

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 22 1986

date entered JAN 22 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dr. John W. Todd House

and or common J. L. Moss House

2. Location

street & number 306 Pine Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Homer

N/A vicinity of

state LA

code 22

county Claiborne Parish

code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Moss

street & number 306 Pine Street

city, town Homer

N/A vicinity of

state LA 71040

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Claiborne Parish Courthouse

street & number E. Main (no specific address) P. O. Box 330

city, town Homer

state LA 71040

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge

state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date 1939
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(only slightly-on same lot)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. John W. Todd House consists of two portions--a two story frame Greek Revival main block dating from c.1872 and a one story frame wing dating from c.1867. The house is located on a large well-treed lot on the outskirts of the town of Homer. Despite numerous alterations, the property retains its National Register eligibility.

The Todd House was originally two free-standing structures, located on the same lot, which were later put together to form the present rambling residence. The earlier structure (c.1867) is a plain single story two room house under a gable roof. The later (c.1872) structure is a two story, five bay, Greek Revival house with a pedimented portico and a rear gallery.

As originally built, the c.1872 house was one room deep and consisted of a central hall and two large rooms on each floor. It had two unusual Greek Revival characteristics: (1) The colossal front portico had only two columns. (2) The second story rear gallery platform and front portico balcony were cantilevered out from the structure of the house. (They did not touch the columns.) Other features included aedicule style mantels, four panel doors, 9 over 9 windows downstairs and 9 over 6 windows upstairs, and modified ogee moldings. When it was built, the c.1872 house had something of a retardataire character. For example, the moldings were typical of the 1850's, and the windows were typical of the 1830's or even earlier.

Major changes occurred in 1939. At that time the c.1872 house was rotated 90 degrees (from facing north to west) and the smaller c.1867 house was moved closer and connected to the c.1872 house via a hyphen wing. About two-thirds of the old rear gallery was enclosed (which meant the removal of the second story cantilevered platform). The downstairs hall was divided and one of the downstairs walls was moved to create a rear kitchen. Other changes made in 1939 include the replacement of many of the downstairs moldings and the newel post. In addition, the present chimney is a replacement. Finally, only one of the original four aedicule style mantels survives. (Apparently the other three were already gone by 1939.)

Assessment of Integrity:

The principal elevation with its colossal pedimented portico establishes the Todd House's importance as a domestic example of the Greek Revival. This, of course, remains intact. Hence, in our opinion, the house retains its Register eligibility despite the admittedly numerous alterations. For the record, the 1939 reorientation has not affected the house's eligibility either. It is, of course, still on the same piece of property in its original setting.

To the south of the house is a modern frame garage which, of course, is listed as a non-contributing element.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1867;c.1872 **Builder/Architect** Builder for c.1872 main portion: Dr. John W. Todd

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Todd House is locally significant in the area of architecture as perhaps the finest of a limited number of surviving Greek Revival residences in Claiborne Parish.

The Todd House was brought to our attention through the recently completed Claiborne Parish comprehensive historic structures survey. The survey identified some 545 50+ year old buildings, most of which are cabins, cottages, bungalows, or "vernacular" commercial buildings. Although Claiborne Parish was settled in the 1820's, the vast majority of its patrimony dates from the early twentieth century. In terms of residences, the earliest stylistic period one sees a good deal of is Queen Anne Revival. Not much remains from the earlier Greek Revival period. The survey has identified thirteen examples, of which the Todd House is perhaps the finest. It is one of only three two story examples, and, most importantly, it is the only example to feature a pedimented portico. (All of the other examples have columnar galleries without pediments or porticos.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Claiborne Parish Historic Structures Survey. LA State Historic Preservation Office.
Historical sketch of house prepared by Beverly Smith, local historian.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 2 acres

Quadrangle name Homer, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	4	9	5	6	0	0	3	6	2	7	7	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification See attached sketch map.

Boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land on which the house stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff Assisted by owners and local historian Beverly Smith

organization Division of Historic Preservation

State of Louisiana

date November 1986

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature


Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 15, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

of the National Register

date 1-22-87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

SCALE 1"=50'

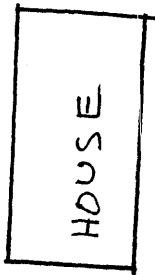
BOUNDARY

PINE ST. (also called East 5th)

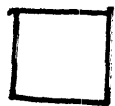
property line

⑥

①



③ → ②



⑤

④

property line

property line

RT. 146



TODD HOUSE, HOMER, CLAIRBORNE PARISH, LA