and Crowley. Jennings and Crowley were settled by Midwesterners beginning in the mid-1880s, and the already established town of Lake Charles received a massive influx of Northern immigrants at that time.

Jennings was just a stop on the recently completed Southern Pacific Railroad when S. L. Cary, who is regarded as its founder, migrated there in 1883 from Iowa. At that time, there were only four buildings, including the depot. Due to Cary's promotional efforts, what was once a mere spot on the southwestern prairies became a thriving rice boom town of transplanted Midwesterners. Employed by the railroad as an immigration agent, Cary had attracted about one hundred fellow Iowans to Jennings by the end of 1883. The town had sufficient population to be incorporated as a village in 1888. By 1890, the population was 412, and by 1900, it had increased almost fourfold. The settlers came from various states in the Midwest, but the majority were from Iowa. Midwestern migration continued in the very early years of this century, spurred by the discovery of oil in 1901.

The houses these Midwesterners built, on the whole, do not resemble the typical Queen Anne Revival house in the state, but instead are more like the national norm. The standard Queen Anne residence in Louisiana is a one or one-and-a-half story conservatively styled cottage with a polygonal bay and perhaps some shingling and gable peak ornamentation. By contrast, Jennings had a heavy concentration of two and two-and-a-half story Queen Anne houses, reflecting the Victorian fondness for marked verticality. These houses also tended to be more elaborately ornamented and massed than was typical in Louisiana -- i.e., resembling more closely textbook examples of the style. In addition, there were various striking houses from the period that defy easy categorization, sometimes reflecting various Victorian Era stylistic influences. It should be noted that this special heritage represents the town's architectural apogee. The surviving building stock in Jennings reveals that there has not been an architectural flowering since then, with the exception of a few notable landmarks. In short, the town's Victorian houses are its architectural identity, so-to-speak.

Sadly, Jennings has suffered a dramatic loss in its historic building stock. Historic photos reveal that, clearly, the town's most splendid examples of the Queen Anne Revival style are gone. Two of the most important examples were lost

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Twitchell House, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

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in the last three or four years. The extent of this depletion can be seen in a compilation of historic photos published in the 1960s which shows some fifty major two story Queen Anne houses, the vast majority of which are quite elaborate. Ten sport turrets or towers. Of these fifty landmarks, only ten survive. If one takes into account all two story Queen Anne homes in the town, the number totals about 20, some of which are too plain or too altered to warrant Register nomination. It should be noted that this is a large number for a Louisiana town the size of Jennings (roughly 12,000 population). By way of comparison, the large city of Shreveport has only about six examples.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, roughly ten of the Jennings Queen Anne houses are of sufficient quality and integrity to merit Register listing. Each is significant because it contributes to the town's identity as a center of Queen Anne Revival architecture.

The Twitchell House is a component of this important architectural heritage. Distinguishing features include its massing, elaborately decorated gables, and curving gallery, complete with a shingled skirting roof.

Historical Note:

The exact date of construction for the Twitchell House is not known. Unfortunately, the earliest Sanborn maps do not show the appropriate section of town. Known as Cary's Addition, the area was platted in 1888. The lot sold in 1891, and the 1903 Sanborn map, the first available, shows the nominated house. Because there was more than one owner during the period when the house could have been built, the original occupant is not known. The house has been named for Volney M. Twitchell, who owned the property from 1896 to his death in 1912. Twitchell served as mayor of Jennings on three occasions (1899-1901, 1906-1908 & 1911-1912). His obituary noted that he came to Jennings from Illinois in "the early days."

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Twitchell House, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number   9   Page   1  

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Title Abstract in possession of owners.

Riser, Henry LeRoy. "The History of Jennings, Louisiana." M. A. thesis,  
Louisiana State University, 1948.

Souvenir: Jennings, Louisiana, Products and Industries. Published by Walter D.  
Morse, 1907. This promotional piece contains numerous photographs of  
Jennings residences.

Morse, Walter D. "The Birth of Jennings." This 1960s compilation contains  
numerous photographs of early Jennings residences. Available at Jennings  
Public Library.

Jennings Daily Times-Record, January 5, 1912.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Twitchell House, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

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Legal Boundary Description

A part of Lot Four (4) of Block Thirty (30) of Cary's Addition to the City of Jennings, Louisiana, as per plat thereof of record, described as follows: Beginning in the southeast corner of said Lot 4, thence run north on and along the west line of Cary Avenue a distance of 122 feet; thence run west parallel with the north line of Alice Street a distance of 146 feet; thence run south parallel with the west line of Cary Avenue a distance of 122 feet; thence run east on and along the north line of Alice Street a distance of 146 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow the legal property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.