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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JAN 22 1990

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 Rome House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA HWY 1

N/A not for publication

city, town Smoke Bend

N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA

county Ascension

code 005

zip code 70346

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	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.

Signature of certifying official Jonathan Fricker  
Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of  
Culture, Recreation and Tourism

January 18, 1990  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrews

3/8/90

for 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)

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DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

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Greek Revival

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Italianate

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboardroof tinother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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The Rome House (c.1870) is a small one story frame cottage in the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style. It is located on Louisiana Highway 1 in the small community of Smoke Bend, which is just outside the corporate limits of Donaldsonville. In 1988-89 the house was moved about a mile along Highway 1 and restored, which involved duplication of the original capitals and balustrade.

The basic shape of the house (i.e., the steeply pitched roofline incorporating a front gallery) and the floorplan reveal French Creole influence. The Creole floorplan consists of two basically square front rooms of equal size with a chimney between them and two smaller rooms, also of equal size, behind. The French doors on the facade are also indicative of the Creole influence.

While the shape and floorplan are Creole, the house stylistically reflects the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate period. The three bay gallery features an Italianate pierced balustrade and columns and pilasters with pronounced, heavily molded capitals. The block capitals have molding above and below, and there is necking as well. The capitals have a bold profile in comparison to what one would find on an earlier Greek Revival cottage and reflect the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style of this later example. The facade has a rusticated board treatment of the type often found on Italianate houses of the period in New Orleans.

The house retains its two original mantels. Both are in the Greek Revival aedicule style, but with the type of applied decoration typical of the Italianate taste. One has a lozenge in the entablature and one a bull's eye motif. (Lozenge shapes on mantels are also a Creole decorative feature, and the one at the Rome House could also be viewed as a holdover within this tradition.)

**Alterations:**

In about 1890 the house was remodeled on the interior. The walls were covered with beaded board and a chair rail was installed. The beaded board is vertical above the chair rail and laid in diagonal and chevron patterns below. At this time all of the present doors (interior and exterior) were installed using a wedge-shaped molding to thicken the door jamb. The four panel interior doors are mid-nineteenth century and are either original or salvaged. The French doors may well be original to the house, but they too have been rehung, as previously described.

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Continuation Sheet**

Rome House, Ascension Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

Relatively soon after construction, and perhaps as part of the c.1890 project, the house received a rear extension that continues the basic roofline but at a different pitch. (There was never a rear gallery; portions of the original back wall are still visible in the attic.) Another extension was made in the early twentieth century, again continuing the basic roofline shape.

**1988-89 Move and Restoration:**

In 1988 the Rome House was purchased, moved, and restored by the great-grandson of the original owner and a partner. It was moved about a mile from one lot on Highway 1 in Smoke Bend to another (same side of the road). The then owner was ready to demolish the house in order to build a new one on the site (which has since been constructed). The current owners had to move quickly to remove the house from the property.

The restoration was carried out very carefully, using a c.1905 photo and surviving architectural evidence. The house had become deteriorated and was missing its balustrade and all but one of its capitals. The balustrade was duplicated using the c.1905 photo, and the capitals based on the photo and one surviving intact pilaster. Also, the shutter slats had been removed and were duplicated and concrete steps were replaced with wooden ones. The move, of course, meant losing the chimney.

**Assessment of Integrity:**

Because of the recent painstaking restoration, the house is in an excellent state of preservation and easily represents its significance as the architectural landmark of the small community of Smoke Bend. The move was only a very short distance within the same community (the context for significance) and was necessary in order to save the house from certain demolition.

**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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
c.1870

Significant Dates  
c.1870

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

The Rome House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is easily the most significant historic building in the community of Smoke Bend. It achieves this distinction because of its Greek Revival-Italianate styling and its overall intactness.

Smoke Bend, or "Faubourg la Boucanne" as it is called on an 1850 map, retains about fifty buildings that are over fifty years old. These buildings range in date from c.1870 through the 1930s and almost all of them are very plain and/or very badly altered. With the exception of the Rome House, the only styled buildings one finds are generic bungalows and an occasional bit of Eastlake trim on an otherwise plain cottage or shotgun. There are about a half dozen other cottages of the same basic type and roughly the same period as the Rome House, but they are all in a very poor state of preservation (asbestos siding, modern wrought iron columns, lowered porch floors, etc.). Against this backdrop, the Rome House is clearly the landmark of the community. It is the only intact example of the Greek Revival-Italianate taste. (The other cottages have lost their distinguishing stylistic features such as columns, balustrade, etc.). Although the capitals and balustrade on the Rome House are replacements, they duplicate the originals, and the house today looks very much as it did when it was built.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Windshield survey of Smoke Bend conducted by National Register staff, Division of Historic Preservation.

Historical sketch on owners of house prepared by Dennis Alonzo, great-grandson of the original 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**

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1 5 6 9 0 8 0 0 3 3 3 2 2 5 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow the legal property lines of the parcel of land upon which the Rome House stands.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1989  
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804



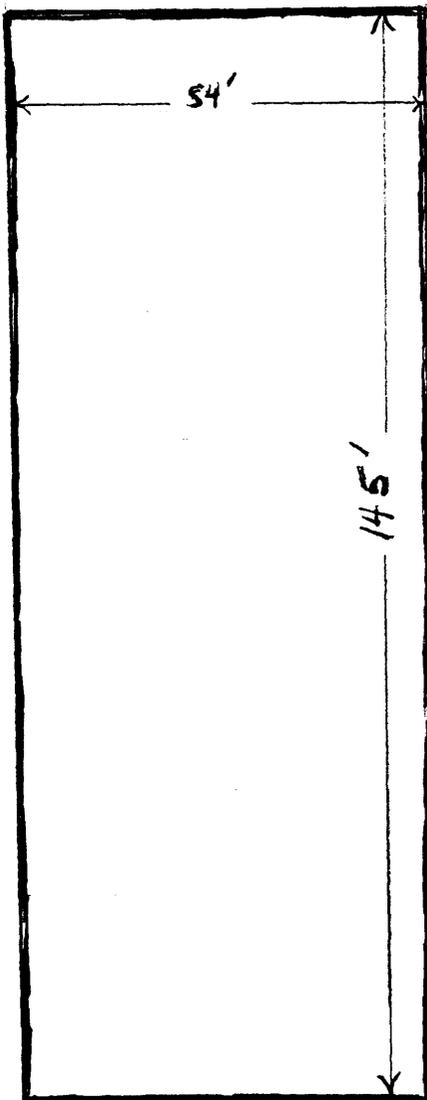
c. 1905

c. 1905

Rome House  
Ascension Parish, LA

Rome House  
Smoke Bend  
Ascension Parish, LA

DELANY LANE



SIDEWALK

← TO WHITE CASTLE

TO DONALDSONVILLE →

